



Dear Parents/Carers,

Over the half term we have continued with improving the school site, this time focusing on the outside areas with new football goals and basketball hoops installed on the yards at both sides of school as well as replacing all of the outside benches with new furniture. Students are making the most of these during breaks and lunchtimes.

At the start of next week, students will be given copies of their Data Collection Sheet to take home for checking. This is a print out of essential records we hold for your child, including details like emergency phone numbers and medical information. Please check through these, writing on the sheet where there are any changes or updates needed, then sign the bottom and return it to your child's form tutor by Friday 28th November.

On Wednesday 19th, we're looking forwards to our annual Star Awards evening and congratulating all of our award winners, including over 120 current students and all of last year's year 11 who will be presented with their GCSE certificates. Photos of the event will be available on our social media.

This week we have launched the Pendle Education Trust Christmas Card competition, and it is fantastic to see so many entries getting started and some beautiful artwork. This year's theme is 'friendship; and the competition is across all 5 of our Trust schools, with a primary and secondary winner will be chosen to be used for digital cards being sent out this Christmas. Students can drop off their entries to the post box at the main office or in Oracle, or hand it in to their Art teacher. The deadline is the end of next week - 12pm on Friday 21st November.

Coming up on Thursday 27th is Year 11 Parents' evening. Please make sure this date is in your diary. It is an important opportunity to support your child's progress, discuss their mock results with their teachers and find out about how they can make the most out of the remainder of Year 11 before those final exams next Summer. Students should be making appointments with all of their class teachers.

We have definitely noticed the colder and wetter weather coming this week. Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for school, with full school uniform and a suitable winter coat. During the winter months students should be wearing tights under their skirts or trousers. Our uniform policy does not include knee socks, and students wearing these will be asked to change into black tights which they will be provided with. We also recommend if students feel cold inside school that they wear a v-neck school jumper under their blazer. If you need support with uniform, please get in touch with your child's Head of Year to discuss how we can support. Please can you ensure that your child's clothing, especially items like coats, are marked clearly with the student's name so that these can be returned to them if lost. Money and items of significant value should not be brought into school. The school cannot be responsible for students' personal property in school, although we do take as much care as we can to see that it is safe. This week we have been displaying the collection of lost property to prompt students to claim anything that is theirs. If you are missing any items, please remind them to check the lost property or see Mrs Edington.

**J Pilkington**

**Principal**

## Principal's Awards

Awarded to the students in each year group with the highest number of Positive Points and 0 Negative Points each week.



Hijab (7M)  
Anayah (7A)

Asad (8M)

Noah (9T)  
Olivia (9I)

Sophie (10P)

Zac (11A)



**Artsmark**  
**Silver Award**  
Awarded by Arts  
Council England



Leading Parent  
Partnership Award

2022-2025

# Stars of the Week

Congratulations to this week's star students:

## Year 7

Millie  
Muhammad  
Shabir  
Martha  
Riley  
Leonardo  
Joey  
Imogen  
Logan

## Year 8

Ellie  
Aliza  
Holly  
Olivia  
Scarlett  
Aminah  
Junaid  
Mohammed

## Year 9

Korben  
Harrison  
Lucas  
Ahmed  
Aiden  
Raees  
William  
Holly

## Year 10

Lena  
Esterza  
Hazima  
Rebecca  
Hayley  
Arwyn  
Talha

## Year 11

Holly  
Rebecca  
Florina  
Abid  
Taylor  
Courtney  
Oliver  
Alissia

# Data Collection Sheet – Please Return by 28th November

Your child will be bringing home a data collection sheet today. Please take a few minutes to check and amend where necessary and ensure it is returned to your child's form tutor by Friday, 28th November.

Thank you for your support in helping us with this important activity. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us



We're thrilled to invite you to our upcoming KoothTalks mental health training webinars for families..

For parents, carers and families we are offering Smartphone safety & cyberbullying: How to support your child

## **What's it about?**

Most 11-year-olds have a mobile phone, but do they know how to protect themselves from cyberbullying?

This November, we're inviting parents to join us for a free 45 minute webinar. We will share practical tips on how to help children deal with potential problems, how parents can spot signs of cyberbullying and what action to take.

## **What's included?**

Live webinar led by our Engagement and Clinical team  
Follow webinar recording and additional resources

## **How to sign up**

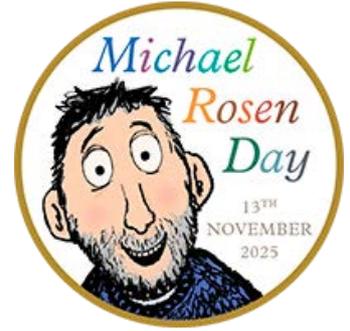
Secure your spot today by following this link <https://connect.kooth.com/events/event/for-families-smartphone-safety-and-cyberbullying-20-nov>. Once signed up, you'll receive the joining link and further information the day before the session.

