

BILTON NEWS

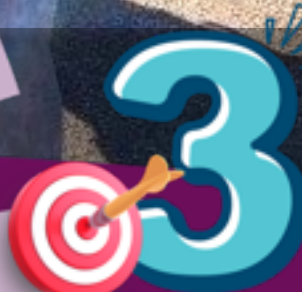
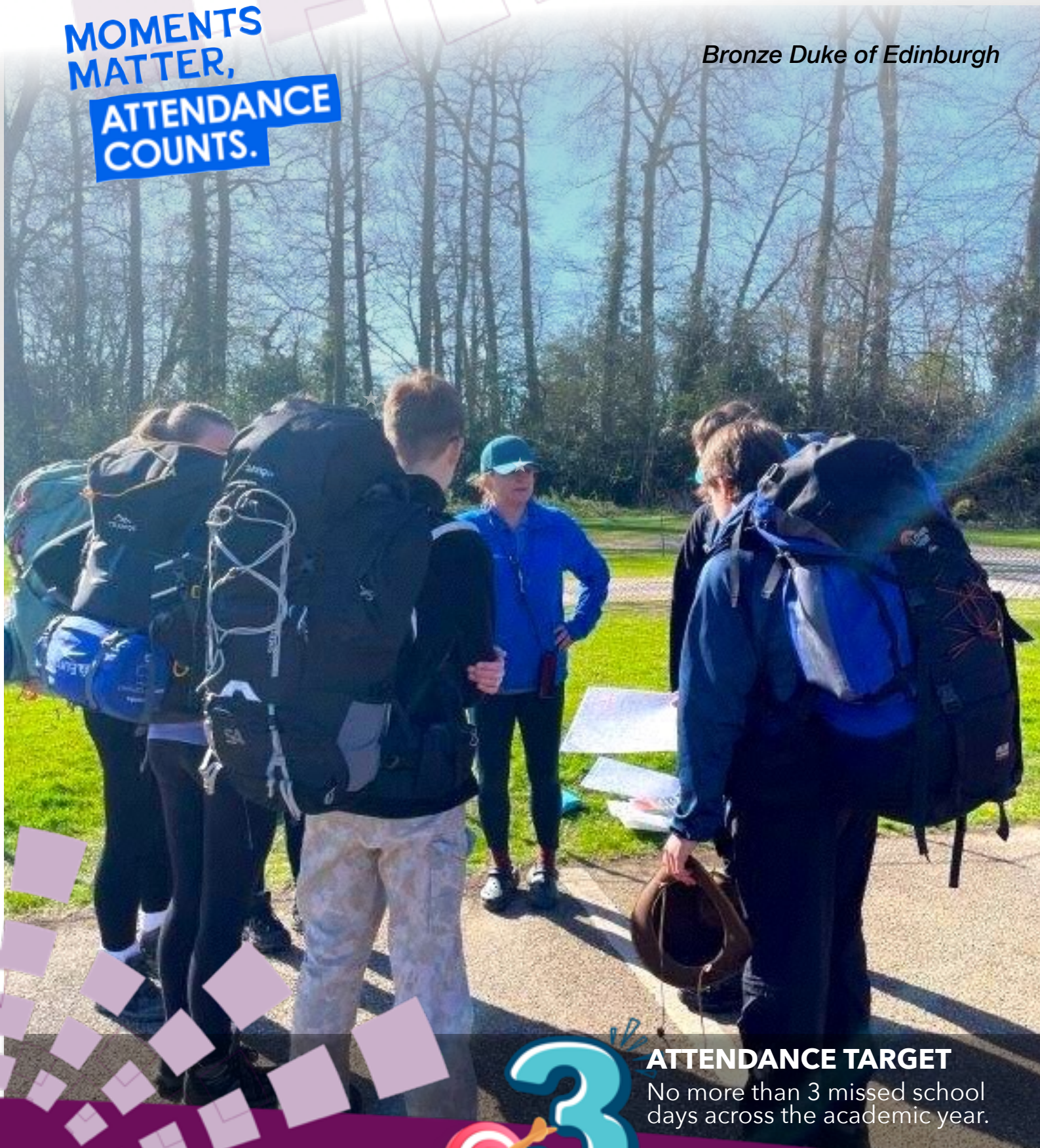
Newsletter May 2025



**MOMENTS
MATTER,**

**ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh



ATTENDANCE TARGET

No more than 3 missed school days across the academic year.

