

BILTON NEWS

Newsletter February 2026



**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**



Year 10 trip to Paris

Be the best you can be!



What a brilliant start to 2026!



As we reach the midpoint of what is always one of the shortest – yet busiest – terms of the year, I want to reflect on the energy and

commitment shown across our school community. Staff and students alike have thrown themselves into a wide range of activities, enrichment opportunities, and academic challenges, making these few weeks feel wonderfully full. I would also like to thank those who attended our recent Parent Forum. Your feedback is invaluable; it helps us understand what we are doing well and where we can continue to refine our practice. We genuinely welcome your perspectives, and I look forward to building on this constructive dialogue throughout the year.

Year 11 students deserve recognition. Their maturity and focus in

preparation for their second set of mock examinations is impressive. They are approaching this with a sense of purpose that will serve them well as they move towards summer. Half term is an exciting milestone for the school: our first ski trip. The anticipation among students (and staff!) is palpable. I wish everyone taking part a safe, memorable, and thoroughly enjoyable week in the mountains.

During our recent Ofsted visit the inspectors recognised areas of strength, and we equally welcomed their observations for further development. Their feedback aligns with our own priorities. We are already working with staff, governors, and students to ensure we continue to move forward with ambition and clarity. Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support. It makes a tremendous difference to school life.

Ms Delves, Headteacher

Paris Trip

Year 10 had a brilliant few days in Paris. They went to Cite de Sciences museum, walked up the steps to the Sacre-Coeur, had a perfumery tour at the Fragonard perfume factory, saw the Eiffel Tower, the Arc De Triomphe, the Louvre and had a fabulous day at Disneyland Paris. They all had brilliant attitudes, were highly praised by many people we saw, and showed continual respect, resilience and kindness the whole week. We are very proud of them on this trip.



Well done to Jenson and Imogen

A massive well done to Jenson and Imogen (Y9 and Y7) for representing Bilton school at the Warwickshire Schools Athletics Association Cross County Championships on Saturday 17th January at Princethorpe school. Both students have demonstrated excellent commitment to running club each week, and displayed resilience to put in a great performance in tough running conditions at the County Championships.



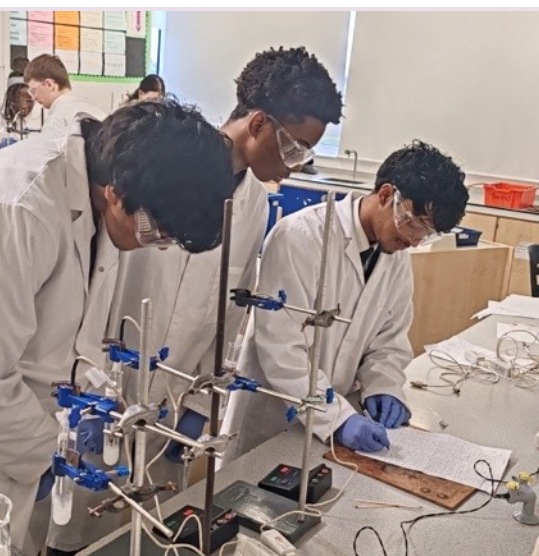
Friendship postcards artwork

The Art Department are delighted to share with you that 58 of our KS3 Art students 'Friendship postcards artwork' is on display in the National Library of Ireland.

In celebration of 250 years of Jane Austen. The event has been on both TV and Radio. The British Ambassador to Ireland, Kara Owens spoke with TG4 (Irish Language Broadcasters) and also spoke on RTE Radio 1 with Oliver Callan.



We are delighted to confirm that the 'Friendship Postcards' exhibition will, in the new year, travel to the Jane Austen House (<https://janeaustens.house/>) and go on display there from the 22nd January - 22nd February 2026. Well done all.



In BTEC Applied Science our students have been completing their required practical at part of their Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques coursework. The students showed professionalism throughout the experiment alongside teamwork to complete their study of cooling curves. Well done Year 13 Scientists!

Reader Leaders

Well done to our Reader Leaders! Our fantastic mentors had a successful day being trained up to become official Reader Leaders!

