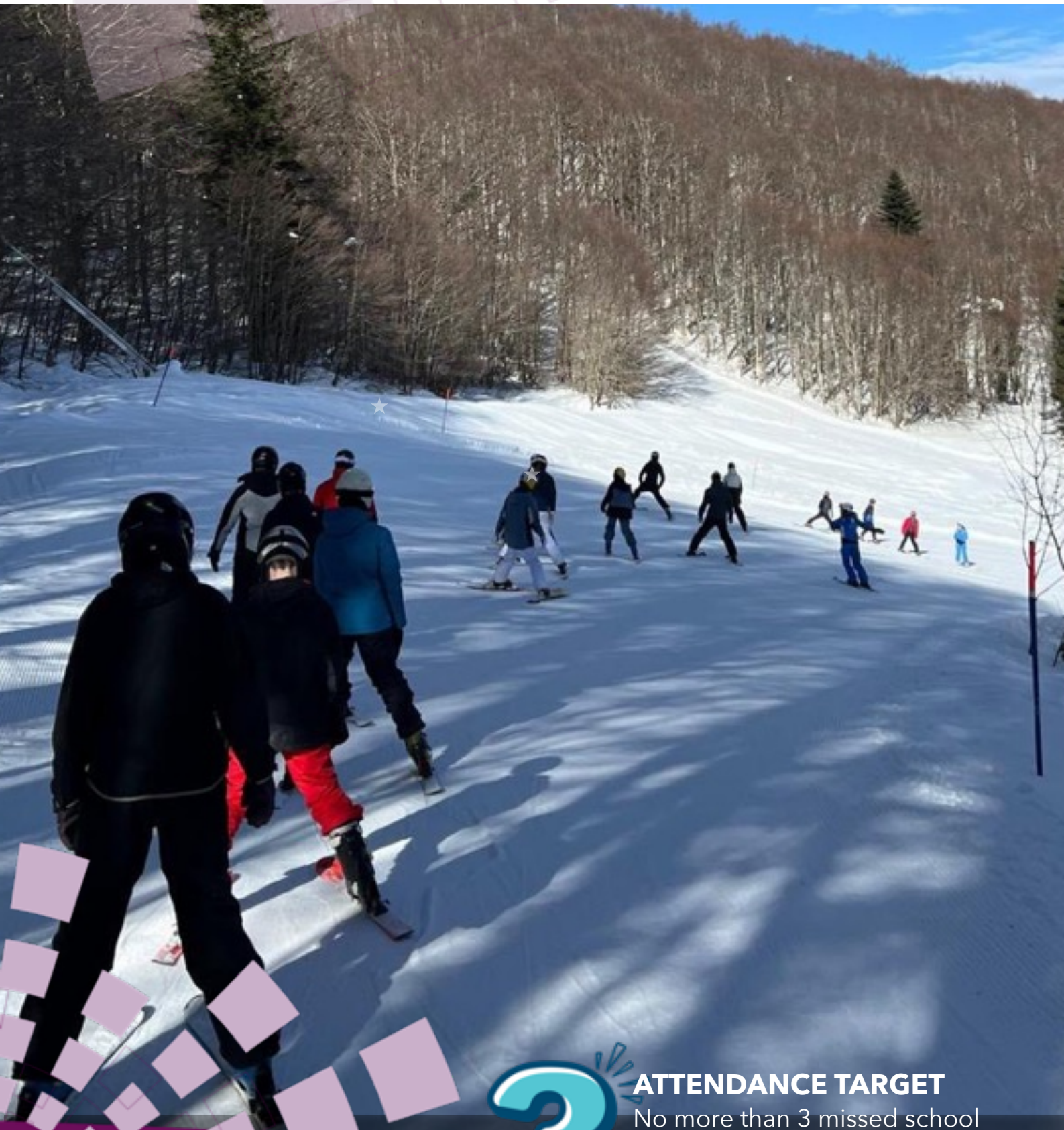


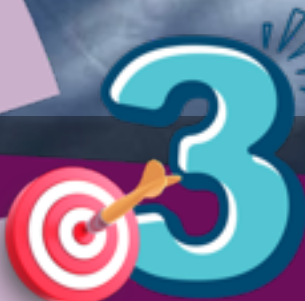
BILTON NEWS

Newsletter April 2026



ATTENDANCE TARGET

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



MOMENTS
MATTER.
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.