# Michael Rosen Day

This week we celebrated Michael Rosen Day in school with year 7 and 8 students. Supported by Walker Books, the aim of the day was to make reading, listening to, and writing poetry fun, enjoyable and accessible for all, helping children and young people of all ages to discover its magic. This year's theme was FUNNY FOOD where students read poems from Michael Rosen and analysed them. Students in year 7 and 8 have also been challenged to write a funny food poem, whether it's about spine-tingling spaghetti, carrots from outer space or monsters who eat marmalade! Poems should be on the theme of funny food and no longer than 100 words.

We also welcomed year 4, 5 and 6 students from Primet Primary to Colne Primet Academy to celebrate Michael Rosen Day with us. Primary students were introduced to Oracle, a central hub for our school, worked with year 7 and 8 students reading "Revolting Rhymes!" and took part in a Poetry Masterclass led by Mrs Roberts, Lead Practitioner. It was great to see how the primary students were working with students in our school to produce some excellent poetry.

We also worked with our local feeder schools, Castercliff Academy, Lord Street, Casterton Academy, West Street and Nelson Marsden, inviting them to take part in activities within their school including watching a live virtual author event at 10am with Michael Rosen reading some of his favourite poems and answering questions posed by the students. The live virtual event was watched by students from our feeder primary schools. Primary students are also invited to take part in our competition to write a funny food poem, with the primary schools sending their favourite entries through to us to review. We look forward to next week where we will be heading to Lord Street to complete Poetry Masterclasses with a selection of their students.



# STAR AWARDS

We're really looking forward to welcoming everyone to our Colne Primet Academy STAR Awards on Wednesday 19th November 2025, where we'll be celebrating the achievement, effort, and progress of our students over the past year.

If your child has been invited to receive an award, please could you let us know as soon as possible if you will be attending the event. This will help us with our final arrangements for the evening.

✦ 📅 **Date: Wednesday 19th November 2025** ✦

🕒 **Arrival: from 6.30pm**

🎵 **Event starts: 7.00pm**

🕒 **Finishes: 9.00pm**

📍 **Venue: Colne Muni Theatre**



# Primet Positive Focus: INCLUSIVE

This week we have been focusing on our core value of being inclusive. All members of the academy are equally valued, and we appreciate the diversity within our academy community. Our curriculum ensures all students can make progress.

## 9P's acrostic poem:

In our school, we always show respect to one another.  
No matter our age, background, or gender.  
Culture is celebrated in every classroom and hallway.  
Learning to appreciate each other's stories and strengths.  
Understanding grows when we listen with open hearts.  
Standing proud of what makes us unique.  
Including everyone in our vibrant community.  
Valuing every voice, every idea, every person.  
Empowering kindness, empathy, and unity every day.



## UNCRC Articles

### UNCRC Articles

As part of our UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Award, we have been looking at each of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child Articles. There are 54 Articles in total. This week we have been learning about:



- Article 9 - Separation from parents: Children must not be separated from their parents against their will unless it is in their best interests (for example, if a parent is hurting or neglecting a child). Children whose parents have separated have the right to stay in contact with both parents, unless this could cause them harm.
- Article 10 – Family reunification: Governments must respond quickly and sympathetically if a child or their parents apply to live together in the same country. If a child's parents live apart in different countries, the child has the right to visit and keep in contact with both of them.
- Article 20 – Children unable to live with their family: If a child cannot be looked after by their immediate family, the government must give them special protection and assistance. This includes making sure the child is provided with alternative care that is continuous and respects the child's culture, language and religion.
- Article 21 – Adoption: Governments must oversee the process of adoption to make sure it is safe, lawful and that it prioritises children's best interests. Children should only be adopted outside of their country if they cannot be placed with a family in their own country.

## Upcoming Dates

19<sup>th</sup> November – Star Awards Evening at The Muni

21<sup>st</sup> November – Deadline for the Christmas Car competition

26<sup>th</sup> November – Year 8 Nelson & Colne College workshops

26<sup>th</sup> November – Interschool Cross Country

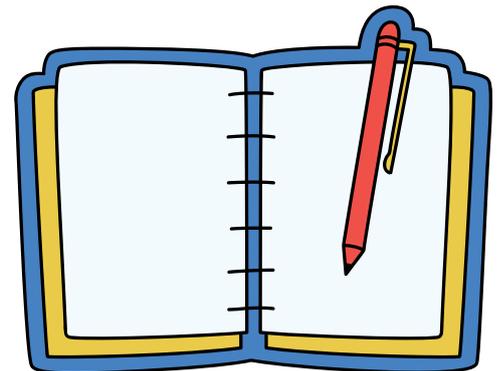
2<sup>nd</sup> December – Flu vaccinations

4<sup>th</sup> December – Year 10 Sister Act performance trip

11<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Jumper Day

16<sup>th</sup> December – Year 10 Careers workshops

19<sup>th</sup> December – Whole School Assembly and final day before holidays, early finish time at 1pm



# Uniform reminder: School Shoes

Our uniform is designed to be smart and simple. When worn correctly it brings great pride to students and the academy. Wearing a uniform demonstrates high standards, our academy values and a sense of community. Wearing the uniform shows you belong to our family and it's an expectation at the Academy.

