BILTONSCHOOL

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

26th September 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian,

What a fantastic start to the new academic year. Year 7 are settling into our Bilton family and demonstrated our core values of respect, resilience and kindness in their team building activities yesterday in the late Autumn sunshine. We look forward to welcoming Year 7 & 12 families back into school to discuss with their tutors how your son/daughter has settled into school on Wednesday 8th October, please book onto School Cloud to secure your appointment. There will be log in details for this on Monday 29th September 2025. Students have been fantastic in supporting our mobile phone free strategy. This has led to a calm school with students playing and talking at lunch and breaktimes. Staff have commented on the increased concentration in lessons as well, thank you for your continued support in reducing screen time for our young people.

We have introduced a new rewards system. Last year all year group representatives met within the Student Council forum and agreed on changes to the reward system. Students will continue to receive House Achievement Points (HAPS) which will give them badges and goodie bags. There are four badges which can be achieved in Year 7-9. For this year only, the badge system will also apply to Year 10. Badges will be awarded for the following HAP Levels:

Bronze 500, Silver 1000, Gold 2250, Platinum 5000
* HAPS roll over into the next year

Positive praise, phone calls and postcards will continue to be issued, and students can also work towards their Headteacher Award once all levels are achieved. In year 11, there is a different focus linked to securing their Passport to Prom, which is being launched next week. There is also weekly raffle prizes awarded in assembly for effort and hard work in school and in their home learning.

Sixth Form leaders have created the HAPA award. Rewards are given for HAP numbers, good attendance, punctuality and academic success. Reward trips are also arranged by Heads of Year for all year groups and there will be a whole school inflatable event at the end of the year for all students who have worked hard in key areas of the curriculum. For an extra boost we have our first double HAP week on Monday.

This week saw our Year 10 English Literature evening where we invited parents in to discuss preparation for their first GCSE examination. We will be entering some of our students into the early entry exam, the English team will be tracking progress carefully to assess suitability. Year 11 had their revision skills and general preparation for GCSE's evening last week and again we were pleased to invite parents back into school. We know this is a challenging journey for Year 11, one we will support both students and families.

Attendance continues to be a key target for us and is high on the national educational agenda. To support this, all students receive a Connect session during Thursday morning tutor time. This session looks at two things; the ratio of rewards to consequence points for individual students, and individual students' attendance to school. We celebrated with 7A3 last week for winning the tutor group with the highest attendance in the whole school, we all had a delicious brunch together. This competition runs on a monthly basis. Please see below a summary of attendance reporting protocols:

- All absences are reported via Study Bugs. There is no longer the facility to call in to report student absence
- A daily absence report is needed from parents in all year groups.

The school's target is no more than three days absence in a school year; we know absence levels above this have a negative effect on all aspects of school life. Your support in encouraging high attendance is greatly appreciated.

If you need to take your child out of school, please go to the school website for the leave of absence form which must be completed. Please note, Headteachers are only able to authorise absence in exceptional circumstances, following guidance from the Department for Education.

We also recognise the importance of punctuality, minutes late equate to lost learning. The school day starts at 8.45, with a 5 minute movement to tutor time which starts at 8.50am. Arrival after this time generates a late mark, the sanction for which is a late detention.

- If a student is late, students now report to reception and then head straight to lesson.
- Urgent medical appointments are reported on Study Bugs to inform the school. I would urge you to try to book these, where possible, outside of school hours
- Students sign out at Reception.

Please bear with us regarding our new MCAS system. All students have been issued their email address and log ons in their IT lessons. If your son/daughter has lost or forgotten this, please ask them to ask their form tutor who will be able to provide them with this information.

Next week we look forward to welcoming prospective students into our Bilton community on Thursday 2nd October 5.30-7.30pm. To keep up to date with the various activities happening at school please see our Facebook page, Bilton School, Rugby, we now have 875 followers!

I wish you a restful weekend and I hope the sun continues to shine.

Kind regards

JDelves

Jayne Delves
Headteacher