Be the best you can be!



A fantastic Spring term



This half term has been a truly fantastic one, and I continue to be incredibly proud of our students. Every day, they

demonstrate our core values of respect, resilience and kindness, and it is wonderful to see these qualities shining across our school. Our new double HAPS fortnights have helped us to recognise and celebrate these values even more, and the positive impact is already clear.

We have been especially impressed by the number of Key Stage 3 students achieving their Silver HAPS Award. This is a tremendous achievement and reflects their sustained effort and commitment. I am already looking forward to presenting our first Gold awards next term.

Our Year 11 and Year 13 students have now completed their final mock examinations. Following their parents' evenings, they each have

clear targets to support them in achieving the very best outcomes as they continue towards their next steps in education. Their determination and maturity during this important stage of the year are commendable.

Across the school, we are continuing our strong focus on attendance and punctuality. We know students make the best academic and social progress when they are in school every day. Our message of "no more than three days missed across the year" helps ensure students benefit fully from lessons, enrichment opportunities and social time with friends. Punctuality matters too—arriving just ten minutes late each day is 5 lost school days, 25 lessons lost across an academic school year, so we appreciate your continued support in getting our students into school on time. Thank you, as always, for your partnership and support. Together, we are helping our young people thrive.

Ms Delves, Headteacher

Ski Trip 2026

During the February half-term, 40 pupils from Years 8, 9 and 10 travelled to Abetone, Italy for an unforgettable ski trip filled with new experiences and fantastic progress. For many pupils it was their first time skiing, and for some even their first time flying, yet they embraced every challenge with enthusiasm and maturity. Split into four groups, all pupils made excellent progress across the week, with every single student successfully mastering their snowplough — a brilliant achievement. We experienced a mixture of weather conditions, which led to a makeshift visit to the local ski museum, while evenings were spent enjoying activities such as a trip to a traditional Italian pizzeria and a lively quiz night.



The trip would not have been possible without the dedication of our fantastic staff — Miss Delves, Ms Rehman-Minhas, Mr Gosling and Mr Laffey — who gave up their half-term to support the pupils throughout. Most importantly, the pupils were a true credit to the school, being the best they could be at all times and doing us all incredibly proud.

Mr Bean.

Brilliant Club

Some of our Year 9 have successfully completed Brilliant Club recently, so this week they attended their graduation at Keble College, University of Oxford. It was a joy to see them shine and enjoy the day at the university, plus we had two spoke scholars who shared their experience in front of all the other schools. Congratulations to all!



Mock Trial

We took the sixth formers to the Courts in Nuneaton to take part in a mock trial that was run by National Justice Museum. Each student took part in the trial and experienced what being a Judge and Barrister or member of the jury was like, along with all the other roles. This happened in an actual court room with them all participating. Afterwards they met a judge and the Sheriff of Warwickshire.

Our students were amazing!

Well done to all involved



Rewards At Bilton School

- ★ HAPS Daily and Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum awards and goodie bags
- ★ Raffle tickets in Year 11
- ★ Highest Haps in Year 11 weekly reward
- ★ HAPA award in Sixth Form
- ★ ZERO club weekly winners
- ★ ZERO club termly winner and vouchers issued
- ★ TERMLY Year group Reward events based on Criteria
- ★ Bilton Stars

WHICH
REWARDS WILL
YOU ACHIEVE?



Thursday after school the **Science Club** members discovered a crime scene in the sports hall. Once they had put on their protective gloves, shoe covers and lab coats they entered the crime scene to gather evidence. They collected hairs, fibres, fingerprints, footprints, pen samples, and stains and carefully labelled and bagged them.



Creatures and Critters Club

There have been lots of exciting new arrivals at creatures and critters club this term. As well as our stick insects and crested gecko we now have 4 gerbils, a hamster, and our newest arrival an axolotl. We have been working hard to build them suitable enclosures with plenty of space to run, dig and climb in and making sure they have lots of toys and treats. We are planning to name all our new arrivals after famous scientists.

If anyone is interested in joining creatures and critters club we meet on Tuesday lunchtimes in K19.



Book Swap

To celebrate **World Book Day**, the Student Council hosted two successful book swaps. Students from across all year groups shared their love of reading, exchanged books, recommended their favourite titles, and gave out handmade bookmarks. It was fantastic to see so many students getting involved and discovering new books to enjoy!



