



BILTON NEWS

Newsletter December 2025



Year 7 and 8 Royal Albert Hall

Be the best you can be!



11th November - we observed Armistice Day across our school community with respect and reverence.



What an action-packed term!



What an action-packed term!
The approach to Christmas has been joyous on several different levels, Year 11

and 13 receiving mock exam results, knowing and understanding what they need to do to take their next steps; Year 11 engaging in a Sixth Form experience so they understand how to take their next steps, Year 12 visiting Warwick University to look at where they may choose to go after Sixth Form; Christmas rewards assemblies where we were able to celebrate the fantastic achievements of our students this term; the various rewards trips for Year 10 and 11 whilst Year 7-9 enjoyed a festive film to reward all these students hard work; the Christmas Fayre which welcomed the community into school and the Year 7 residential which I know, has given our students lifelong memories. We welcomed parents into our forum where they have been active contributors towards shaping the future of our

school. The wellbeing ambassadors have been promoting our core value of kindness, and this has added to the positive and supportive community which is evident in all our staff and students do in their daily actions and interactions in about school. I wish you all a very joyful Christmas and look forward to sharing a successful 2026 with our Bilton School community.

Ms Delves, Headteacher



Applications to train to teach at the Southam Teaching Alliance are now open. We cannot wait to support you to thrive in the classroom and make a difference to the lives of children.

For more information visit our website our contact us at **SOUTeachingAlliance@stowevalley.com**.

Royal Albert Hall

The Performing Arts Department were very excited to be at the Royal Albert Hall to attend 'Future Makers' with 60 students across Years 7 and 8.

Students have shown kindness, respect and resilience on an exclusive backstage tour of the venue and are looking forward to the concert beginning!



Disco fun!

Huge thanks to our PTA, staff and all the year 7s who came along to our year 7 Disco!

A great evening was had by all, with lots of great moves on the dancefloor and over **£235** raised for the school!



History Competition

This year's History Remembrance competition, "Service Not Self," invited students to reflect on the incredible selflessness and sacrifice shown throughout history.

We've received some outstanding entries and powerful artwork that truly capture the spirit of remembrance.

A huge thank you to everyone who participated. Your creativity and thoughtfulness shine through every piece.



Door Decorate Challenge

This term, our students have taken part in a **Door Decorate Challenge** to commemorate Remembrance Day. Each tutor group reflected deeply on themes of respect, sacrifice, and selflessness, creating thoughtful and creative displays across the school. We've seen some truly inspiring entries that capture the spirit of remembrance.



Stand Against Violence

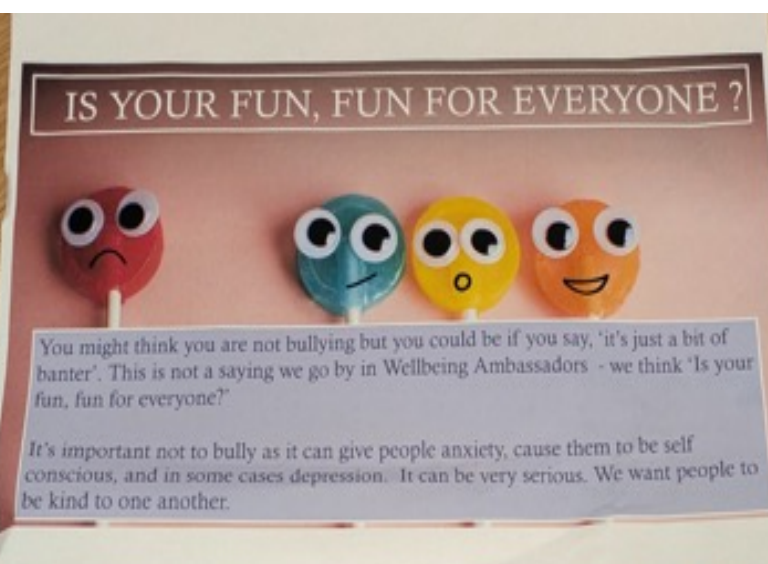
During **Anti-bullying week** the majority of our year groups had an important presentation from Stand Against Violence, a charity of 20 years standing. Discussing the consequences of bullying and unpacking how each and every person can make a difference by speaking up and being a power for good meant the sessions were powerful and impactful.