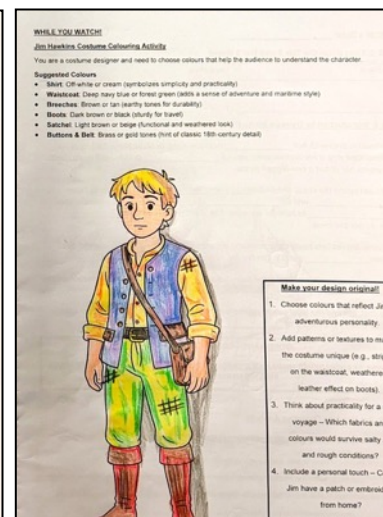
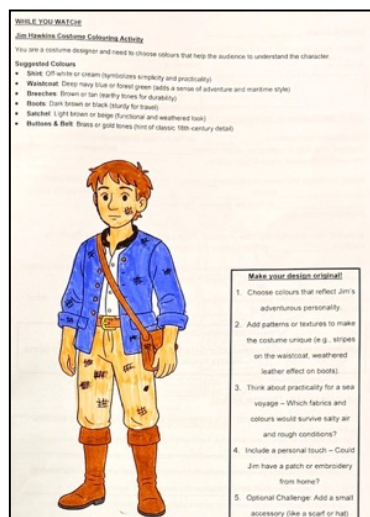
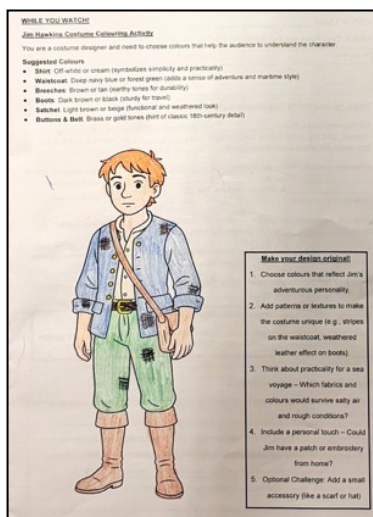
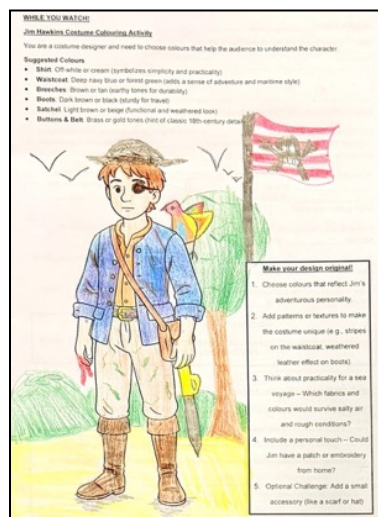
The facilitator said the students were excellent throughout the day and a credit to our school.

We are so proud of your progress and all the work you put into encouraging reading with lower school.



Year 7 Drama

Year 7 have been looking at Treasure Island this half term and have been exploring more production-based roles in theatre. We looked at costume design and have some brilliant examples from Esme & Franklyn in 7B1 and Connor & Evie in 7A3. Well done!



1000 FOLLOWERS

Thank You

Thank you for helping us reach 1,000 followers!

We appreciate your continued support and being part of our school community



www.facebook.com/BiltonSchoolRugby

A Celebration of Creativity

Schools across the trust have invited students to think creatively about our values of **KINDNESS, CONFIDENCE & RESILIENCE**.

In the Autumn term Ms Purnell (Head of Art at Kineton) posed the challenge to our students to see if they could illustrate one or all of the values on a postcard. We wanted to celebrate the amazing creativity in our schools as well as recognise that we are all part of a Trust that recognises how important these values are. Incredibly, there were approximately 2000 entries and the quality was fantastic.

Mr Samra, Ms Purnell and Ms Bridge had the difficult task of choosing the final winners (along with some input from students and staff at Kineton who were extremely impressed). We have created a 'Stowe Valley Values' calendar which will contain our winning postcards. It will be available shortly.

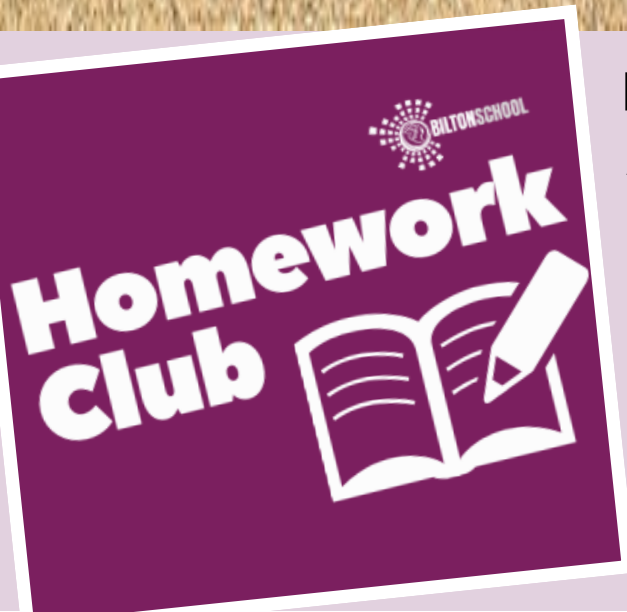
All entries will go on display at the SVMAT exhibition at Compton Verney in April.