Please be aware that some commercial retailers may label some part of their range as 'Schoolwear' when it is not. This is especially common in footwear. Both girls and boys are asked to wear black shoes. The pictures below may give some guidance as to appropriate footwear for girls and boys at Colne Primet Academy.



*Details of our uniform are included in our parent handbook and on our website. Please ensure your child is setting off to school meeting our uniform expectations. If you need any support with uniform or have any concerns please speak to your child's Head of Year or Pastoral Support Assistant.*

## Year 7 Football Team Shows Incredible Resilience!

A huge congratulations to our Year 7 football team for their thrilling 4-4 draw against Marsden Heights!

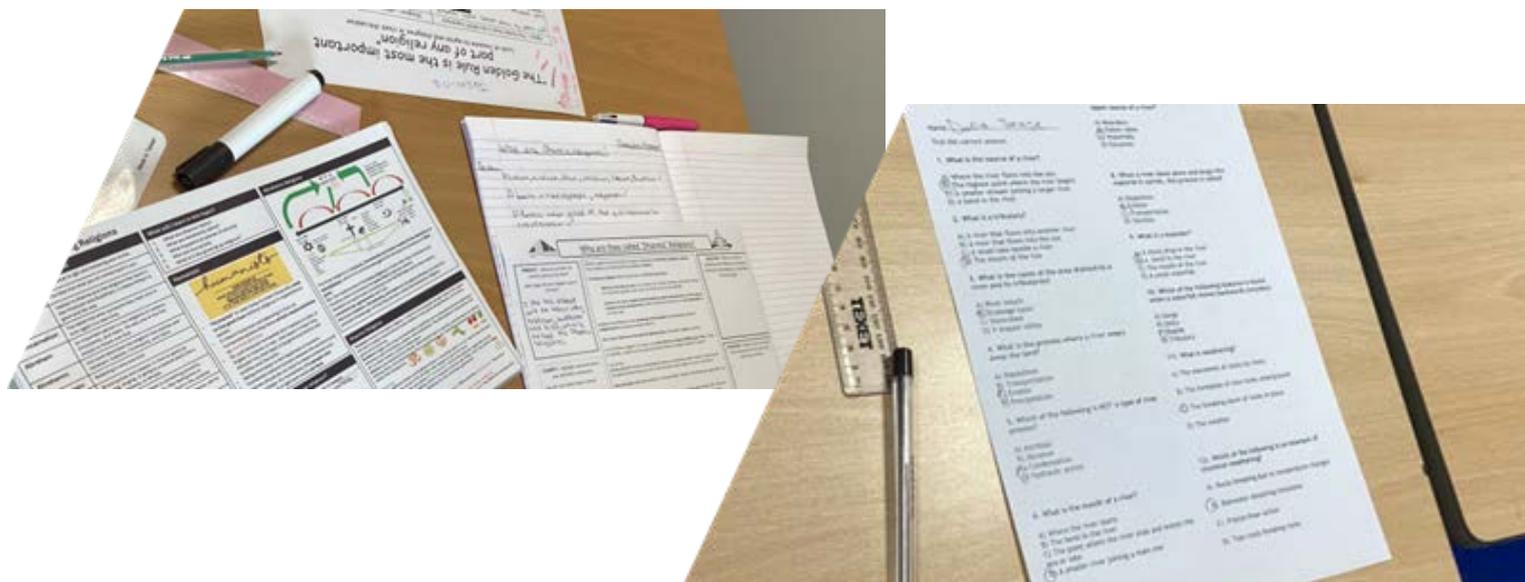
Despite trailing at half-time, the team demonstrated outstanding teamwork, determination, and resilience to turn the game around. They fought hard and were unlucky not to secure the win, pushing relentlessly for a decisive goal right up to the final whistle.

Well done to all the players - you made us proud!



# Curriculum focus - History

In Humanities, students have been studying a huge range of topics; from urban regeneration to medieval surgery, from talking about families in Spanish to looking at Jesus in RCS. Throughout all of the lessons this week there has been a focus on recall. This has been to ensure that all the superb learning that was done prior to the half-term break remains embedded in students memories and isn't forgotten. Students have conducted a wide range of recall activities in lessons, from quizzes to 'brain dumps'. Students have been encouraged to make use of their knowledge-organisers to help fill any gaps in their knowledge and they are now in the habit of using these to support both their classroom learning and their homework.



Finally, a big congratulations goes out from all the Humanities staff to the Year 11s for the effort they put into their Mock Exams at the end of last term. They have given a really clear indication of what we need to do get the grades they are capable of in their final exams – Well done!