On **World Kindness Day** our Wellbeing Ambassadors presented to Yr 7 form groups why kindness matters and what being a Wellbeing Ambassadors means. We asked everyone across the school to reflect on how they can be kind each and every day. Kindness matters!



We invited **Our Jay Foundation** into Sixth Form. Naomi and Karen delivered an assembly on Jamie's life and the importance of their fundraising work. Students were then taught how to use a defibrillator and how to deliver CPR to preserve life. The students were a credit to the school and engaged with the importance of the workshop.



Performing Arts department

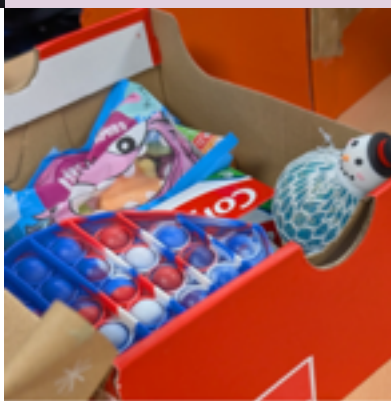
The Performing Arts department hosted another successful trip for Year 8 and 9 students to see Mary Poppins at Milton Keynes Theatre. Students were recognised by members of the public for showing excellent respect during the show and made the school proud.



Well Done to our Year 12 BTEC Sport students have been working hard for their upcoming PPE's

Shoebox Appeal

A huge thank you to students and staff who supported our **Christmas Shoebox Appeal for T4U**. We managed to put together over 40 shoeboxes which will be sent to those in need at Christmas time. Well done to our school community who showed kindness and generosity through supporting our chosen charity!



Christmas Card Competition



Thank you to all the amazing entries for the Year 7 Christmas card competition, we have had over 100 entries and it was extremely hard to choose a winner, all students have received HAPS from their art teachers.

We are delighted to announce the Bilton winner as nominated by Miss Delves – Orlaith

N, 7A2 and the MAT winner - Brodie L, 7B1 as nominated by Miss Delves and Mr Samra – Lots of HAPS will be coming your way from your art teachers.

We would like to wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas, from us all.



Bilton Art Alumni visit!

Bilton GCSE Art and Photography students had a treat with a visit from our ex Bilton student Erza.

Erza studied GCSE Art and A level Art with us and is now at Hertfordshire University Studying Interior Architecture. Erza spoke to all the students about her experiences at Bilton, she spoke very highly of her time in the sixth form at Bilton. She also gave art demos and provided feedback and ideas to the students on their work which was hugely beneficial for them.

Thank you Erza.



Blackwell Adventures

On Thursday 4th December, Year 7 had an amazing time on their overnight stay at Blackwell Adventures! They showed brilliant resilience and teamwork while taking on activities like the zip wire, archery, climbing and so much more.

A fantastic and memorable experience for all of Y7!



English Successes!

Year 7 'Book in a Nook' competition

To help us get ready for the holiday season, we have invited our lovely Year 7s to enjoy Jolabokaflod – a lovely Icelandic tradition where you read a good book with a bar of chocolate on Christmas Eve.



We know parents might have wished a fond farewell to the Elves on the Shelves as they returned to the North Pole, but we have invited the 'Book in a Nook' reading figurines to come and stay at Bilton School English Department. If our lovely Year 7s can find and locate the books they are reading during their English lessons, they will be entered into our prize draw at the end of term...to win a book and a chocolate bar of course! Lucky winners will be drawn on the last day of term.

