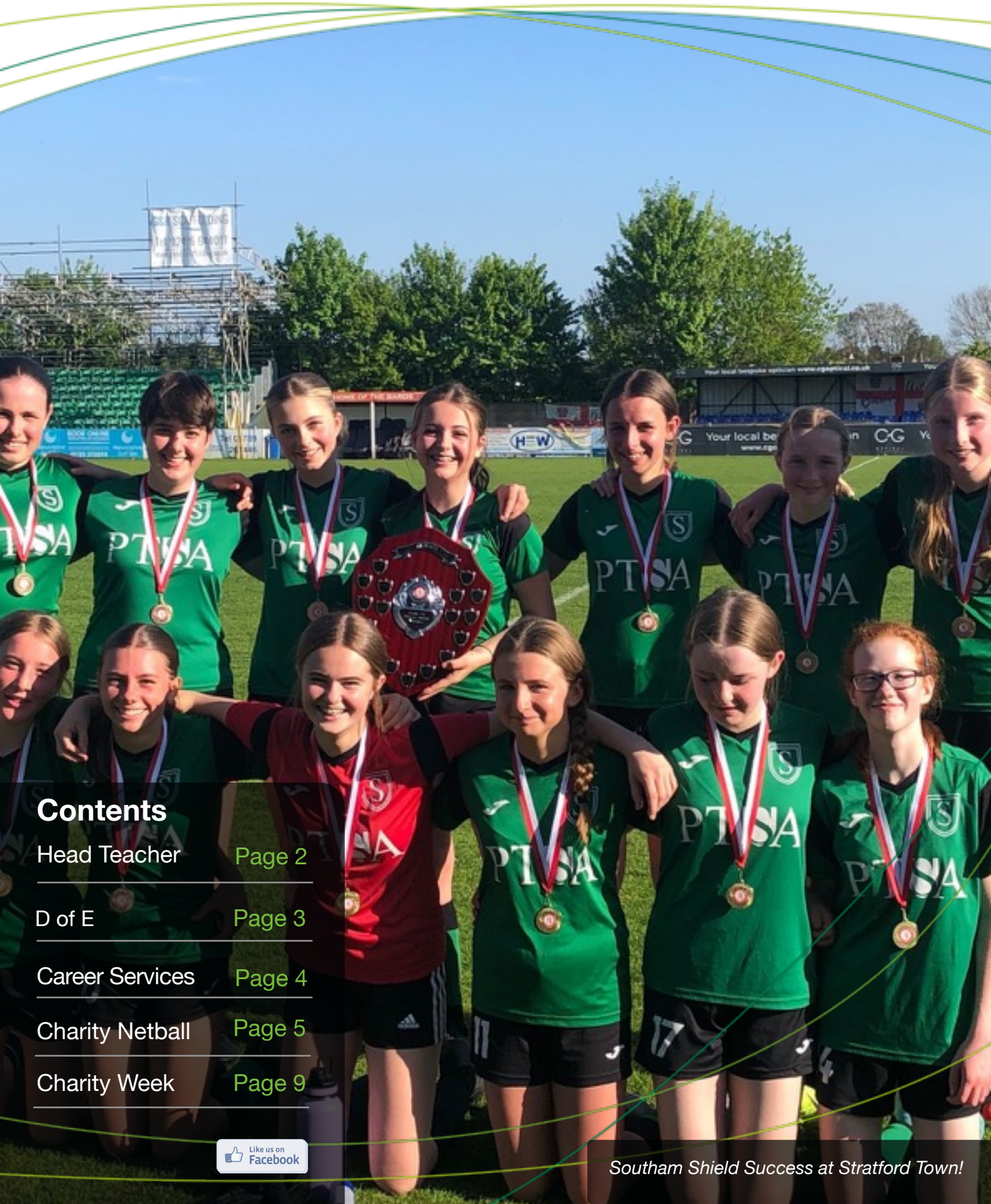
# CollegeNews

May 2025

Southam College



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Like us on Facebook

*Southam Shield Success at Stratford Town!*

*24 hour Charity netball*

# A short but busy half term!

This half term has been a sprint, with only 19 school days and so much to fit in.

As a school we have commemorated and celebrated VE Day with students and members of the community, culminating in a wonderful evening of reflection, history and musical performances. We were so grateful to have Galanos House residents so involved with these celebrations.

GCSEs, AS and A Levels started as soon as we returned from Easter. With practical examinations, it is always great to see students hard work coming to life and the pleasure they get for being able to demonstrate what they have learnt. We are now in the heart of the written exams in the Sports Hall and students are again doing themselves proud with their great attitude and the determination they are showing. We have held our celebration assemblies for Year 11 and 13 and look forward to Proms and other events next half term.