# Head of Year update:

Attendance and punctuality has been, and remains a priority for year 8 and we have made really pleasing progress throughout the last half term which will have a really positive impact on student progress.



At the end of term, we recognised achievement in our celebration assembly and a number of students received their bronze award after achieving more than 300 positive points. Students achieving the reward criteria for attendance and punctuality also enjoyed a fantastic Halloween themed party .

A reminder that the criteria of 95% behaviour and attendance is reset at the beginning of each half term enabling as many students as possible to receive an invitation to the reward events.

# 95%



This week year 8 students enjoyed a drama presentation to support the personal development curriculum focusing on the topic of underage drinking. Students were fully engaged throughout the performance and took part in workshop session afterwards.



**Ms Heap**  
Head of Year 8

## Assembly Theme

All this week in assembly we have been reflecting on Remembrance. We have been looking at how the two main symbols of Remembrance, the poppy and the two-minute silence, came about and then we heard the story of a young soldier injured in Afghanistan. The assembly gave all pupils an opportunity to reflect on themes of service, sacrifice and respect.

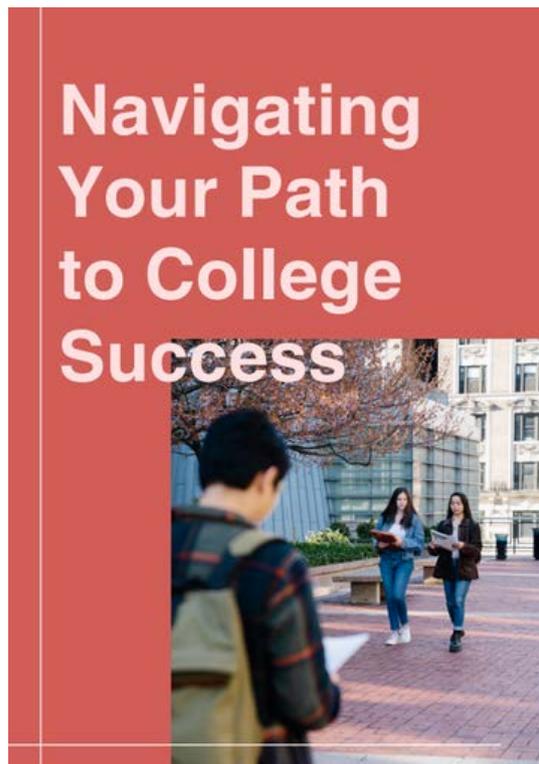


# Careers

## Transition to college information brochure

The colleges across Lancashire, Blackburn and Blackpool have come together to produce an information brochure for pupils who are considering their next steps after school. The information includes how to explore their options after school, how to apply to college and what support they can expect to help with their transition.

Click here to find this booklet on our website : <https://www.colneprimet.co.uk/page/?title=Careers&pid=70>



## Explore Your Future – College Open Events

Over the next few months, there are lots of exciting college open events taking place across our area. If you're in Year 10 or 11, this is the perfect opportunity to start exploring your next steps. Visiting different colleges will help you discover the courses, facilities and opportunities available – and give you a real feel for where you might want to study after West Craven. Make sure you get along to some of these events to find out more and start planning your future!

## College Open Events

College Name	What do they offer?	When?
Nelson and Colne College	Vocational A-Levels T-Level Apprenticeship	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October 2025 - 5.30pm to 7.30pm Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November 2025 - 5.30pm to 7.30pm Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2026 - 5.30pm to 7.30pm (Careers open event) Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2026 - 5.30pm to 7.30pm (Year 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11 event) Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> June 2026 – All day (New student day) Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> August 2026 – All day (GCSE results day)
Accrington and Rossendale College	Vocational A-Levels T-Level Apprenticeship	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2025- 5.30pm to 7.30pm Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2026 – 5.30 to 7.30pm Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> April 2026 – 5.30pm to 7.30pm (Careers open Event) Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> April 2026 – 5.30pm to 7.30pm (Year 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11 event) Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> June 2026 – All day (New student day) Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> August 2026 – All day (GCSE results day)
Burnley College	Vocational A-Levels T-Level Apprenticeship	Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> November 2025 – 5.30pm to 7.30pm Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> January 2026 – 5.30pm to 7.30pm (Themis careers event) Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2026 - 5.30pm to 7.30pm Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2026 - 5.30pm to 7.30pm (Year 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11 event)
Craven College	Vocational T-Level Apprenticeship	Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> October 2025 – 5.30pm to 7.30pm (Aviation Academy) Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October 2025 – 5.30pm to 7.30pm (Aviation Academy) Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> November 2025 – 5.30pm to 7.30pm (Skipton) Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> November 2025 – 5.30pm to 7.30pm (Aviation Academy) Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> November 2025 – 5.30pm to 7.30pm (The Aviation Academy) Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2026 – 3.00pm to 6.30pm (Apprenticeship and careers fair at Craven College)
Myerscough College	Vocational T-Levels Apprenticeship	Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> November 2025 – course advice morning Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> December 2025 - course advice morning (Preston centre ONLY) Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2026 - course advice morning Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2026 - course advice morning
North Lancs Training Group	Apprenticeship	Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March – 1pm to 6pm (Accrington) Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March – 1pm to 6pm (March)
Training 2000	Apprenticeship	Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> January – 4.30pm to 7.30pm Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> January – 4.30pm to 7.30pm



## A career that lasts, starts here.



**A force for progress; powering, protecting and connecting people everywhere.**

Rolls-Royce is one of the most enduring and iconic brands in the world and has been at the forefront of innovation for over a century. Designing, building and servicing systems that provide critical power to customers, where safety and reliability are paramount.