Warwickshire Skills Show



Year 9 experienced the first ever Warwickshire Skills Show and saw 70 employers from a range of industries - engineering, construction, civil servants, health, beauty - to name a few.

A great chance to add to their full careers programme delivered at school.

Art - Student of the month

As we head into the heart of spring, it's the perfect time to recognise the creativity blooming in our art department. We are thrilled to announce the march students of the month for the art department!

Selecting winners this month was particularly challenging. We've seen an incredible surge of technical skill, more importantly, a deep commitment to personal expression and storytelling through various mediums.

Why these students were chosen:

These students didn't just turn in high-quality work, they went above and beyond by:

Mentoring peers: *offering constructive feedback and help to fellow classmates.*

Creative risk: *stepping outside of their comfort zones to try new techniques.*

Consistency: *maintaining a high level of focus and passion during every studio session.*

A huge congratulations!

Your hard work is visible in every brushstroke and sketch.

Keep creating, everyone.

Your unique voices make our school a much more vibrant place to be.



Careers Week

During Careers week 2nd – 7th March, students across the school had the opportunity to engage in a range of activities designed to raise awareness of future education and career pathways. The programme included Career themed assemblies, and interactive sessions delivered by their tutors in form time. Students also participated in subject specific career discussions, during their lessons throughout the week. Students were able to ask questions, learn about different career journeys, and develop their understanding of the skills required in the workplace.



Employee Spotlight

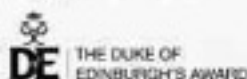
Mrs Wood

Teacher of Technology, DofE Lead
Bilton School

Congratulations to Mrs Wood for her invitation to Buckingham Palace for the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award celebration. This prestigious honour underscores her dedication to nurturing student potential.

Mrs Wood has devoted countless hours to leading The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, organising and accompanying students on expeditions. Her leadership has shaped young people's experiences, encouraging resilience, teamwork, and self-confidence. Mrs Wood mentors and supports students in their personal and academic pursuits, offering advice and encouragement. Her enthusiasm and commitment inspire both students and colleagues, fostering a positive and motivating environment.

Mrs Wood's contributions have made a lasting impact on our community, and we are incredibly grateful for all she does to uplift our young people.



GCSE Drama Spotlight: Cerys B

Year 10 Drama students have been looking at production roles this term and have been thinking in the eyes of a Costume Designer.

Miss Hemsworth is extremely proud of all her students for their hard work and creativity shown. Specifically, wants to give a special shout out to Cerys.

Cerys has worked extremely hard in lessons and her spare time creating her African Tribal Costume inspired by The Lion King. She has carried out research, sourced materials herself and has used her own creativity to bring this design to life.

Well done Cerys, you are a superstar!



National Young Carers day

On March 11th, Ms Keell took some Young carers to a local Alpaca Farm to recognise National Young Carers day. The Alpaca Pals, located in Monks Kirby, hosted the students and they were able to feed, walk and spend time with the animals.

It was a brilliant afternoon where students showed their resilience, respect and kindness.

Loudmouth Bully 4 U workshop

Our Year 7 students took part in the Loudmouth Bully 4 U workshop, an engaging and interactive session designed to help pupils understand what bullying looks like, why it happens, and most importantly, how to deal with it safely and confidently.

Through a drama performance and discussion workshops, pupils learnt:

- how to recognise different types of bullying
- the importance of speaking up and seeking help
- where they can go for support in school
- how their actions can affect others

The workshops encouraged our students to think about kindness, empathy and standing up for each other. We were really proud of how maturely Year 7 approached these important topics. A huge thank you to Loudmouth for delivering such a valuable session to our students.



Fundraising and working with a local charity.