Meanwhile Year 9 have been busy with expeditions for their Duke of Edinburgh award and Year 10 have had one of their first interview experiences with volunteers from the local community. All such valuable experiences for the future.

Whilst there is always a busy schedule of extra-curricular sport and fixtures, our Girls Football Teams have particularly excelled this half term, bringing back several trophies for the school cabinet and showing true resilience in some tough finals.

All of these events and activities add to the day to day focus of learning and teaching in classrooms and practical spaces across the school. We supported Ofsted with a test visit to school this half term and enjoyed getting to show external visitors what students do in subjects daily. Our students were acknowledged for how articulate they are when talking about their academic curriculum, personal development and values.

There is so much to look forward to in the rest of the Summer Term, with more trips and celebrations to end this academic year. We are also already planning for the next year by welcoming in students and families from Year 6 and new students for next year's Year 12.

Wishing everyone an enjoyable and safe Half Term.

***Miss Mason, Headteacher***

# Gold Duke of Edinburgh

Congratulations to Georgie H, Marie G, Hattie S, Tom W, Callum S, James B, James E and Joe E on achieving the Gold Duke of Edinburgh award, from HRH The Duke of Edinburgh! Your dedication and perseverance have truly paid off. What an incredible accomplishment! We hope you enjoyed every moment of this well-deserved recognition. The DofE team at Southam College are so proud of you.

## Year 7 at Southam

My time in year 7 has been full of new experiences, challenges and friendships that have helped me grow as a person.

My first year of Southam College has been both wonderful and challenging but above everything else, it's been unforgettable. I've learned so much - not just in lessons, but about myself and the people around me. From the nerves of the first day, to the laughs with friends, Southam College has shaped who I am. The teachers have been so friendly and welcoming, settling the nerves of a new student. They have supported me every step of the way, and I'm truly grateful for their encouragement and guidance. I have discovered new subjects I enjoy, took part in experiences such as the Isle of Wight residential that pushed me out of my comfort zone, and made memories I'll carry with me for the rest of my life. I look forward to year 8 and can't wait to see what else this amazing school has in store for me.

***Hugo, Year 7***

# Local Employers required to support Southam College Career Services

**My role within the school is to support all students to make informed career choices by providing independent, impartial careers advice.**

My main priority is to develop sustainable business links with employers, so that we can work together to support and raise the aspirations of our students. Southam College would like the students to be more aware of the labour market and what career opportunities exist. Currently there is a mismatch between the careers young people want to pursue and the opportunities available. We believe at Southam College that the choices made at school should be based on a clear view of the current labour market and how opportunities may change in the future.

**Here are the different ways your company can support the Southam College careers program:**

- *Attend schools career fair*
- *Deliver presentations on your company's specialist area*
- *Attend mock interviews*
- *Provide work experience placements*
- *Provide mentoring*
- *Support Employability Skills sessions*
- *Attend termly breakfast meetings with other employers*

**Here are the different ways Southam College is willing to support your company:**

- *Promote your full and part time vacancies*
- *Promote apprenticeships/traineeships*
- *Promote volunteering placements*

**Andy Hughes**
**Southam College Careers Adviser**

You can contact me on 01926 812560 or email me at **hughes.a@stowevalley.com**

## Year 10 Work Experience placements required

**Could your employer support at least one Year 10 student by offering them a one week work experience placement during the summer holidays? This opportunity will enable the student to learn and develop key work and employability skills such as interpersonal and communication skills, the ability to work independently, using initiative and team work which will enhance their transition into further education and employment and will hopefully stand them apart from other candidates when competing for College, University, Apprenticeship and Employment vacancies.**

## 24 Hour Netball 2025

This year, we hosted our 3rd 24 Hour Netball event at Southam. This involved some students in Year 13 who had been involved in the previous 2 events and really enjoyed taking part for the last time. Starting at 1pm, the 80 student involved played in teams and rotating shifts to create one continuous netball match lasting for the 24 hour period. All involved had lots of fun and a rewarding experience.

Massive thanks go to Miss Owen and Mr Jeffries, without whom the event wouldn't have been able to take place. Thanks also to all the staff who took part in a fun and competitive teacher game as part of the event.

Also, a special mention to Mr Hall, Mrs Morten and Mrs Meredith for staying up all night to help the students enjoy a lifetime memory.

## Bronze Duke of Edinburgh

Well done Year 9 who completed their Bronze practice expedition in early May. Great teamwork and resilience was shown. Keep up the good navigation for the qualifying!

From, Mrs Meredith, Mr Hall, Miss Owen, Dr Brink and Mrs Southwick

BRONZE

## Appointments with our SENCO

As part of our ongoing SEND support / provision, we are offering online 15 minute appointments with our SENCO Miss Amy Hawkes and our Assistant SENCO Mrs Elizabeth Reeves. This will provide an opportunity to meet and to ask any questions you may have about the school's SEN provision and your child's education.