### Ready to join us as we shape what's next?

Through our Emerging Talent Apprenticeship Programmes, you'll get the chance to explore this incredible breadth of work, discover where your skills fit, and start building a career to be proud of. We want to ensure that the excellence and ingenuity that has shaped our history continues into our future. **Join us, and help shape the future.**



### Your career can start here.

Together, we'll help you grow, succeed, and shape the future.

#### What you get as an apprentice with us.

- Funded qualifications
- Great benefits including 33 days' holiday
- Study leave and support
- Continuous learning and development
- Support from managers, leaders, experts and peers
- Opportunities to develop

#### There's so much to experience too!

- Become a STEM ambassador with local schools
- Learn almost anything through our online learning platform
- Take part in social activities



### Join us in Barnoldswick!

Want to get up close with some of the most advanced power solutions in the world?

#### Advanced Apprenticeships (Level 3)

**The Facts!**

**Location:** Barnoldswick

**Duration:** 4 years

**Starting salary:** £17,595 (changes each year),

**Requirements:** Minimum of 4 GCSE's/National 4 or equivalent, including Maths, English and Science (except Biology) at Grade 4/C.

#### Roles:

- Machinist
- Welder

#### Degree Apprenticeships (Level 6)

**The Facts!**

**Location:** Barnoldswick

**Duration:** 3.5-5 years

**Starting salary:** £22,990 (changes each year)

**Qualifications:** Fully sponsored degree

**Requirements:** A-levels or equivalent qualifications (obtained or predicted)

#### Roles:

- Manufacturing Engineering
- Non-Destructive Testing Engineering
- Supply Chain Management

#### Application opening dates:

Advanced (L3): 5 January - 6 March

Degree (L6): 1 December - 2 February



[Find out more](#)

Become part of our **UK Talent Community** and keep up to date with the latest Rolls-Royce news and opportunities



# Attendance Matters

*Children and young people who miss school, miss out on not only learning and education, but also spending time with other children and friends, which helps with developing social and emotional skills. Children who miss school more than others, sometimes find it more difficult to keep friendships.*

*Some parents may say taking their children out of school for a few days won't impact on their children's education. Being at school every day means children's learning will improve, they will be able to attend all school activities like out-of-school clubs and school trips, and they will have better futures.*

*We understand everyone is sick sometimes, but regularly taking days off for illness is a cause for concern. Where possible, parents should encourage their children to come to school.*

## *Long-term effects of missing school*

*If children are absent, it can impact not only on school grades, but their later life. If they're absent for five more days than the average, young people are more likely to not be in work by age 42 and have lower wages.*

## **Keeping children safe**

*We want to ensure children and young people are in a safe space and not at risk of getting involved in crime and becoming exploited. The best way schools know children are safe during school hours is when they are in school.*

## **Getting help**

*If children are struggling to attend school every day, please speak to the school to see what help might be available for both children and parents. This could include learning, mental health issues, or any other issues.*

## **Did you know?**

- *By going to school, children can meet with their friends for social and emotional development and not become isolated at home.*
- *Children who stay away from school are struggling more with their mental health and some are even unable to leave home.*
- *It's much more difficult for children to keep up with their education if they miss school and so fall behind – teachers have to make sure all students are progressing.*
- *Teachers are following a curriculum, and if children have been out of the class, they may find the next bit of the topic much harder to understand.*