Bilton are working along side Rugby Autism Network and Venture Photography in Leamington to raise awareness of Autism which will tie in with National Autism day on 2.4.26. Although the school is on Easter Break, we will be holding a cake sale the first week back and we are also asking Parents for their support in completing the attached survey-

<https://venturephotography.app.do/biltonschoo>

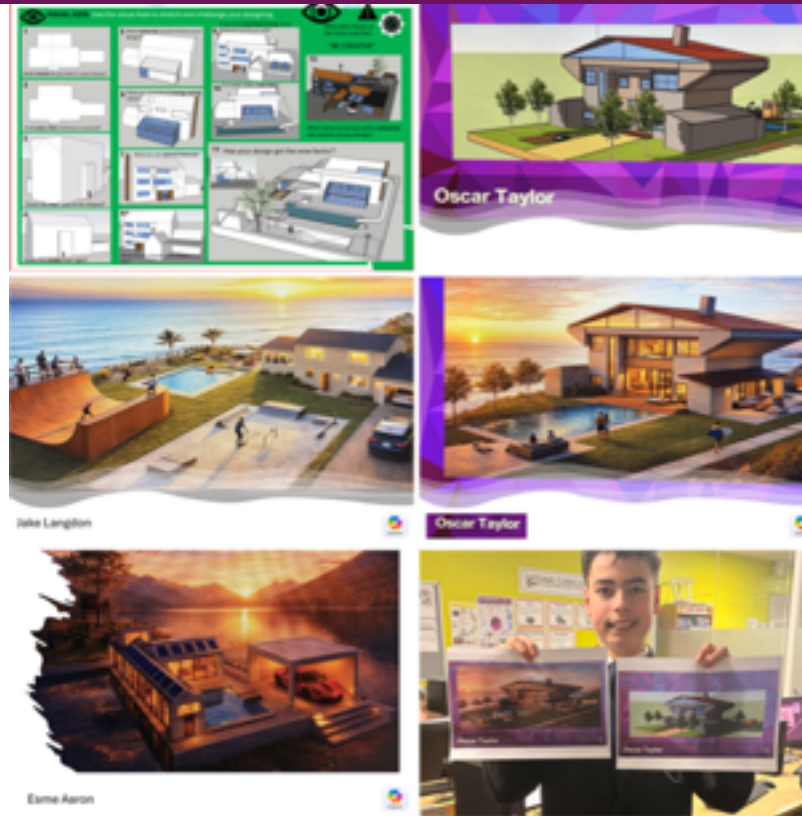
For each survey completed, Venture will donate £1 to Rugby Autism Network, as well as donating two prizes worth over £350 for completing the survey. Winners will be notified after the Easter Break.

We are proud to raise money for local charities and are asking all parents to complete the survey and help us raise as much money as possible for the charity

Design & Technology

Our Year 7 Design & Technology students have been busy becoming young architects!

Using CAD software, they are designing their own modern houses, exploring creative layouts, innovative features, and thoughtful design. It's fantastic to see their ideas come to life digitally while they develop important skills in design, problem-solving, and technology. Well, done to all our budding designers!



Well done to our fantastic Year 9 Design & Technology students!

These brilliant prototypes show great creativity, practical skill and problem-solving. From ideas to finished products, the students have worked incredibly hard and should be very proud of what they've achieved.

The future designers and engineers are looking bright!



Cake Sale - Friday 17th April

Breaktime in the Library

Raising money for Rugby Autism network

**Organised by the
Wellbeing Ambassadors**



Duke of Edinburgh

BRONZE: Year 9 have completed the first two stages of training for Bronze Award

On Saturday 28th February, students took part in their first navigation walk in Napton-on-the-Hill. Despite very muddy conditions underfoot, all teams demonstrated excellent resilience throughout the day.

On Thursday 5th March, students took part in a classroom training day to prepare for their upcoming expedition. The training included learning how to pitch tents, how to safely light and use camp stoves, planning suitable food to take on the expedition, and developing their route-planning skills.

The sunny weather provided perfect conditions for practicing tent building, and students made the most of the opportunity to develop their practical skills. By the end of the day, everyone was feeling more confident and well prepared for their next practice walk as they move towards their qualifying expedition.

It was another successful day of training, with excellent participation and contributions from all students.

SILVER: Year 10 have completed the first two stages of training for Silver Award:

On Tuesday 27th January, students took part in a classroom training day to prepare for their Silver expedition. Working in their teams, they completed all aspects of the preparation, including route planning, packing for a two-night, three-day expedition, deciding what food to bring, and learning how to use camping stoves safely.

Students showed excellent teamwork and engagement throughout the day as they developed the skills needed for their upcoming expedition. It was a very productive training session, with great effort shown by everyone involved.

On Saturday 7th February, students travelled to Cannock Chase to complete their navigation walk. Despite very muddy conditions, all teams successfully completed their routes, demonstrating resilience, respect and kindness throughout the day.