Be the best you can be!



"A short but extremely intense half term"



A short but extremely intense half term for students and staff alike. Year 10,11,12 and 13 have

started their exams really well and we wish them luck as they continue with their revision over half term. Please refer to the schedule of extra revision sessions should the students wish to come in over May half term. I have been consulting over the current school mobile phone policy. I know as a parent the challenges of ensuring my children get the right balance of using technology and getting out in the fresh air and socialising with friends., We have seen an increasing 'addiction' in school to mobile phones. The work I have

been doing with Smartphone Free Childhood has exemplified the dangers mobile phones.

If you are a Year 6 parents transitioning to Bilton, please hold off buying a smartphone for your child. The school policy will be changing, and it is not a necessity to have this as your son/daughter starts secondary school.

Please see below the links for information from Smartphone Free Childhood.

Smartphone Free Childhood - what's it all about

Smartphone Free Childhood - Key Messages

Ms Delves, Headteacher

Y6-7 Mobile Phone Policy

Social media and & the anxious generation

Smartphones are disturbing our children's learning in school

As educators we are seeing the detrimental effects of their use on students' ability to focus in lessons and around the school site. We are evolving a new policy that recognises the benefits of many learning apps but also tries to keep our young people safe and healthy.

What has triggered the review of Mobile Phone policies across schools?

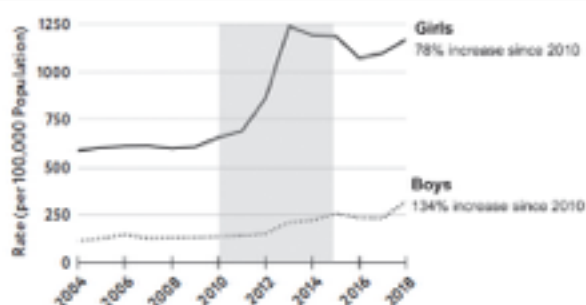
Bilton has a clear policy on mobile phones in that they are not seen or heard as soon as students are on site, and from September 2025 Bilton will place a ban on smartphones for the new Y7s as a prohibited item, this will be rolled out year by year for each new intake of students.

The book "The anxious generation" by Jonathon Haidt (2024) has been released and looks at the great rewiring of childhood and how it is causing an epidemic of mental illness. This has been further compounded by documentaries such as Channel 4 'Swiped' (2024), and therefore schools across the country are reviewing their mobile phone policy, and how children use social media.

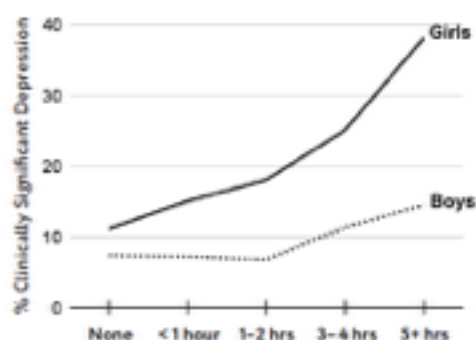
What is the damaging impact of social media on children?

Since smartphones, the selfie camera and then social media apps such as Instagram and Tik Tok became common in 2010, teenage mental health issues have soared, and this is being felt in all secondary schools across the country including Bilton.

Self-Harm Episodes, U.K. Teens



Depression by Level of Social Media Use, U.K.



The main issues around students' use of smartphones and social media are:

Screen time: The number of hours students spend on their mobile phone indicates addiction, especially when considered with how many "pickups" they use too.

Unhappiness: Increases in unhappiness correlates closely with the huge increase in the amount of time children are spending on screen and online (particularly social media apps).

Sleep deprivation: Today's children sleep less and have reduced attention spans.

Online safety: Children can easily access material that could be emotionally harmful, and which is not suitable for children.

Self-Image: Children continually compare themselves to content online and this can be hazardous to their self-image.

Crisp Packet Project

YEAR 9 CRISP PACKET PROJECT

THIS HALF TERM WE ARE COLLECTING EMPTY CRISP PACKETS IN FORM ROOMS TO DONATE TO A CRISP PACKET PROJECT THROUGH THE POLICE CADETS WHICH SENDS THEM TO A CHARITY MAKES BLANKETS FOR LOCAL HOMELESS PEOPLE.