Successful PPE1 for Years 10 and 11

A massive congratulations to both year groups for recently sitting their PPE1. Year 11 worked hard to perform to the best of their ability in their English Language Paper 2; a new area for them, having only studied English Literature last year.

Our Year 10 students also performed admirably in their first ever mock examination, answering questions on Macbeth and A Christmas Carol. Let's keep the momentum going!

Bilton Christmas Market 2025



A huge thank you to everyone who came to our Christmas Market. What a lovely Christmassy evening!

We had 15 stalls featuring beautiful produce from local small businesses, parent businesses and students, and a good turnout from parents, carers, staff, students and the community who all enjoyed an evening of shopping, food, drinks and Christmassy treats.

A special mention goes to our student stall holders; Evangeline y9, Kyla y9, staff stall Miss Snowden and huge thanks to Freya y9 and George y11 (Aka "Bilton Bubl "!) for singing Christmas songs, and for Liam y9, Rhys y10 and Emily y10 for their help throughout the event.

Thank you everyone.

Bilton PTA

Parent Forum

Many thanks to those parents who attended our Parent Forum on Thursday, 4th December. Your contributions and suggestions are greatly valued and appreciated as always.

The dates of our next parent forum evenings are below. We look forward to welcoming you back and hope to see more new faces at this time.



5th February 2026

29th April 2026

1st July 2026

Rewards at Bilton

So far this year there have been over 420,000 haps issued, hundreds of raffle tickets given to Year 11 students and 55 HAPA awards given to Sixth Form students

There are nearly 200 Bronze badge winners and the Student Council and Sixth Form Team have been great in packing the goodie bags for students.

Keep up the hard work everyone.



Mathmagician of the Month



Sports News

Year 7 Girls, Year 8 Boys and Year 11 Boys all won their Rugby Town Badminton Championship groups and will now go on to compete against Group B's winners in a Grand Final.

The students involved were Imogen Kenney, Hollie Little, Mia McDonald, Tehara Dissanayaka, Eli Wu, King Fuller, Andre Fernandes, Raqeeb Alimi, Ishan Bains-Rousseau, Artharv Kumar, Tauheed Shaik and Praveen Venkatesh.

A special mention to Ishan and Artharv who were both competing 2 year groups above their age!!

A massive congratulations from everyone in PE!!!

A Level English Literature



Our A Level English Literature students have had two very exciting trips into London this term!

Firstly, they enjoyed 'English in Action' where they were lucky enough to take notes from interesting lectures, with key speakers such as Emma Smith, Nick Hutchison and Sarah Churchwell. They even got to hear live poetry from our poet laureate: Simon Armitage!

Next, they were wowed by David Harewood, Toby Jones and Caitlin Fitzgerald in the amazing West End performance of Shakespeare's 'Othello'!

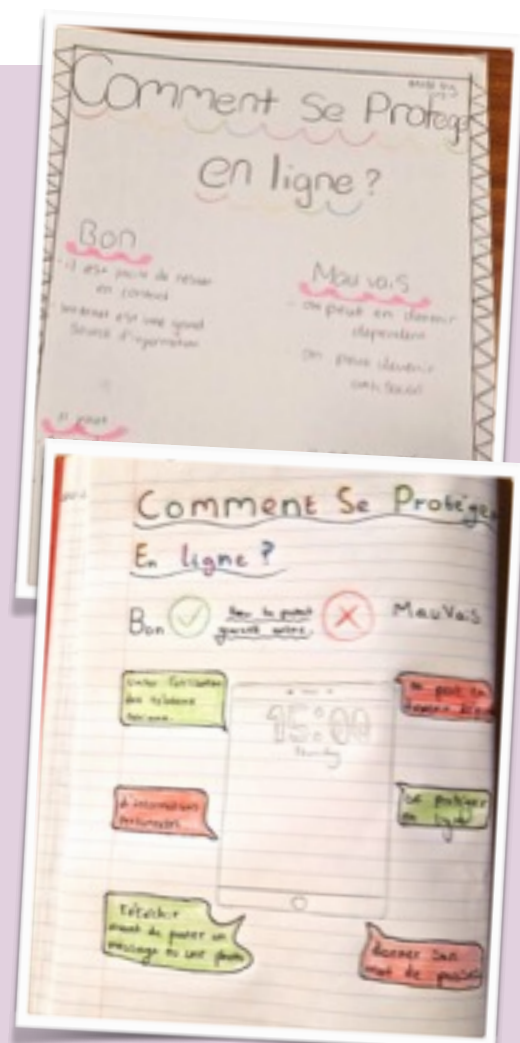
Both events have been a great support for their A Level exams and culturally fun memories have been made in the big city from using the London Tube to Covent Garden at Christmas!