These appointments are open to all pupils, not specific families.

**Appointments are bookable online via school cloud**

**https://southamcollege.schoolcloud.co.uk**

*Miss Hawkes, SENCO*

# Barrister visit

Our Criminology students had the incredible opportunity to hear from Nathalie Bull, a family law barrister from 3PB Chambers. Nathalie shared her professional journey within the field of law and her specialism of instructing in private children matters, care proceedings and matrimonial finance proceedings.

From studying law to standing up in court, Nathalie broke down the path step by step, offering honest advice, inspiration, and the confidence to dream big. Our students left the session feeling, inspired, motivated and truly empowered to consider various careers within the legal profession. Thank you for showing that no dream is out of reach, especially when you have passion, purpose, and the power of knowledge on your side.

***Mrs Savage & Miss Pitts***

# The Hands Up Project

Our Sixth Form students had the incredible opportunity to take part in a virtual "Show and Tell" session. The event was hosted by volunteer teachers from “The Hands Up Project”, a charity that supports Palestinian children through education and creative expression. Our Sixth Form students were truly honoured to spend time with school children from Gaza—young people whose lives have been deeply affected by conflict, displacement, and loss. Despite the challenges they face, their spirit and resilience left a lasting impression on all of us.

During the session, we formed meaningful connections with students—Malak, Wadir, Fatima, Mohammed, and Jaber. We also had the privilege of meeting Dr. Sulaiman, along with project leader Donna, and teachers Doaa and Rania.

One of the highlights was hearing the children read aloud their own heartfelt poems, written as powerful expressions of their lived experiences. Through their creativity, they shared their hopes, dreams, and reflections, giving us insight into their lives in a way that no textbook ever could. We are lucky to have copies of the poems in school for students to also read if they wish.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to Dr. Sulaiman, Donna, Doaa, Rania, and especially the inspiring children who shared so much with us.

***Mrs Campbell-Birch***

# South Warwickshire Sports Partnership

## Festival of Fun Climbing.

A Select group of boys from the lower school enjoyed an afternoon of climbing at the Newbold leisure centre. They pitted their wits against number of challenging climbing walls and were able to put the energies into a productive use. Well done to all the boys who participated and many thanks to Mrs. Jenkins who joined us for this events.

## Warwickshire Schools Combined Events Athletics Championships.

Three year seven girls competed for Southam College at the combined events championships in Nuneaton. They competed in four different events against some of the best all-round athletes from across the county. They did brilliantly well with Bella M finishing 13th Peyton B finishing 14th and Orla B finishing 17th Overall their combined totals insured that Southam finished as the third placed school in the county.

This was a fantastic result from the girls and a great start to our athletics season. Hopefully there will be many more triumphs in the future.

The PTSA have kindly funded £240 towards various activity kits for use by our pupils accessing the Connection Hub Nurture Room.

These fantastic resources provide opportunities for emotional regulation, structured social interactions, modelling behaviour, problem solving, and academic development.

THANK YOU PTSA

# National Junior Maths

In May, 100 year 7 and 8 students took part in the National Junior Maths Challenge whereby they had to use logical thinking and problem-solving skills to answer a series of complex Maths problems. We had a fantastic set of results including 25 bronze and 16 Silver awards. Special mentions to Phoebe D in year 8 getting best in Year and Alex L getting best in year 7 and best in School obtaining himself a Gold Certificate and a pass to the next round of the competition.

Well done to all that took part. ***Miss Harvey***

## Charity Week 2025

This year all 4 houses worked together to raise as much money as possible for our school charity CRY as part of charity week 2025. For 4 days in the first week of May, tutor groups held stalls, activities and competitions with all the money going to support this year's fundraising. When all the money was counted, we raised a grand total of £1038! This has helped our total for the year to go over £12,000.

Thanks to all the tutors and students for arranging the stalls, and to Mr Hall and the Heads of House for supporting another successful year of charity week.

**There are lots of activities happening locally over half term, further information can be found at the links below:**

Warwickshire What's On | Warwickshire What's On

What's On - Belgrade Theatre

Fun Days Out in Coventry and Warwickshire | Coombe Abbey Hotel

Warwickshire Country Parks Events - 94 Upcoming Activities and Tickets | Eventbrite

What's On - The Herbert Art Gallery & Museum

What's On - Rugby Art Gallery & Museum - Rugby Borough Council

What's On | Warwick Arts Centre

# ARTICULATE

# The Big Debate 2025

**Southam College are holding a debate in July and we are currently looking for students to represent Southam's debate panel.**

If you are interested and love debating we want to hear from you!

