

BILTON NEWS

Newsletter May 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 busy term !



This term has shown the variety of achievements that is part of the Bilton School community's

daily life. It has been an absolute joy to listen to rehearsals and watch the Oliver production this half term and wish two of our students every success as they take their next steps into performing arts at BOA Academy Birmingham. Duke of Edinburgh continues to go from strength to strength. Mrs Wood's D of E work was recognised this week by the King, during her visit to Buckingham Palace.

We said farewell to our Year 13 students as they started the preparations for their final exams. Both Year 13 and Year 11 have started the exam season with maturity and a positive attitude. I am sure you will join me in thanking staff for the support these students

have received in preparing for these crucial exams. Ofsted commented that our students 'achieve in line with National', we have every confidence this cohort will do so as well.

As part of the leadership of Bilton it was with great pride that Ofsted noted that the school is led with integrity and compassion whilst, fostering a strong culture of belonging and ambition for all pupils. The key priorities of attendance, consistency in teaching and supporting disadvantaged students' achievement we will continue to work upon with the drive and rigour which I have seen over the past two years. We remain committed to ongoing improvement while maintaining our focus on providing an inclusive, high-quality education for all enabling us to all 'be the best we can be'.

Ms Delves, Headteacher

Art Student of the Month - APRIL

These students have grown, shined, and inspired us all—just like spring itself.

Join us in celebrating their hard work, kindness, and achievement!

"Growth isn't about how fast you bloom, but about how strong your roots become."



Congratulations to our amazing students. You make our school brighter every day!



From the Pit Lane to the Gallery!

We are incredibly proud to celebrate the talent of one of our amazing Bilton School students, Lola C. After spending countless hours of meticulous work, their stunning Formula 1-inspired crochet piece was recently showcased at Compton Verney, where it captured the hearts and attention of everyone who saw it.

Virtual Reality Workshops

Our Year 8 and Year 10 students took part in powerful and important virtual reality workshops delivered by the Police this week. The immersive experience helps students understand the dangers of criminal exploitation, how young people can be targeted, and the importance of seeking help and speaking to trusted adults. We would like to thank the Warwickshire police force for delivering these engaging and impactful VR sessions.



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



Student Success

A massive congratulations to Codie T and her team Barkers Butts who won the U16 National Cup on Sunday beating North Bristol 29-15.

This is a massive achievement for the team who are now the best U16 girls team in England.



Big News from the Art Department!

We are incredibly proud to celebrate our talented students whose artwork was recently displayed at the prestigious Compton Verney Art Gallery!

This milestone is a direct result of your relentless hard work, late nights in the studio, and creative dedication. You've shown what's possible when passion meets perseverance, and we couldn't be more thrilled to see your vision shared with the public.

To see our students work exhibited in such a renowned gallery is a testament to their exceptional talent and tireless dedication. We know how much heart and soul went into every brushstroke, sketch, and crocheted piece, seeing that effort recognized in a public forum is truly special.