Year 9 French

Year 9 French students designed posters to highlight the pros and cons of being online. They explored both the benefits and the potential risks of digital life, using their French language skills to create eye-catching, informative displays.



The activity not only developed their vocabulary and creativity but also encouraged thoughtful reflection on responsible internet use.



Sports News

The Girls' U13s braved the wind and rain at Warwick University, delivering a fantastic performance throughout the tournament.

They played some brilliant football, battled through the group stage, and clinched a dramatic quarter-final win on penalties. Although their journey ended in the semi-finals, the team showed incredible spirit from start to finish.

There were some fabulous goals and formidable defending on display. A true team effort. Well done, girls!



Badminton News

The Year 7 Girls, Year 8 Boys and Year 11 Boys all won their Rugby Town Badminton Championship groups and will now go on to compete against Group B's winners in a Grand Final. The students involved were Imogen Kenney, Hollie Little, Mia McDonald, Tehara Dissanayaka, Eli Wu, King Fuller, Andre Fernandes, Raqeeb Alimi, Ishan Bains-Rousseau, Artharv Kumar, Tauheed Shaik and Praveen Venkatesh. A special mention to Ishan and Artharv who were both competing 2 year groups above their age!!

A massive congratulations from everyone in PE!!!



Christmas Online Safety for Families



With more time online over the Christmas break, we ask families to continue encouraging safe and responsible digital behaviour. Young people may be spending longer on gaming platforms, social media and messaging apps such as Instagram, TikTok and Snapchat. Please remind students not to share personal information, be cautious when speaking to people they do not know in real life, and to report anything that makes them feel uncomfortable. Open conversations at home about online safety, privacy and kindness remain one of the most effective ways to keep young people safe over the festive period.

Over the festive break, a few simple checks can make a big difference:

- **Check privacy settings** on social and gaming accounts (including Instagram)
- **Talk about personal information** – remind young people never to share their address, school, phone number or location online.
- **Be alert to online scams** – festive offers, fake giveaways and in-game purchase scams increase at this time of year.
- **Agree healthy screen-time boundaries** – especially late at night.
- **Encourage open conversation** – make sure your child knows they can speak to you if something online makes them feel worried, pressured or uncomfortable.
- **Use parental controls** where appropriate on devices, apps and games.

If an issue ever feels serious or urgent, parents can also seek advice from national support organisations such as NSPCC

Microsoft Mock Interviews

Well done to our year 11 students who completed their Microsoft Mock Interviews on Friday 1st December. Our students really stepped up to this opportunity and presented themselves well to our external interviewers. This was a really valuable learning experience for all students involved, we hope that students found the feedback useful in supporting them with their next career steps. We had positive feedback on how well students conducted themselves during the day. It was an enjoyable experience for all involved.



Recommended Christmas Reads

Here are the recommended Christmas reads, available from Bilton School library:



To comply with the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 and Data Protection expectations, it is vitally important that Bilton School keeps accurate and up to date information relating to every pupil on roll.

The information we are required to record includes:

- Pupil's full legal name (and if appropriate, their preferred name).
- The name, address and contact details of every person known to the school/academy who is a parent* to the pupil with whom the pupil normally resides (this is the address that has been used to register with their GP).
- The name, address and contact details of any additional parent*.
- Any other emergency contact details.