Our winners were: Evangeline P Y9, Akshitha V Y9, Betsy G , Toby S Y7



Compton Verney Art Gallery

We had a wonderful day with some of our GCSE Art and Photography students at Compton Verney to enhance their research for the GCSE coursework and exam. We soaked up a wide variety of traditional and contemporary artwork in a truly beautiful setting. Our students were respectful and it was a joy to take them on this trip!



Homework Club

A friendly, supportive space for students to receive help with homework, improve study habits, and build confidence in learning.

The library is open everyday until 4pm for students to do homework, use the computers etc.

In the library after school on Thursdays and Fridays there is extra support for any students who might need it with homework.

School Life

In BTEC Applied Science our students have been completing their required practical as part of their Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques coursework. The students showed professionalism throughout the experiment alongside teamwork to complete their study of cooling curves. Well done Year 13 Scientists!



Duke of Edinburgh

Our **Silver Duke of Edinburgh** students have successfully completed their classroom training day. Students worked on route planning, camp food choices, safety, safe use of camping stoves and rucksack packing and kit requirements. A brilliant effort from everyone involved. Well done.



English Literature

Our amazing year 12 Literature students have started the classic novel 'The Great Gatsby' this half-term! We have all enjoyed listening to the songs from the new musical (well, Miss Maryon has anyway..!) Students have worked hard learning the context of 1920s America with all the fun of post-war prohibition etc. Check them out in their 'T.J.Eckleberg glasses'!



Careers Fair 2026

Our Careers Fair was a highly successful event that provided students with valuable insights into a wide range of career paths. Seventeen local employers, colleges, universities, and training providers attended, offering information about jobs, qualifications, and future opportunities. Students actively engaged with exhibitors, asking questions and collecting resources to help them make informed decisions about their education and careers.