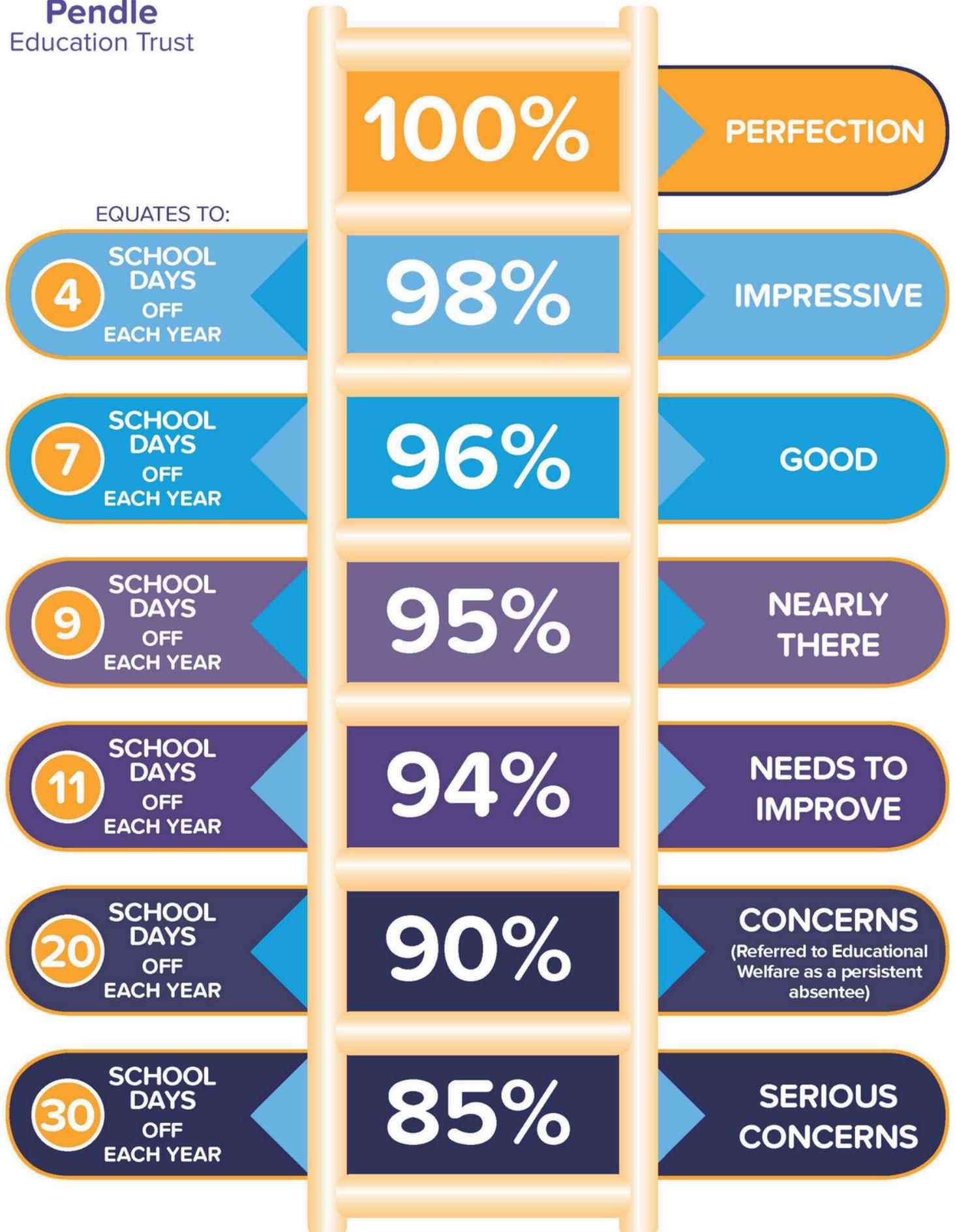
## **Missing out on school adds up**

- *80% attendance over a school year means your child misses a whole year of education over five years*
- *85% attendance means that 29 school days, nearly six weeks, or 145 lessons are missed over a year*
- *90% attendance means 19 school days, four weeks or 95 lessons are missed over a year*



**Pendle**  
Education Trust

# Attendance Ladder



EQUATES TO:

4

SCHOOL DAYS OFF EACH YEAR

100%

PERFECTION

98%

IMPRESSIVE

7

SCHOOL DAYS OFF EACH YEAR

96%

GOOD

9

SCHOOL DAYS OFF EACH YEAR

95%

NEARLY THERE

11

SCHOOL DAYS OFF EACH YEAR

94%

NEEDS TO IMPROVE

20

SCHOOL DAYS OFF EACH YEAR

90%

CONCERNS  
(Referred to Educational Welfare as a persistent absentee)

30

SCHOOL DAYS OFF EACH YEAR

85%

SERIOUS CONCERNS

DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY	ROOM	STAFF
Monday	Lunchtime	Year 7 Badminton	Sports Hall	LHM/CJO
	After School	Football All years Netball (year 7 & 8)	Yard Sports Hall	LHM/CJO
Tuesday	Lunchtime	Year 8 Badminton	Sports Hall	KDO/LHM
	After School	Girls Football – year 7 @ FM Badminton – all years	Fisher More until 5pm Sports Hall	LHM/CJO EDR/KDO
Wednesday	Lunchtime	Year 9 Badminton	Sports Hall	EDR / CJO
	After School	Boys’ Basketball all years Cross Country – all years	Sports Hall Outside	CJO/LHM EDR/KDO
Thursday	Lunchtime	Year 10 Badminton	Sports Hall	LHM/EDR
	After School	STAFF MEETINGS	STAFF MEETINGS	STAFF MEETINGS
Friday	Lunchtime	Year 11 Badminton	Sports Hall	KDO/CJO
	After School	No Club		

**New PE Extracurricular Sports – Autumn Term 2**

We’re excited to launch our new range of PE extracurricular clubs for Autumn Term 2! Students can now take part in a variety of lunchtime and after-school activities, including badminton, football, netball, and basketball.