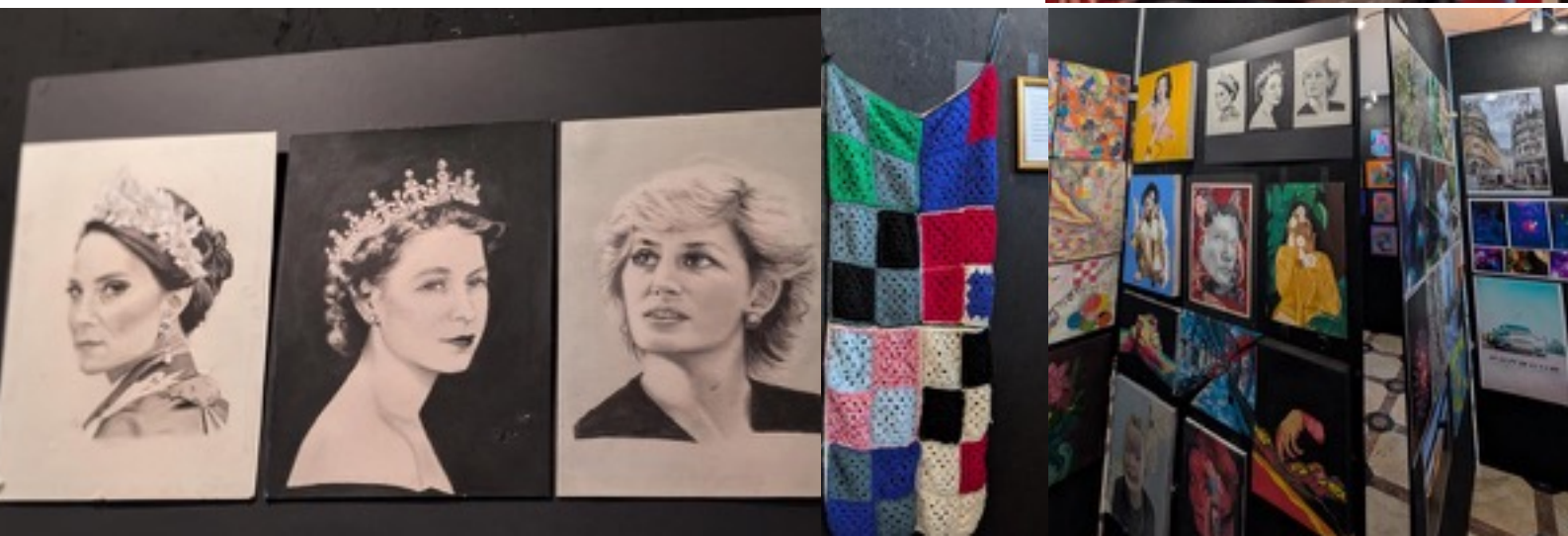
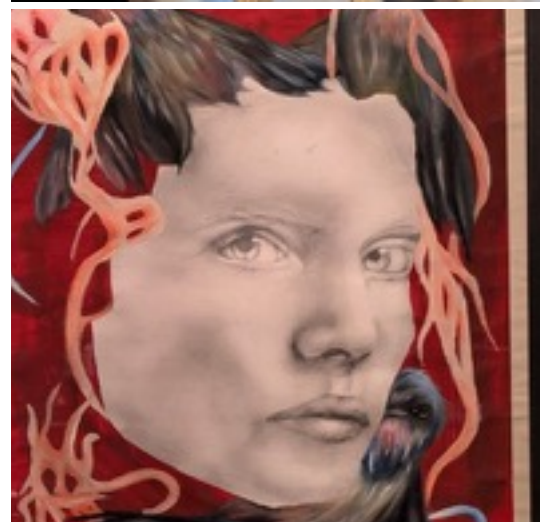
A Note to Our Artists:

We see your hard work: *The hours spent refining your craft have paid off.*

We value your vision: *Your unique perspectives brought something fresh to the gallery.*

We are inspired: *You've set a fantastic example for the entire school community.*

Your creativity is the heartbeat of this department. Thank you for your commitment to excellence and for being such brilliant ambassadors for the arts at Bilton School!



Maths

UK Maths Trust Challenges



In March, Brandon in year 11 qualified to sit in the next round of the UK Maths Trust intermediate challenge, earning himself a bronze award. This involved difficult problem solving and is a brilliant achievement.

Well done Brandon.

At the end of April top set year 7 and year 8 sat the UK Maths Trust Junior challenge. We are excited to see how this students have done and want to commend their efforts and behaviour during the challenge.

Mathemagicians of the Month

These students have been nominated by their teachers for their hard work, effort and perseverance!



Awards Evening

Our annual awards evening this year will be on 1st July 2026

Subject winners will be notified in June and invites will be sent out!



Oliver Jnr – An Unforgettable Success!

