BILTONSCHOOL

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Executive Principal:
Mr R Samra B.A., M.A.

5th September 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome back!

I hope you had a relaxing summer and a positive start to the new academic year. It has been a pleasure to welcome the newest members of the Bilton family. Our Year 7 students have arrived with palpable excitement and curiosity about all things Bilton, which has been wonderful to witness. We've also welcomed new families and students into Year 12, as well as those continuing with us from Year 11. Across all year groups, students have returned looking smart, engaged, and ready to learn.

You may have seen in the press and on our website the fantastic results achieved by our Year 11 and Year 13 students this summer. We are incredibly proud of their accomplishments and the opportunities these results have opened for their next steps in life.

Over the summer, we continued developing the reception area and are currently working on extending the canteen to accommodate our growing student population. We have also integrated a new information system across the school. If you haven't already, please download the MCAS app, which allows you to track your child's behaviour, timetable, and other aspects of school life. A student app link will be sent out next week so students can also monitor their behaviour data and access homework. As a result, Class Charts has now been disabled, and MCAS will be our primary parent information system moving forward.

We have also launched Study Bugs, a new system for reporting absences due to illness or unavoidable medical appointments. Please sign up for this system, as from the end of next week, all absence reporting will need to be done via Study Bugs. You can find the link at the top of the school website.

During staff training this week, we focused on positive behaviour strategies and supporting students when their choices may not be as constructive as they could be. We are continuing to implement restorative justice principles, which focus on communication, trust-building, and relationship development to guide students toward better decision-making. We will be sending out further information to help you understand how this approach works, what we'll be teaching your child, and how it will strengthen our behaviour system.

This week, we launched our mobile phone-free strategy. I would like to sincerely thank parents who have supported us by not sending students in with phones. All students in Years 7–9 have been issued pouches, regardless of whether they bring a phone to school. Students in Years 10–11 have been reminded of the "not seen, not heard" policy, which applies before and after school. Any phone seen or heard will be confiscated for 24 hours and must be collected by a parent. Some parents have asked to purchase pouches to avoid confiscation, and these will be available on Parent Pay next week. We have also loaned "dumb phones" to students whose phones have been confiscated. Ideally, phones should be kept in an inside pocket or at the bottom of a school bag to prevent this from happening. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

We have started the term with excellent attendance, which is vital for student success. Please ensure your child attends school regularly and that absences do not exceed three days. Students who are consistently in school perform significantly better, so we ask that appointments be scheduled outside of school hours whenever possible.

This half term is particularly busy as we begin preparations for Year 6 students choosing their secondary schools. Our Open Evening is on 2nd October, where many of your children will be involved—whether showcasing their work, giving tours, performing in the arts, or participating in sports. Year 11 will have their Parent Information Evening on 10th September, where we will share strategies to support your child through their examination year. We look forward to welcoming you. Year 13 students will begin preparing for their first set of mock exams in November and will receive support with their university applications this half term.

Bilton School is an exciting and innovative place to lead, and I do so with immense pride. It is a privilege to work with the young people in our community, no matter where they are on their seven-year journey with us.

Wishing you a restful and relaxing weekend.

Kind regards

JDelves

Jayne Delves
Headteacher