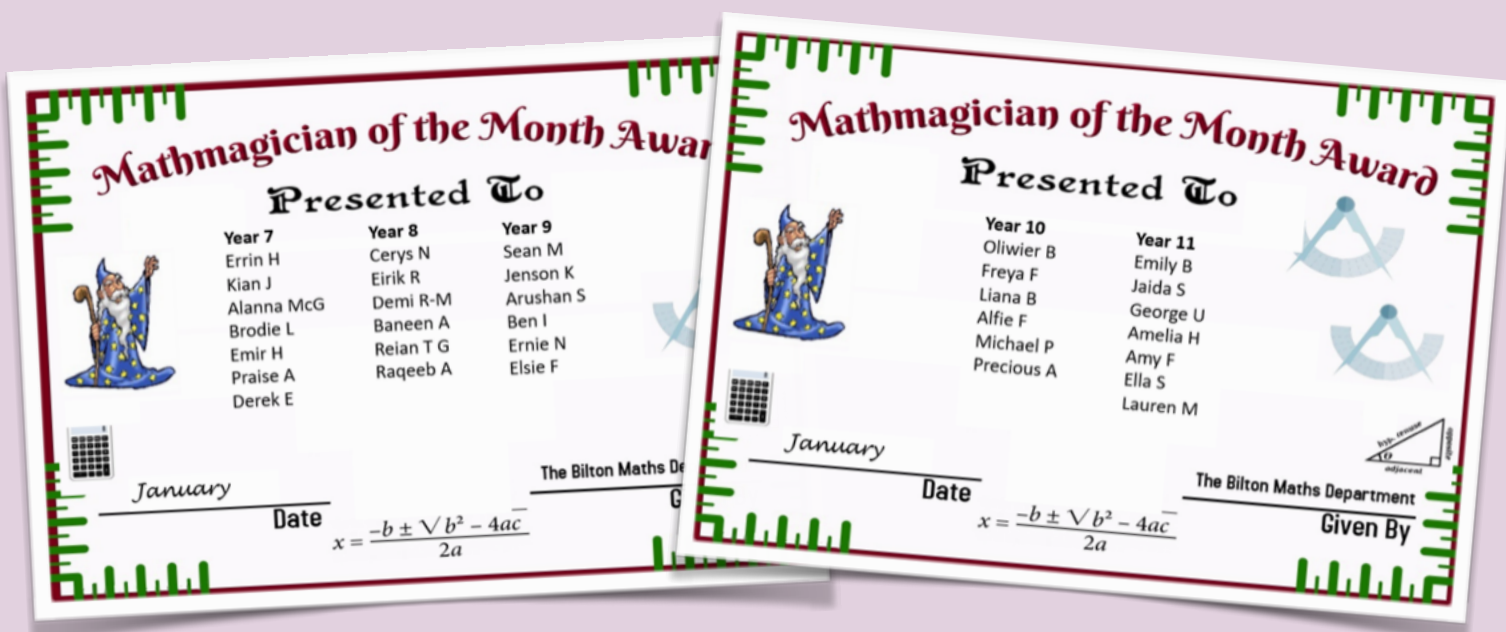


Overall, the event inspired students, broadened their understanding of possible futures, and supported them in planning their next steps after school. The external feedback on the day was overall extremely positive.

We were pleased with how our students presented themselves, while representing our school, during this memorable experience.



Mathematicians of the month



ART - student of the month

This month's selection wasn't just about technical skill-though there is plenty of that.

Each student was chosen for:

Originality: pushing the boundaries of traditional medium with a unique person voice.

Dedication: spending extra hours refining the details of their latest piece.

Community spirit: always being the first to offer constructive feedback or help a peer clean up a messy palette.

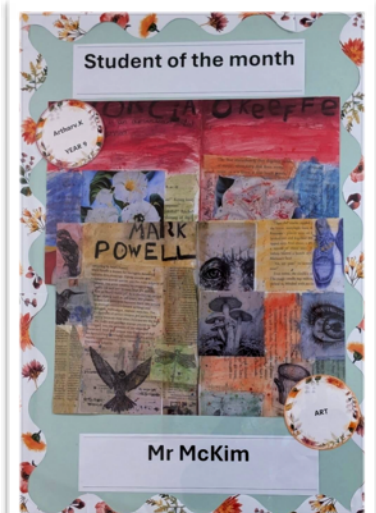
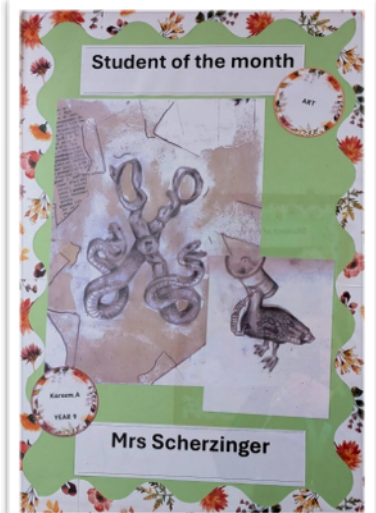
See the work

The work is now official on display and can be viewed in the art corridor, the photos have been carefully placed outside the teachers rooms.

We encourage everyone-students, staff, and visitors to take a moment this week to stop by, take a look, and draw some inspiration from the incredible art pieces.

"Art does not produce what we see; rather, it makes us see."
- Paul Klee

Congratulations, to all the students, on this well-deserved recognition. Keep creating, keep questioning, and keep making the Bilton School art block the most vibrant corner of the school.



PTA Uniform Sale

If you have any donations of uniform that you no longer need (including footwear) that is in good condition please feel free to drop this in to reception over the coming weeks. Thank you.



Sports Update

Last half term saw the annual Rugby Schools netball competition take place. Year 8 to 11 competed against other Rugby Schools in the league, culminating in a mini tournament night at Rugby High School.



The Year 8 netball team have shown excellent commitment throughout the season, consistently attending training and developing strongly as a unit. After losing their GS last year, Lacey F stepped up with confidence and has proven herself to be a reliable and capable shooter.

Defensively, the team has been impressive, with Neive, Charlie, Isabelle and Olivia rotating effectively and providing a solid backbone throughout each match. In the mid-court, Poppy has been a standout linking player, driving the ball up the court and working seamlessly with Fliss, Holly and Sophie to move the ball into the D and create scoring opportunities.

Their teamwork and determination have paid off, earning the girls a well-deserved 3rd place overall in the league.