It’s a great opportunity to stay active, have fun, and develop new skills – so get involved and give something new a try!





**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 “friendship”**

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 2025.

**Deadline:** please hand your cards into your school by 12pm on Friday 21st November.

**GOOD LUCK!**



### **Pendle Education Trust Christmas Card Competition 2025**

It's that wonderful time of year again – our annual Pendle Education Trust Christmas Card Competition is back!

This year's theme is “Friendship.”

Children are invited to design a Christmas card that celebrates what friendship means to them. Designs can be portrait or landscape, but please don't include any words on the card.

All cards will be shared with residents in local care homes through the Cards for Kindness scheme, helping to spread festive cheer across our community.

A primary and secondary winner will also be chosen, and their designs will become the Trust's official digital Christmas cards this year.

**Deadline:** All entries must be handed in to school by 12 p.m. on Friday 21st November.

Good luck to all our creative young artists – we can't wait to see your designs! ✨

# Personal Development

This week in Personal Development students have been looking at:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Anti-bullying Week	Anti-bullying Week	Anti-bullying Week	Anti-bullying Week Community Cohesion	Anti-bullying Week Modern British Values

Next Week we will focus on:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Safe relationships and friendships	Consent and Peer pressure	Teenage relationship abuse and Child Sexual exploitation	Barclays life skills / Gender Equality and the World of Work	Modern British Values / Exploitation and sextortion

## Year 10 Work Experience commences Monday 22nd June 2026

Year 10 have begun talking about Work Experience with their tutors this week and whilst it may seem a long time away, it's important that students start looking now as places can be highly sought after. You can support your child by considering contacts you may have in various places of work, and if you can help them arrange a placement with somewhere you are already familiar with. You may even think your own place of work may provide a good placement. Below is a link to help you learn more about steps you can take to support your child.

<https://www.theparentsguideto.co.uk/post/how-to-help-your-teen-find-work-experience>

This year the school will be using CONNECT to help students organise their Work Experience. Students have now been sent a link to their school emails so they can activate their account. Connect will enable students and us to review, update and manage work placements. It is important that students start looking now for their placement and with your help, ensure it is secured in good time.

Next half term in Personal Development students will be considering issues of relationships and respect, both in personal relationships and within the community. The sessions will also be addressing ideas around personal safety. Childline has lots of advice and support for parents as well as children, which you can access via their website. Locally P.A.C (Positive Action in the Community) provides a range of support for individuals and families on issues relating to youth homelessness, domestic abuse and mental wellbeing. They can be contacted via E: [info@p-a-c.org.uk](mailto:info@p-a-c.org.uk) | T: [01282 227649](tel:01282227649)

In RCS Year 9 will be looking at relationships and the law, including marriage, civil partnerships and religious ceremonies of commitment. This unit is designed to support the RSE statutory framework in connection to families and respectful relationships. There will be an exploration of religious and moral attitudes to intimate relationships, and students to understand how religious texts are interpreted to give clear guidance on these aspects of human life.

Staying in RCS, Year 7 will, later this term, have lessons to help them understand and manage changes, with some focus on the changes that occur in puberty. These lessons are handled sensitively and in a safe learning environment for students to understand issues around mental health, in accepting change and being prepared for puberty as a normal part of growing up. If you have any questions about the delivery and materials used, please do contact me. You may also wish to refer to the school's policy for Relationship and Sex Education.

Mrs Bielby, Head of Personal Development





Remembering the day World War One ended, at 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month, in 1918.

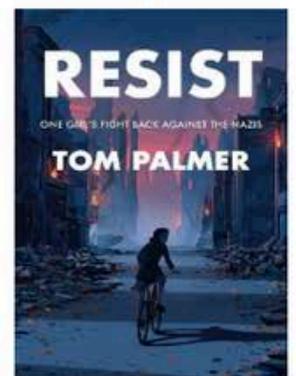
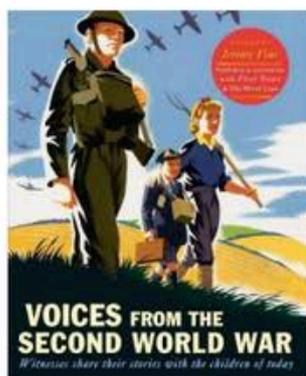
Remembering all who have died in wars around the world.