Our recent production of Oliver Jnr was nothing short of extraordinary and truly blew audiences away. This incredible achievement is a testament to the hard work, talent and dedication of our students, who have rehearsed two evenings a week since January, perfecting songs, choreography and lines.

Throughout the process, students have lived our school values of resilience, kindness and respect, becoming a close-knit family who supported one another at every rehearsal. Their commitment went even further, with two full-day rehearsals during the Easter holidays to refine and rehearse the production.

The result was a series of absolutely fabulous, sell-out performances from our 2026 Cast of Oliver Jnr. We are immensely proud not only of what you achieved on stage, but of the way you supported each other throughout show week to deliver such an unforgettable experience for everyone involved.

We finished this amazing journey on a high with our Friday Wrap Party, celebrating our achievements together. Well done to every student involved – you should be very proud!

Mrs Ciesielski



Good Bye Year 13

We said goodbye to our incredible Year 13 students as they were clapped out of school on the final day of their journey at Bilton School. It was a proud and emotional moment for students and staff alike, as the corridors were filled with applause, smiles, and memories celebrating everything they have achieved during their time at Bilton.

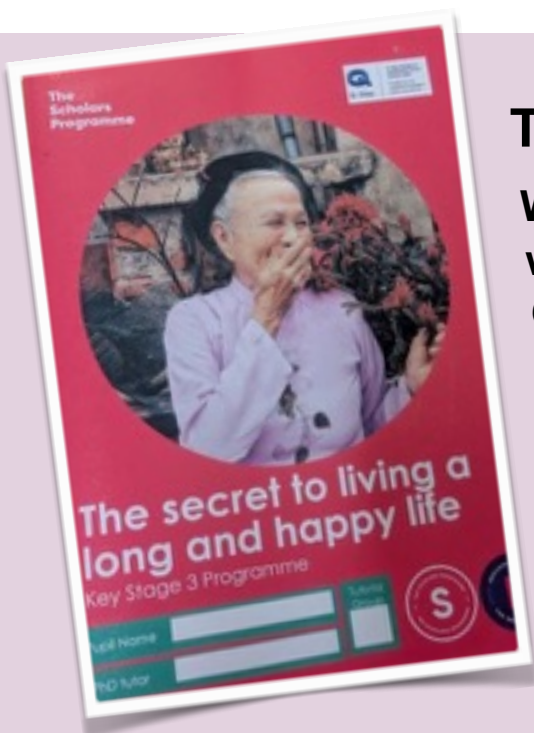


The Brilliant Club

We are incredibly proud of our Year 7 students who have been taking part in The Brilliant Club!

Over the past few weeks, our pupils have been engaging in university-style learning, developing their critical thinking, research, and academic writing skills. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they explore new ideas and challenge themselves.

A huge well done to all involved for their commitment, enthusiasm, and hard work.



Audition Time!

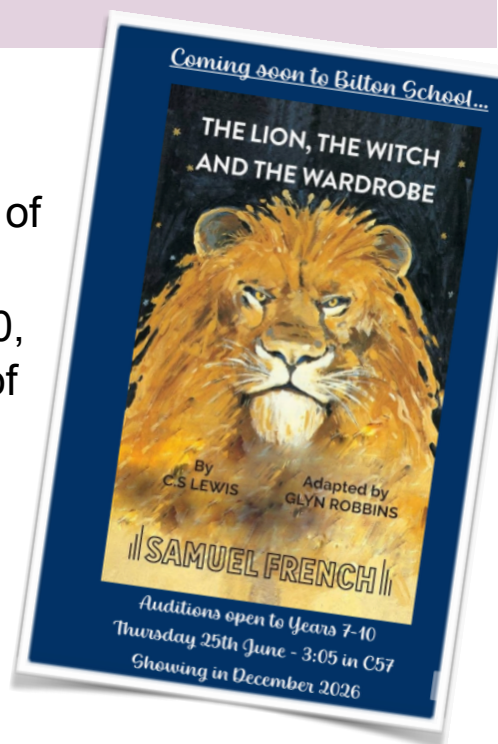
Auditions are coming soon for our next school play of The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

We're looking for a range of talent open to Years 7-10, whether you want to take centre stage or be part of the story behind the scenes, there's a place for you.