The walk ended with improving weather and some welcome sunshine, making it a rewarding and enjoyable experience for everyone involved.



Sport

Our under 12 girls brave the disastrous weather vs Rugby free in the county cup semi-final, the team started a bit slow in the cold, wet and windy conditions and went 1-0 down to an excellent finish from outside of the box.

However, that didn't phase them as Maisie and Imogen got on the ball in the attacking third and started to link up well, when Maisie pulled the ball across Imogen was there to smash it home to make it 1-1.

The defence of Maddie, Georgia, Bella, and Ava kept resolute and were feeding balls through to Polina and Maisie on the wings who kept delivering crosses, Maisie next cross was a pivotal moment in the game when it was turned in by the rugby free defender.

2-1 up at half time the message was clear to keep getting the ball wide and to take early shots and crosses. Bilton were very secure and dominate in the second half, but we still had a few scares but Hollie in goal made a couple of good saves, as well as Ava clearing one off the line in the final few seconds to secure a 2-1 win.

This win means we advance to the under 12 county cup final after the Easter holidays away to Stratford upon Avon school.

Our under 15's travelled away to Dixie grammar in the last 120 schools of the national cup and came out 8-3 winners with resolute defending from Poppy, Deana, Daisy and Felicity, this was followed by exceptional attacking from Maia who scored 3 goals, Macey with 2, Isabella with 2 and a controlled ball winning Ava who kicked a goal at the end.

Furthermore, this meant the girls travelled to Spion Kop school in Towcester in the last 64 of nationals, the girls unfortunately fell behind early to a long ball which the quick striker put away; however, they responded immensely with 2 excellent goals from Maia and took back control of the game. Unfortunately, we were controversially denied a third for offside just before half time. The girls battled hard in the second half but conceded 2 quick goals in concession, which led to a 3-2 defeat but the girls did show great resilience and respect throughout these games even though the result didn't go their way.



Sport



Rugby

The Year 9/10 Rugby team travelled to Avon valley for their first game of the season. A very competitive game, between two closely matched sides saw Avon Valley come away with a 33-28 victory. Excellent performances and sportsmanship from all involved. Player of the match: Tommy Y

Year 12 BTEC Sport students have been working hard looking at ways to improve their coordination to help them plan training programs to improve specific areas of fitness.



Safeguarding Updated - Miss S Chambers, Lead DSL

For every child and young person to feel safe in school to enjoy a good physical, emotional and mental health the safeguarding team are at hand to offer additional support. Working hard to ensure all concerns raised in school are dealt with in a timely & effective manner. We want our students to feel they belong & have opportunity to thrive and be happy.



25th March
21st April
20th May
17th June
14th July

9.00-10.00am

Coffee Morning

Meet the School Family
Support Worker

If you are struggling and need advice,
signposting and guidance pop in for
a cuppa and biscuits.



This term we have focused on Social, Emotional Mental Health (SEMH), staying safe online and continue to battle the growing concerns of vaping amongst teenagers.

Contact safeguarding
bilsafeguarding@stowevalley.com

Family support worker helpline
01926 412412

Family information service
01926 742274

There is always someone that can **HELP**

During the Easter 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 Easter 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

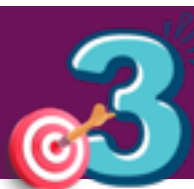
If you have an emergency outside of usual office hours, please contact the emergency duty team immediately on 01926 886922.

Emergency contact

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



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 Wight 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.

Join Our Governing Body - Make a Difference!

The Governing Body is made up of parents, staff and the wider community, each bringing different skills and experience to the Governing Body to enable it to carry out its role as a 'critical friend' effectively.

What Does the Role Offer?

- A chance to develop your own personal skills
- Access to a programme of free training in respect of education/governance matters
- A sense of achievement in helping make a difference to children reaching their potential
- Support and guidance from fellow governors

We Would Be Delighted to Hear from Anyone Who:

- Is interested in children's education and the performance of the school
- Is community spirited and would like to represent the community
- Has an enquiring mind and the confidence to ask questions and debate issues that affect the school
- Can consider matters objectively and make informed judgements

What is the Role of the Governing Body?

- Helping to set and review the school's strategic direction and agreeing targets for improvement
- Holding the school leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure public money is well spent

Commitment

As a Governor you are expected to attend a Board meeting every half term.

Interested?

Contact us at governors@stowevalley.com