YOUR RUBBISH CAN LITERALLY HELP A VULNERABLE PERSON!

GET COLLECTING AND HAND THEM IN TO YOUR FORM TUTOR EACH DAY – THE FORM AND HOUSE WITH THE MOST AMOUNT OF PACKETS WILL WIN HAPS.

Over the past half-term, our wonderful Year Ambassadors have been collecting crisp packets from Year 9 form groups so they can be cleaned, ironed and turned into blankets for the homeless.

Every Tuesday, Will in Year 9 delivers them to his cadet group and has taken a lead on organising collections along with other Year Ambassadors. We have been amazed by all the donations we have had from Year 9 form groups and we have over 250+ crisps packets so far!

A special thanks to our wonderful Year 9 students, form tutors and canteen staff who have supported the cause. Students have shown kindness and respect through all the work they do for charity.

Up N Atom

Everyone has had a busy few weeks at Up “N” Atom, (our weekly science club), working on different projects on the run up to the easter break and then the first week back!



For our easter-themed session, pupils had great fun designing egg parachutes, with the idea they had to produce a parachute to safely transport an egg after being dropped out of a classroom window to the ground below! They were given a limited selection of equipment to make their parachute, including cardboard, cotton wool, string, plastic bags and Sellotape; we ended up with some great designs and everyone then had fun seeing whose egg would stay intact at the end. I am relieved to say that it wasn't too messy!!

For our other project, pupils designed a volcano using cardboard, paper and glue and decorated them; we had some fantastic models! Then we went outside to the playground and let them erupt! It was a fab session that everyone enjoyed.



Up N Atom - Thursday after school in K19



Last week at Up N Atom, we had some fun making our own bubble mixture and bubble wands to see who could make the biggest and best bubbles! We used straws to make the wands and we ended up with a variety of sizes and shapes.

Our bubble mixture was a lovely fluorescent yellow colour, as we put a fluorescent marker in it to see what would happen!

Big Create

Across the school there has been a fantastic effort with this term's Big Create to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day. We would like to congratulate Mrs Clarke's form on her Big Create win this term and her brilliant effort to make the History and Boost corridor look fantastic. Heart warming stories have been shared by both Mrs Clarke and Mrs Newberry.

Special mentions to Ms Hamataj's form for their WW2 horizon scene and Miss Nash's artwork



Duke of Edinburgh News

In April, our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh students completed their practice walk at the stunning location of Kenilworth Castle. This gave the students the opportunity to complete the navigation independently within their groups whilst carrying a full kit. Once again, we were blessed with a beautiful sunny day and all students successfully completed their route showing kindness, respect and resilience. Well done to everyone that took part.'



Upcoming Duke of Edinburgh Events

Friday 13th June: Year 8 Assembly to launch Bronze Duke of Edinburgh

Saturday 21st & Sunday 22nd June: Year 9 DofE Qualifying Expedition

12th May 2025

International Nurses Day

Today we're celebrating our
Warwickshire School Nursing team
who are here to support your children
throughout their education.



International Nurses Day!

On May 12th we celebrated
Warwickshire School Nursing Service.

Thank you for supporting our students'
health and wellbeing to allow them to
lead happy and healthy lives.

If you have any health concerns about
your child, you can contact Connect
for Health for advice and support:

Telephone: 03300 245 204

Parentline: Confidential text messaging
service – 07520 619 376

Email: connectforhealth@compass-uk.org

Brilliant Club

Well done to our Year 9 Brilliant Club students. They excelled with the scholars project they undertook on Economic Sustainability in Plastic Manufacturing from a Business Perspective and had a great day out at Warwick University to celebrate this achievement.



Well done

A huge well done to Blake and Oscar from Miss Hemsworth's Drama class for receiving full marks on their recent practical assessment.

You both showed resilience and worked extremely hard, you should be very proud of yourselves!

Loudmouth

Year 7 had Loudmouth, a theatre and workshop company, today delivering their performance called Bully4U. Pupils were able to discuss the issues that came up in the performance in workshops following the performance and all thought it was an important and useful session. Looking at Community Issues and Healthy Relationships is a key part of our Character & Culture curriculum.