Auditions: Thursday 25th June

Location: C57 Drama Studio

Come along and be part of the journey to Narnia.



Interform Sports Competition

The Year 7 Interform Sports Competition was a fantastic event filled with energy, teamwork, and excellent sporting performances from every form group. Students competed across three different sports - football, netball, and dodgeball with everyone showing the schools core values of respect, resilience, and kindness throughout the competition.

Across all events, the level of participation and enthusiasm from the year group was outstanding. Whether students were competing on the pitch, court, or sidelines supporting their classmates, the atmosphere was positive and competitive from start to finish. It was great to see so many students encouraging one another and representing their forms with pride.

The football matches were highly competitive, with teams displaying strong teamwork, skill, and tactical awareness. In netball, students impressed with their movement, communication, and determination, while the dodgeball competition brought plenty of excitement, quick reactions, and dramatic moments that kept everyone engaged.

Congratulations goes to 7A1, who were crowned champions of the A Side competition after consistently strong performances across all three sports.

Congratulations are also in order for 7B4, who won the B Side competition following a series of excellent performances and a fantastic attitude throughout the event.

Well done and a massive thank you to everyone involved in making the Year 7 Interform Sports Competition such a successful and enjoyable event. We look forward to seeing even more great performances in future competitions.

Bilton PE Team



Mental Health Awareness Week 11-17th May

A mixture of activities, assemblies and drop in sessions were ran during this week to promote awareness of supporting each other with Mental Health issues.

Bilton school promoted the importance of taking action and looking out for each other. Students and staff were also invited to add Green to their uniforms to promote the issue and raise money for the Mental Health Foundation





Spirited Arts Competition

National R.E. Competition



Pupils are invited to create a piece of art inspired by one of the Spirited Arts themes. This can be almost any art form, including visual art, poetry, photography, music, dance, drama or sculpture. Individual or group entries.

Each entry must include a written commentary of up to 400 words, explaining how the work links to the theme. The quality of the commentary is an important part of the judging.

Who can enter?

- Pupils aged 11–19 (all abilities welcome)
- Entries can be individual, paired or group work
- Year 11 and 13 – You are still welcome to enter. Just ensure that you submit your work to Miss Nash in person/ via email before the deadline.

How to submit

- Submit the artwork to Miss Nash or take a photograph of the artwork (even for music, drama, dance or poetry) emailed to Miss Nash (see in W42 for email address)
- Entries will not be accepted without the 400-word write-up
- Include: pupil name, age, school name and chosen theme

School deadline: Wednesday 8 July 2026
The school will select the top 10 entries to submit nationally.

Themes

Pupils choose one of the six official Spirited Arts 2026 themes, such as:

"Faith in our future, Hope in our future" – exploring community, equality, hope, belief and overcoming division.
(Other themes can be found on the Spirited Arts 2026 website: [Spirited Arts 2026 – NATRE](#))

Prizes

- HAPS for all entries.
- 40 prizes available nationally, plus certificates for all schools entering
- Individual winners receive Amazon vouchers, with larger prizes for groups and older students
- Winning work will be displayed in the online Spirited Arts Gallery

School deadline: Wednesday 8 July 2026

Speak to Miss Nash for any further details

Sport

Girls Year 7 Football Team

On Thursday 16th April, our Year 7 girls' football team travelled to Stratford High school to compete in the County Cup semi-finals. From the first whistle, both sides showed great determination, and it quickly became clear that the teams were evenly matched. Unfortunately, it was not to be in the second half, and the girls went on to lose 2-0. However, they have made a fantastic start, and we look forward to seeing them continue to develop and grow as a team.



Year 9 Rounders League Underway

Our Year 9 Rounders team had their first fixture against AVS scoring an amazing 18 rounders! Well done girls!