Bilton School requests that if you change your contact number, move home or there are any other circumstances which may impact your child, the school is notified as a priority. Please email us on biltonschool@stowevalley.com

*N.B. *The Education Act 1996 defines a 'parent' as a). any natural parent, whether married or not, b). any parent who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility as defined in the Children Act (1989) for a child or young person c). any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or young person.*



Bilton School
proudly presents

Winter Variety Show

WOW! SO MUCH TALENT AT BILTON!

What a joyous evening watching singing, dancing and acting performances from so many of our students.

Well done to each and every one of you, you were absolutely fabulous and you are part of what makes Bilton brilliant!!

So proud of you!



Thanks to Mrs Ciesielski and Miss Hemsworth for organising a wonderful evening and thanks to our PTA for their ongoing support and refreshments.

Attendance



ATTENDANCE TARGET

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

Absence and First Day Contact

If your child is unable to attend school, you should inform us on the first day of absence before 8.30am via the Studybugs app - **Studybugs - Parents**

Medical Appointments

Where possible, appointments should be made out of school hours or in school holidays. However, we realise this is occasionally not possible. Students should come into school before and after appointments to ensure they miss as little lesson time as possible. If possible, we ask that if these appointments are made during the school day, then please try to avoid 08.50-09:30 and 12.00pm - 1.00pm. Please report these through Studybugs.

Punctuality

Please ensure that your child arrives at school by 8.45am so that they are present and ready for tutor; this starts at 08:50am each day. School gates close at 08:00am, students arriving after 08:45am will be given a late mark and a detention the following day. If your child arrives after 9.15am they are marked as unauthorised absence for the morning session.

Requesting a leave of absence for your child

Parents/carers should notify the school as soon as possible ideally at least 2 weeks before the intended absence for exceptional circumstance.

Please complete the following form and email a copy to

Biltonschool@stowevalley.com

[ApplicationforLeaveofAbsenceSeptember2024.pdf](#)



How many days off will make you child a Persistent absence student?

Half term 1	3 ½ days off school from September until October half-term holiday will make your child a PA student.
Half term 1-2	7 days off school from September until the Christmas holiday will make your child a PA student.
Half term 1-3	10 days of absence from September until February half-term will make your child a PA student.
Half term 1-4	Half-term 1-4 12 ½ days of absence from September until the Easter holidays will make your child a PA student.
Half term 1-5	15 ½ days of absence from September until May half-term will make your child a PA student.
Half term 1-6	19 days of absence for the full academic year (September to end of summer term in July) will make your child a PA student.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME

The Supreme Court 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 the parents' 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 2024-25

The law relating to Penalty Notices changed with effect from 19 August 2024. Therefore, Penalty Notices issued for Leave of Absence taken from September 2024 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.

Stowe Valley MAT Latest News

Stowe Valley Art Competition - A Celebration of Creativity!

Our schools are always alive with energy, with pupils and staff working tirelessly to support each other in creating the best possible school experience. But every so often, something truly extraordinary happens—something that makes you stop and say... WOW!

I had one of those moments on Friday when, alongside Ms. Bridge, Headteacher of Kineton School, I was invited to help shortlist around 50 postcards from an incredible 1,800 entries for the Stowe Valley Art Competition. This inspiring event was brilliantly led by Ms. Purnell, Head of Art and Photography at Kineton.

The talent on display—from Year 1 through Year 13—was nothing short of breathtaking. The creativity, effort, and passion poured into these pieces made the task of shortlisting almost impossible. Every single entry reflected the dedication and imagination of our pupils and staff, and I couldn't have been prouder of you all!



Save the Date!

All shortlisted entries will be showcased at the Stowe Valley Art Exhibition at Compton Verney Art Gallery from Friday 24th to Sunday 26th April 2026.