- ✓ WEDNESDAY 9TH JULY
- ✓ Period 5 in the Hall
- ✓ Further information to follow

**Let us know if you are interested**

Contact Mrs Savage - Head of Social Sciences or the 6th form Amnesty Society email Savage.n@Stowevalley.com

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Southam College · Bilton School · Kineton High School

Stowe Valley Multi Academy Trust

# Southam College Alumni

## Olivia

Southam College | Stowe Valley Multi Academy Trust

**My name is Olivia K – I left Southam College in 2019 after staying on for Sixth Form.**

Since leaving Southam, I chose not to go to university and instead spent the past few years solo travelling and working on charity projects, particularly those focused on tackling period poverty in communities across Sub-Saharan Africa and Cambodia. Along the way, I began freelancing as a graphic designer and eventually realised I could use design to make a real difference.

That's when I founded OneKind Creative – a purpose-driven design studio working with charities, social enterprises, and ethical brands. I've now had the chance to work on everything from menstrual health campaigns to local community projects right here in the Midlands. My business has recently been shortlisted for the Midlands final of the UK StartUp Awards for using design to make a difference. To be recognised in the "StartUp for Good" category means so much to me, especially as a young entrepreneur who chose a non-traditional path.

I am also part of Design Declares, which is a global movement of design studios using design to raise awareness of the climate crisis and explore how the design industry can incorporate more sustainable-led practices.

I'm really passionate about showing current students that there's no one "right" way to build a career –University definitely wasn't for me, and I chose travel and entrepreneurship as my path..

ONEKIND creative onekindcreative.co.uk

*Be the best you can be!*

April 2025

Southam College

# Recycled Art Challenge

**Have you ever looked at the recycling and thought I could make something out of this? Well now is your chance.**
**We want you to channel your inner creativity and create a piece of artwork using only recycled objects.**

Bring your amazing creations to your art teacher or Mr Phillips with a clear label of your name and tutor attached.

Or if it is easier send a picture to **phillips.l@stowevalley.com.**
All entries are due on Friday 6th June.

SOUTHAM COLLEGE

# LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME
# UPDATED INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Supreme Court clarified has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time (Platt v Isle of Wright 2017). The Supreme Court has made clear that attending school 'regularly' means that the children must attend school on every day that they are required to do so. As such, the parents of any child who is absent from school without authorisation for any length of time are likely to be considered as committing an offence under s444 of the Education Act 1996.

The law states a leave of absence may only be granted by a school if an application is made in advance and if it considers there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application.

Schools must judge each application individually considering the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind each request.

A leave of absence is granted entirely at the school's discretion. Generally, a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation would not constitute an exceptional circumstance.

Where a leave of absence is granted, the school will determine the number of days a pupil can be absent from school.

When making an application for Leave of Absence parents are advised to give sufficient information and time to allow the Head teacher the opportunity to consider all the exceptional circumstances and to notify parents of their decision. The school may also request further information on the application and supporting documentation where appropriate.

It is advised that if the resident parent has not received notification or a response regarding the leave of absence application, it is their responsibility to ascertain if the leave is authorised prior to the start of the leave.

The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent ie the parent with whom the child normally resides.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child is expected to be in school on the dates set out in the application. If the child is absent during that period, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. Where a leave of absence is requested, but additional days taken either prior to or after the request may be considered as part of the leave of absence.

Leave of Absences which are not made in advance cannot be authorised in line with legislation. This will result in the absence being recorded as 'unauthorised'.

All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council. Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices and in the first instance, as an alternative to prosecution proceedings.

**Leave of Absence taken in the academic year 2023-24**

**It is important to note**, Penalty Notices are issued to each parent of each absent child, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means each parent will receive 2 invoices in the amount of £120 each, totalling £240 for both children, this is reduced to £60 per child if paid within 21 days).

Where a Penalty Notice is not paid within the required timeframe as set out on the notice, the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal proceedings under S444 Education Act 1996.

**Leave of Absence taken in the academic year 2024-25**

**The law relating to Penalty Notices is due to change with effect from 1 September 2024. Therefore Penalty Notices issued for Leave of Absences taken after this date will be issued in accordance with the updated legislation.**

- Penalty Notices are issued to each parent of each absent child, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means each parent will receive 2 invoices – 4 in total).
  - First Leave of Absence offence: The Penalty Notice amount of £160 to be paid within 28 days, this is reduced to £80 each child if paid within 21 days.
  - Second Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): The amount of £160 paid within 28 days. No reduced amount,

- Payment plans will not be offered and/or payments received outside of the 28 day period will not be accepted. Where a penalty notice expires unpaid the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider criminal prosecution.

- Third Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice) A penalty notices will be not be issued and the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal prosecution proceedings under S444 of Education Act 1996.

**Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority.**

June 2024 update