



Sixth Form Newsletter

Autumn Term 1

2026-27

Be the best you can be!

Sixth Form



Head of Sixth Form: Mrs Hanson
hanson.l@bil.svmat.uk

A warm welcome to all our sixth form students, both returning and new.

It has been a pleasure to see our Year 12 students begin their sixth form journey with such enthusiasm and commitment to their chosen subjects. Their positive start has brought a renewed energy to the sixth form, and it has been wonderful to see students from both year groups integrating well, forming new friendships, and building strong connections.

We have enjoyed hearing about the experiences and achievements of our students over the summer and have been impressed by the determination, focus, and ambition they have brought back with them this academic year. It has been particularly pleasing to see our Year 13 students return with a clear sense of purpose and determination to make a success of this important year in their education.

A highlight of the first week was our Year 12 team-building event on Thursday. It was fantastic to see students pushing themselves outside their comfort zones, working collaboratively, and overcoming challenges together. The event provided an excellent opportunity for students to develop new friendships, build confidence, and strengthen the teamwork skills that will support them throughout their time in sixth form.

Throughout the first few days of term, students have consistently demonstrated our core values of Respect, Resilience and Kindness in their interactions with both staff and their peers. These qualities are fundamental to the success of our sixth form community, and we are proud to see them reflected so strongly.

It was also inspiring to share the achievements and destinations of our outgoing Year 13 students with the current cohort. Celebrating the successes of those who have gone before them serves as a reminder of what can be achieved through hard work, commitment, and perseverance. We hope these excellent outcomes will motivate and inspire all our students to strive for their very best and aim for the highest possible grades.

We have an exciting half term ahead, with a range of opportunities including educational visits and the continuation of UCAS applications for year 13.

Finally, I would like to thank all parents and carers for your continued support. Your encouragement and commitment play a vital role in helping our young people attend, thrive, and succeed in school. I look forward to a successful and rewarding year ahead.



Be the best you can be!

Future events

Sixth Form:

- **30th September – Year 12 Meet the Tutor Evening**
- 14th October: Sixth Form Opening Evening
- 15th October: Early Entry Deadline UCAS
- 9th November: Year 13 PPE Exams
- 8th December: Year 12/13 Parents Evening

Autum Term Dates

September– October 2026

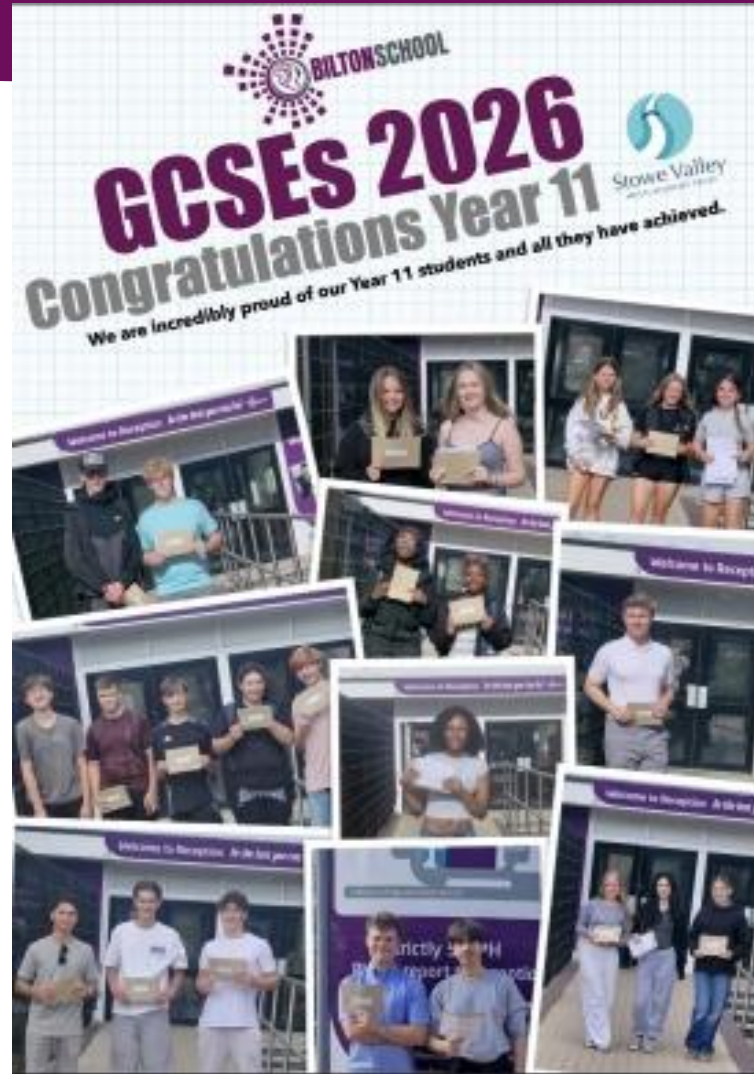
- October half term: Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October