### On our library website...

School website → Home → Our Curriculum → Learning resources/links → "online school library" link at bottom of the page → click on "Dashboards" from menu

<p>Grade Resources</p>  <p>Virginia Hall: Clever Spy of World War II</p>	<p>World War One Poetry</p> <p>World War One Poetry</p>  <p>Three World War I Poems Poetry Foundation</p> <p>Read more World War One poetry <a href="#">here</a></p> <p>Source: <a href="#">Poetry Foundation</a> (Downloaded 1st October 2022)</p>	<p>In Flanders Fields</p> <p>In Flanders fields the poppies blow Between the crosses, row on row, That mark our place; and in the sky The larks, still bravely singing, fly Scarce heard amid the guns below.</p> <p>We are the Dead. Short days ago We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow, Loved and were loved, and now we lie, In Flanders fields.</p> <p>Take up our quarrel with the foe: To you from falling hands we throw The torch; be yours to hold it high; If ye break faith with us who die We shall not sleep, though poppies grow In Flanders fields.</p> <p>By John McCree</p> 	<p>Royal British Legion</p>  <p>ROYAL BRITISH LEGION</p> <p>The Royal British Legion is the UK's largest armed forces charity. They support serving and ex-serving members of the Royal Navy, British Army, Royal Air Force, veterans and their families. They were established in 1921, and held the first Poppy Appeal that year.</p> <p>Find out more about the Royal British Legion <a href="#">here</a></p> <p>Source: <a href="#">British Legion</a> (retrieved 2 October 2022)</p>
<p>For the Fallen</p> <p>They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning We will remember them.</p>  <p>These well-known lines are from a poem entitled 'For the Fallen', by Laurence Binyon; this extract is the Exhortation that is included at the start of Remembrance Day services.</p>	<p>What was D-Day?</p> <p>The D-Day landings took place on 6th June 1944.</p> <p>Poppies</p> 		

### Available to borrow from the library (and lots more)...



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

On messaging apps, social media and online games, group chats are one of the most popular ways that children connect. Group chats allow messages, images and videos to be shared in one place and help friendships flourish; however, they also come with a number of risks.

### TEASING AND BULLYING

Children of all ages are keen to fit in socially, and group chats can sometimes complicate that process. While group chats can foster connection, they can also give way to mean comments or jokes at someone's expense, especially when others join in for laughs. When bullying happens publicly, in front of friends and classmates, it can intensify the emotional impact – adding to embarrassment, anxiety and feelings of isolation for the child being targeted.

### UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Children often can't control who is added to a group, which can lead to privacy concerns. Sharing personal details in group chats can be dangerous, and children have no control over what others do with the material they send. Some members of the chat might even decide to use such information maliciously.

### PEER PRESSURE

Children may feel they have to constantly stay engaged just to be included and keep up with the conversation. In some cases, they might partake in inappropriate behaviours – like sharing explicit photos, jokes or teasing – just to fit in. Group settings can also encourage children to act in ways they normally wouldn't, or stay silent when they know something is wrong, out of fear of being excluded. Some children may find it difficult to leave toxic group chats.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some group chats may include inappropriate language or imagery, even if a child isn't actively participating in the conversation, they may still be exposed to this content simply by being part of the group. Some apps have disappearing messaging features, where content is only available once or for a few seconds, which makes it harder for children to report something they've seen.

### EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

Exclusion in group chats is common and can take several forms. Sometimes a new group is created specifically to leave one child out on purpose. In other cases, the chat may happen on an app that a child doesn't have access to, making it impossible for them to join in. This can cause feelings of being left out – even unintentionally.

### VIDEO AND LIVE CHATS

Many popular apps allow children to engage in live streaming with interactive chats or have group video chats. Anyone can be added to these streams, and often children tag peers in the comments and have conversations which are unmoderated. There's a risk of being exposed to inappropriate or violent content and offensive language, either in the group videos or via the group chats.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats can become an arena for children to compete for social status. Help children consider how people might feel if they behave unkindly. If a child does upset someone, encourage them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

### SET SOME GROUP CHAT RULES

Discuss safe group chat practices, such as asking a peer for consent before adding them to a group chat, or leaving a group chat if a stranger is added. Tell children that if they're added to a group they didn't agree to beforehand, it's OK for them to leave immediately.

### BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If a child encounters inappropriate content or feels uncomfortable in a group chat, encourage them to block and report the sender and leave the group. Make sure children know it's OK to leave a group chat if they feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

### SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Group chats are an excellent way for children to connect and feel like they belong. However, remind them that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded. Instead of responding to the person who's upset them, validate their feelings and empower them by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. You can also encourage children to speak up if they witness others being bullied.

### PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

It's vital for children to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Ensure they understand the importance of not revealing personal details – like their address, their school, or photos they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they can't be certain where it might end up or how it might be used.

### SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Being bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be an irritating distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to children that they can still be part of a group chat while disabling notifications. In fact, it would be healthier for them to do so, helping them avoid the pressure to respond immediately.

### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant at @Cyberware, who has developed anti-bullying and cyber-safety workshops and policies for schools in Australia and the UK. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government, comparing the internet use and online behaviours of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