Creatures and Critters Club

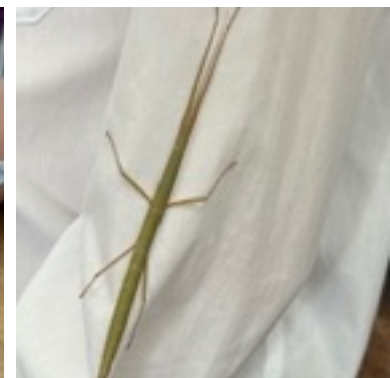
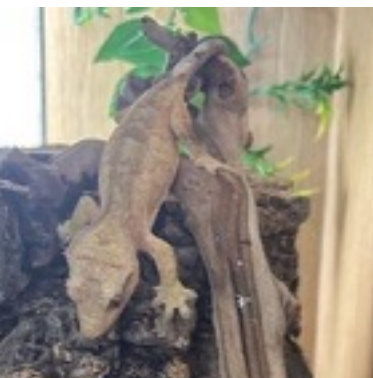
This term at Creatures and Critters club the pupils enjoyed getting Olympia, (our crested gecko) out of her enclosure for a walk around the classroom. This week Olympia has had a new thermostat in her enclosure to ensure that she is never too hot or too cold.

Pupils also fed our African Land Snails with a variety of salad leaves; we have about 60 snails in residence at Bilton, so we have to keep a watchful eye on any eggs being laid as we don't want any babies at the moment!

Our Indian Stick Insects came out for a wander around too! They are getting quite old now, so we have kept some of the eggs to try and hatch some new babies, we will let you know when the eggs hatch!

Next term look out for my write up about the animals that we have here at Bilton School, this will include some interesting facts about each of them and how we care for them.

If anyone would like to join us at creatures and critters club, we meet on a Tuesday lunchtime from 1.30pm in K18. The club is run by Mrs Coling and Mrs Gowing, our science technicians.



Brain Day



Sixth Form Psychology students participated in a one-day tutorial into neuroscience. As part of the day the students looked at brain dissection and were actively involved with identifying areas within the brain that we use as part of the A level Psychology specification. Alongside of this, student were given up to date research into brain anatomy schizophrenia and the mind of a criminal.

They also explored the dopamine

hypothesis, EEG's and the effect of smartphones on the brain. It was a very productive day and all of the students enjoyed the tutorial and stated that they had learnt a lot more about the brain.



Year 7 Trip



YEAR 7

Twycross Zoo

GET READY FOR AN ADVENTURE



Tuesday 24th June 2025

Please note that the school reserves the right to refuse a young person to take part in this event; this includes poor attendance; poor attitude to learning; inappropriate behaviours in lessons and around school. To access the trip, students will need to be striving for 80% or higher positive score on Class Charts

www.twycrosszoo.org

Newsies success!

Our closing performance of Newsies the Musical was a spectacular evening! Huge congratulations to all the cast who put on an amazing show! You did Bilton proud!

Thank you to Mrs Ciesielski and Miss Hemsworth for directing, producing and giving so much of their time to this memorable experience. Thank you to Mrs Wood and the food technology students for creating the tasty interval snacks and of course, the PTA for their refreshments and on-going support.

Lastly, thank you to everyone who came to watch and support the students. We are sure you enjoyed the show!



NEWSIES WHAT A FANTASTIC SHOW



"Love thisss!! Thank you - and sending ALL the postive vibes to the Newsies cast! I'm sure they will smash it!"

Josh Barnett who played the original 'Race' in Newsies in the UK.



Sports News

Year 10 GCSE PE students have been taking part in Mock moderation athletics events. James G is pictured here winning his heat in the 100 metres.



Darts club has well and truly taken off with more and more students turning up every week. We now have 7 boards and surrounds, as well as Bilton's own darting legend Luke Partridge coaching the students. The students are also developing their Mental Maths by scoring on mini whiteboards.



A selection of Year 9 boys and girls represented Bilton School at the Rugby Schools Athletics Town Championships. All students did extremely well and should be very proud of their performances!!! Some of our brilliant results:

Erika - 3rd in the Discus

Egor - 2nd in the shot putt

Daisy-May - 2nd in the 800 m

Ava - 1st in the 1500 m

Year 11 Netball Victory

On Monday 7th April, our Year 11 Netball Team played their final match for Bilton School against RHS—and what a way to finish! With determination in their hearts, the girls had one goal in mind: a Bilton victory.