The Year 9 team have shown impressive consistency this year. With no substitutes, we have relied on our committed squad of seven, who have always been available for fixtures. Summer and Emilie have continued to shine as a dynamic duo; their ability to read the game and make crucial interceptions has made it difficult for opposing teams to score. Orla, Grace, and Gracie have worked tirelessly through the centre court, moving the ball dynamically up the court. And finally—though by no means least—Phoebe and Mia have continued to score with confidence and accuracy. Their cohesion and consistency led them to finish second in the mini-tournament night—a fantastic achievement. Well done, girls!



Year 10 welcomed many new team members and position changes this season, and they adapted brilliantly. The squad demonstrated outstanding teamwork and resilience throughout both league games and tournaments.

Macey, Orla and Kayla formed a strong shooting trio, taking feedback on board and making successful adjustments in play. Erika showed impressive tactical awareness, willingly rotating through a variety of positions whenever needed.

In the centre court, Daisy, Kaitlyn, Indy and Emma worked tirelessly, providing excellent links between attack and defence. Emily and Jessie were a formidable defensive partnership, producing excellent interceptions and consistently strong rebound work.



Sports Update



Year 11 made a fantastic comeback this year, strengthened by some new additions to the team. Esme and Aga combined superbly in the shooting circle, delivering confident, accurate finishing.

In the centre court, Eva, Amy and Ellie held strong, showing great timing on passes and feeding the attackers effectively. In defence, Alicja and Grace produced brilliant interceptions and remained solid under pressure.

The team narrowly missed out on winning the tournament on goal difference, despite defeating the eventual champions with an outstanding performance. A testament to their determination and skill.

Trampolining

Congratulations to Orla and Cadi Salisbury, who have both qualified for the next round of the British Schools Trampolining Competition. The girls delivered fantastic performances at the Regional Competition on Sunday 7th December, with Cadi taking 1st place in her category and Orla achieving an impressive 4th.

Year 11 Fitness

Year 11 boys have been developing their personal fitness programmes in core PE. A good way to help with motivation and to take their minds of the stresses of current PPE's



KS3 Boys Fitness Club

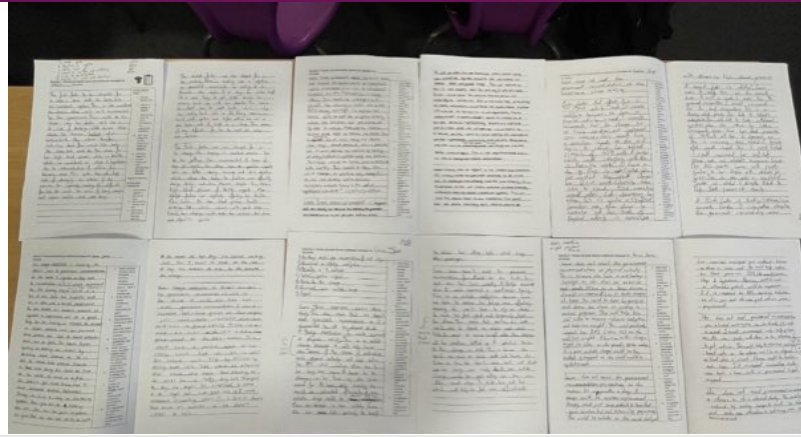
Our most popular Extra Curricular Clubs this half term has been KS3 Boys Fitness Club. Boys in Years 7-9 have been working very hard in the gym, whilst also beginning to learn the basic core Health and Fitness principles that they will need in KS4.



Sports Update

Year 12 B-TEC Sport

Year 12's have been working very hard in preparation for their next mock exams in PPE 2. Here are some of the amazing examples from Question 1 & 2 of Unit 2 on the course...



Bilton VS RFS- Basketball Match

Four of our amazing 6th form students volunteered 30 mins before Tipoff to play against RFS after we left without squad due to injuries. Hear from the stand in Captain Dom Fisher Below...

"It was a great game of basketball from Toby Lynn, Isaac Funnell, Sam and Reuben Virk, and highest scorer, Dom Fisher. It was a tight game with many points scored despite the last minute call-ups, well done to all involved, amazing teamwork, resilience and physical strength shown against a strong side."



Bilton School have been invited to participate in an inclusive football league. Our first 2 fixtures have seen us venture over to Leicestershire to play against Winstanley and Wigston Academy.

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.