Safeguarding

Whatsapp & group chat safety



Group chats help us stay connected, but they can also pose risks. Follow this guide to protect your privacy, be kind and know where to get help.



1 LOCK DOWN YOUR PRIVACY

Review these settings in WhatsApp.



Last Seen & Online

Set to My Contacts or Nobody.



Profile Photo, About & Status

Set to My Contacts.



Read Receipts

Consider turning off – you won't see others' read receipts either.



Groups

Set "Who can add me to groups" to My Contacts or My Contacts Except...



Two-Step Verification

Turn on and add a recovery email.



App Lock & Privacy Tools

Enable App Lock (Face ID/Touch ID), Silence Unknown Callers and be careful with Disappearing Messages – screenshots can still be taken.



2 SAFE GROUP CHAT HABITS



Think before you post.

If you wouldn't say it face-to-face in front of a teacher, don't send it.



Screenshots are forever.

Anything sent can be saved and shared.



Leave groups you don't recognise.

Tap the group name > Exit Group.



Mute, don't suffer.

Tap the group name > Mute notifications.



Protect your privacy.

Never share personal info, school timetables, locations or photos in uniform.



Check invite links.

Only join groups you know and trust – never forward links on.



Be a kind admin.

Set permissions for who can send messages and edit group info.



3 RED FLAGS – TAKE ACTION



Bullying, exclusion, shaming or threats towards anyone.



Sharing of nudes, sexual images or "pile-on" videos. This is illegal for under-18s.



Adults you don't know contacting you, asking to move chat to another app or asking for photos.



Pressure to send money, gift cards, crypto or to "vouch" for someone.



Links promising prizes, jobs or "leaked" content – often scams or malware.



Groups sharing fights, drug use, weapons or self-harm content.



4 REPORT, BLOCK & GET HELP



In WhatsApp

Open the chat > Tap the contact/group name > Select Report or Block. The last 5 messages are sent to WhatsApp – the sender is not told.



Save evidence first

Screenshot the message and the sender's profile before blocking.



Tell a trusted adult

Speak to a parent/carers, form tutor, Head of Year or any member of staff.

Need more help?

Childline

☎ 0800 1111
childline.org.uk

CEOP

Report online abuse
ceop.police.uk/
safety-centre

**REPORT
REMOVE**

Report nude images
of under-18s
reportremove.org.uk



ADVICE FOR PARENTS & CARERS

- ✓ Review privacy settings together regularly.
- ✓ Keep communication open and non-judgemental.
- ✓ Encourage overnight charging outside bedrooms.
- ✓ Talk about online behaviour like real-world behaviour.
- ✓ Focus on support, education and problem-solving.



ADVICE FOR STUDENTS

- ✓ You are never in trouble for asking for help.
- ✓ Reporting early protects you and others.
- ✓ Being kind online makes our community stronger.
- ✓ If something doesn't feel right, speak up.

BILTON SCHOOL SAFEGUARDING

We are here to help.

Email: biltonschooll@stowevalley.com
or speak to your Head of Year.



IN AN EMERGENCY

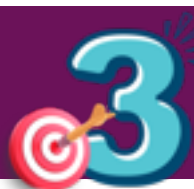
Call 999

Non-emergency police
Call 101



SCAN ME
for WhatsApp
Safety Centre
and more tips

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.



Stowe Valley
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

ARTS 2026 FESTIVAL

TUESDAY 30TH JUNE
TIMES 2.30PM & 6.30PM

2.30pm: £15.00, 6.30pm: £20.00

Featuring performances from:

- Oakley School
- Aylesford Secondary School
- Myton School
- Bilton School
- Coten End Primary School
- Temple Herdewyke Primary School
- Bishops Itchington Primary School
- Hilmorton Primary School
- Leigh-Anne Campbell's School of Dance (Evening only)

BELGRADE THEATRE, COVENTRY



tickets available from

www.belgrade.co.uk/events/stowe-valley-arts/

or scan the qr code