Despite a slow start that saw RHS take an early lead, the team rallied brilliantly. With outstanding shooting from Lucy, Jordan, and Natalia, solid defensive work by Charlotte and Jasmine, and smooth midfield coordination from Fraya and Autumn, Bilton turned the game around.

The final score? A triumphant 26–20 win for Bilton!

Year 10 students



SpringPod

Virtual work experience package

SpringPod is a careers platform with over 120 companies, SpringPod offers in-depth, interactive and informative virtual work experiences from industry experts in the world's leading employers.

Our Year 10 pupils should have already registered for this service and applied for a virtual work experience they are interested in during their dedicated Character & Culture time. They have already received two hours of Character & Culture time to begin their SpringPod experience, they're due their next session on 23rd May 25. As each experience lasts for 10 hours in total, we ask that they complete the remaining experience independently to accomplish a valid experience.

On completion, they achieve a certificate and this valid experience can begin to build a CV or application form. In addition, this experience will be logged onto Unifrog, Bilton's digital aspiration passport, and qualifies as an experience for any college, sixth form or UCAS application in the future.

The deadline for students to complete the SpringPod virtual work experience task is the July 1st 2025.

*For help and support please see your tutor or
Miss Francis (Head of Careers)*



Character & Culture

ATTENDANCE EVERY DAY COUNTS

0 LESSONS MISSED **0** DAYS MISSED 

5 LESSONS MISSED **1** DAY MISSED 

15 LESSONS MISSED **3** DAYS MISSED 

25 LESSONS MISSED **5** DAYS MISSED 

50 LESSONS MISSED **10** DAYS MISSED 

75 LESSONS MISSED **15** DAYS MISSED 

90 LESSONS MISSED **18** DAYS MISSED 



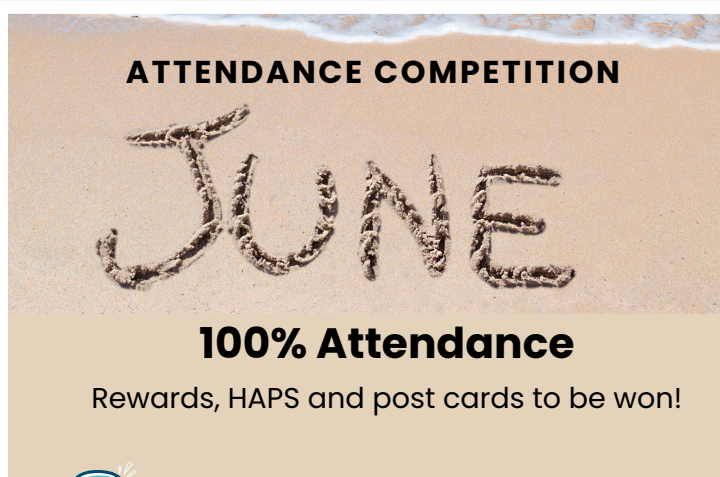
ATTENDANCE TARGET

No more than 3 missed school days across the academic year.

Attendance Matters

Key points for the summer term

1. All students need to arrive on site for 8.45am
2. Students arriving after 8.50am will be issued with a late detention
3. Any student arriving after 9.20am will not receive a morning mark.
4. We celebrate and reward excellent attendance and encourage students to have no more than 3 days off.
5. Good attendance directly links to academic success and even two days off links to 10 hours of lost learning.



**THURSDAYS
9.30-10.30AM**

**With Nicola Dodd
Attendance Lead**



School Cloud appointment

**Would you like to connect with us
about your child's attendance?**

SCHOOL CLOUD ATTENDANCE CHAT

**Would you like an opportunity to talk about how
we can support your child to come in to school?**

We can help!