There will be an exclusive private viewing on Friday evening for Stowe Valley stakeholders and gallery staff/directors, followed by public viewings throughout the weekend.

This promises to be a spectacular celebration of art and a truly momentous occasion for the Stowe Valley Multi Academy Trust. I really hope you can make it! **Ranjit Samra CEO**



LATEST NEWS | DECEMBER | 2025



Careers Fair 26

Bilton School's 2026 Careers Fair, please come and join us in supporting our students with their career's education and personal development. If you are interested in participating or would like to attend and secure a stall, please feel free to contact us for further information

Bilton School
Friday 23rd January

Arrival and set up
8:30-9:00
Careers Fair
9:00 - 16:00

Be the best you can be!

Parents are welcome to attend our careers fair from 3.15-3.45pm



Stowe Valley
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

Bilton School,
Lawford Lane, Bilton, Rugby, CV22 7JT

Miss Francis (Head of Careers)
Tel: 01788 840600

 biltonschool@stowevalley.com

For further information, please see link below, to access the Careers section of our website
www.biltonschool.co.uk/students/careers



There is always someone that can **HELP**



During the Christmas holidays the **Safeguarding team** want to remind you that support is available



Childline

You can talk to us about anything. No problem is too big or too small.

Telephone 0800 1111



Runaway Helpline

If you are thinking about running away, if you have already run away, or if you have been away and come back. You can also contact the Helpline if you are worried that someone else is going to run away or if they are being treated badly or abused.

Telephone 116 000 www.runawayhelpline.org.uk



Samaritans

24hr service offering emotional support.

Telephone 116 123 Email jo@samaritans.org



Look Ahead

Works with vulnerable people throughout the UK, those with learning difficulties, mental health, young people and the homeless.

Telephone 0333 010 4600 www.lookahead.org.uk/



Stay safe young minds

If you feel overwhelmed, or like you want to hurt yourself, support is available for you to talk things through. You deserve help as soon as you need it.

Telephone 0800 068 4141 Text **85258**



Kooth

Safe, anonymous online community and counselling for young people

Kooth.com



There is always someone that can

HELP



Parents and Carers – During the Christmas holidays the Safeguarding team want to remind you that support is available

Warwickshire family information service

Looking for some help and advice? Try visiting Warwickshire FIS website for lots of free advice and guidance available to all Warwickshire residents

Website - www.warwickshire.gov.uk

Family support helpline and face to face consultations

Family support workers are available across Warwickshire to listen, support and offer advice and guidance to families and professionals.

To speak to a family support worker over the telephone, call 01926 414144 option 1, then option 2, Monday to Friday between 9am – 4pm

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/children-families/service-changes-children-families/2

Warwickshire Refuge

If you are experiencing domestic abuse of any kind in Warwickshire, Refuge's regional Domestic Violence and Abuse Service can support you and your children to keep safe.

Call Refuge's Domestic Violence and Abuse Service Warwickshire Helpline on 0800 408 1552 (Monday-Friday 8:30am-8:30pm) to speak to one of our support workers.

www.refuge.org.uk

Worried about your mental health?

Wellbeing for Warwickshire is 'joined-up' support service for adult mental health that can meet a number of needs in a way, and a time and a place, that suits people best. For ease of use, the service has a single phone number **0800 616171** and a single website address

www.wellbeingforwarwickshire.org.uk and these are available for Warwickshire residents 24/7, 365 days a year.

Worried a child is at risk of significant harm?

If you have concerns that a child is suffering ANY form of neglect, abuse or cruelty, contact Family Connect immediately on 01926 414144.

Lines are open from: Monday to Thursday: 8.30am – 5.30pm Friday: 8.30am – 5pm

Out of hours

If you have an emergency outside of usual office hours, please contact the emergency duty team immediately on 01926 886922.

Emergency contact

If you think that a child is at immediate risk, contact the police immediately on 999.