Explore how we can support further

To book

Email  bil_attendance@stowevalley.com



May 2025

Gaynor Davy, DSL

SAFEGUARDING AWARENESS WEEK

at Bilton School

ALL WEEK

All week

Big books and puzzles – Library – Each lunchtime this week there will be a range of books and puzzles linked to being safe online

Big Listen – Reach out by using our Buddy Box and ask for help if you need to – located outside the Safeguarding office

Tuesday & Thursday

Big Guide – talk to our student council – Tuesday & Thursday lunchtime in the library and find out places/websites/hints and tips on how to keep safe online

Wednesday

Meet the experts – Library – Our IT team will be able to guide and explain how to spot and report when you are online

Thursday

Big Bakes – Buy a cake from our canteen to support our Safeguarding Week.



EMPOWERING AND PROTECTING STUDENTS IN A DIGITAL WORLD

Big Competition – complete the ‘everyone has the right to feel safe online’ activity pack throughout the week, pop it into the box in the library to be in with the chance of winning a £10 amazon voucher! Packs can be collected from the library or safeguarding office.



We're supporting

Safeguarding Awareness Week 2025

Get involved



SAFEGUARDING AWARENESS WEEK

19 - 25 May 2025

Bilton School is taking part in the Tes annual global Safeguarding Awareness Week. Held in May its dedicated to highlighting the importance of safeguarding in schools. It equips schools with information, guidance and support to help make classrooms and schools as safe as possible. Since its launch in 2021 Bilton has taken part in the event bringing the subject to life with displays and educational sessions. This year's theme is Empowering and protecting students in a digital world. The aim is to equip students with the confidence, tools and skills to navigate the digital world safely.

Research shows that.....



43% of Children

Feel pressured to keep up with social media trends and features.



48% of Children

Believe changing technology makes it harder to control their online privacy.



75% of Children

Say technology and internet are key to their independence.



60% of children

Who have used Gen AI believe it has safety risks



2 in 3

children report experiencing online harms

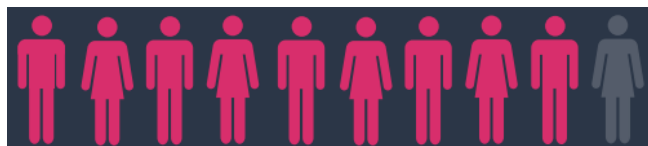


Nearly ½ of 15-16 year-old girls

Have been contacted by strangers online

89% increase

In online grooming crimes against children in the last 6 years



SAFEGUARDING AWARENESS WEEK

19 - 25 May 2025

Keep your child safe online#



- [Thinkuknow](#) by the National Crime Agency - Child Exploitation and Online Protection command (NCA-CEOP) - resources for parents and carers and children of all ages to help keep children safe online
- [Childnet](#) has developed [guidance for parents and carers](#) to begin a conversation about online safety, as well as [guidance on keeping under-fives safe online](#)
- National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) - [guidance for parents and carers](#) to help keep children safe online
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - tips and advice for parents and carers to keep children safe online - you can also [report any harmful content found online through the UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
- [Inclusive Digital Safety Hub](#) and [Online Safety Hub](#), created by South West Grid for Learning in partnership with Internet Matters - support and tailored advice for young people with additional learning needs and their parents or carers
- [Parents' Guide to Age Ratings](#) explains how the British Board of Film Classification rates content, and gives parents advice on choosing online content well
- The Children's Commissioner has published [advice for parents on talking to your child about online sexual harassment](#) specifically, based on input from children themselves

[Support for parents and carers to keep children safe online - GOV.UK](#)

Top tips for 11 – 19 Year olds



- Protect your online reputation** Use the services provided to manage your digital footprints and 'think before you post.' Content posted online can last forever and could be shared publicly by anyone.
- Know where to find help** Understand how to report to service providers and use blocking and deleting tools. If something happens that upsets you online, it's never too late to tell someone
- Don't give in to pressure** Keep calm and keep in control; once you've pressed send you can't take it back.
- Respect the law** Use reliable services and know how to legally access the music, film and TV you want.
- Acknowledge your sources** Use trustworthy content and remember to give credit when using others' work/ideas.

[Resources for 11-19s - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

RUGBY
Art Gallery
& Museum



BIG

Join us for a fun-filled
family celebration as
Rugby Art Gallery and
Museum turns 25!

BIRTHDAY

BASH!

Come and
explore a
packed day of
FREE activities
for all ages.

21 June 2025, 11am – 3pm
www.ragm.co.uk