Be the best you can be!

Academic Success

Congratulations to all those students who achieved success on results day, we enjoyed celebrating with them and hearing all about their destinations, with many students choosing Bilton Sixth form.



Be the best you can be!

Sixth Form Tutor Team

Contacting School Staff

<https://www.biltonschool.co.uk/about/contact-us>

Form Tutors will usually be your first point of contact; we are very lucky to have such an excellent team of tutors in Sixth Form! Please contact your child's form tutor in the first instance if you have any concerns, via the form linked above

- 12MR – Mrs Wood (M, Tu, Th, F) Mrs Clarke (W)
- 12WH – Mrs Woodland (M, Tu, Th, F) Mrs Bunce (W)
- 13WH – Mrs Griffiths
- 13MC – Mr Wragg
- 13MR – Dr Burgess (M, Tu, W) Mrs Bunce (Th, F)

Student Leadership Team



Head Students – Hatty and Dom

Deputy Head Students – Anoop

Prefects – Ann and Amber

Wellbeing and Community Leaders –
Maja and Gift



Be the best you can be!

Year 12 Tutor Time

Each week your tutor programme will run to this timetable. Covering various activities to support you in learning and future planning. Tutor time is an important lesson of the day and where students get notices, support and develop key skills.

Day of the Week	Tutor Activity
Monday	Connect Attendance
Tuesday	C&C/WVB
Wednesday	Assembly
Thursday	C&C/WVB
Friday	C&C/WVB/QUIZ



Independent Study



95% can be achieved in the classroom at GCSE.

1/3 is achieved in lessons at A Level 2/3 achieved outside of the lesson.

There will be lots of work, the transition won't be easy.

You will learn how to Build new skills.

GCSE



A Level



Be the best you can be!

Academic Progress Tier System – Year 13

This year, we are introducing a new Academic Progress Tier System to help identify, monitor, and support students in achieving their full potential. The system provides a clear and structured approach to ensuring that intervention is timely, targeted, and effective.



Tier 0: Students are making expected progress in all subjects and are on track to achieve their target grades.

Tier 1: Students are making expected progress in all but one subject. Support will be provided through subject-specific intervention.

Tier 2 and Tier 3: Students require additional support across multiple areas of their academic progress and will receive more intensive intervention and monitoring.

As part of this programme, students in Tier 2, Tier 3, or those with attendance or behavioural concerns, will attend Academic Development Time (DT) on Friday Period 5. These sessions will provide focused support to help students address barriers to success and improve progress.

Students in Tier 0 and Tier 1 will be able to use Friday Period 5 as a Study from Home session (or alternative agreed day), recognising the strong progress they are making and encouraging independent study skills.

The aim of the tier system is to ensure every student receives the right level of support at the right time, enabling all learners to achieve the very best outcomes during their sixth form journey.



Be the best you can be!

REWARDS



Notices

TIMINGS OF THE SCHOOL DAY

8.50	-	09:10	Tutor Time/Assembly
9:10	-	10:10	Period 1
10:10	-	11:10	Period 2
11:10	-	11:30	Break
11:30	-	12:30	Period 3
12:30	-	13:30	Period 4
13:30	-	14:05	Lunch
14:05	-	15:05	Period 5



**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

- 1** All students need to arrive on site for 8.45am
- 2** Students arriving after 8.50am will be issued with a late detention
- 3** Any student arriving after 9.20am will not receive a morning mark.
- 4** We celebrate and reward excellent attendance and encourage students to have no more than 3 days off.
- 5** Good attendance directly links to academic success and even two days off links to 10 hours of lost learning.



ATTENDANCE TARGET

No more than 3 missed school days across the academic year



Expectations - Dress Code

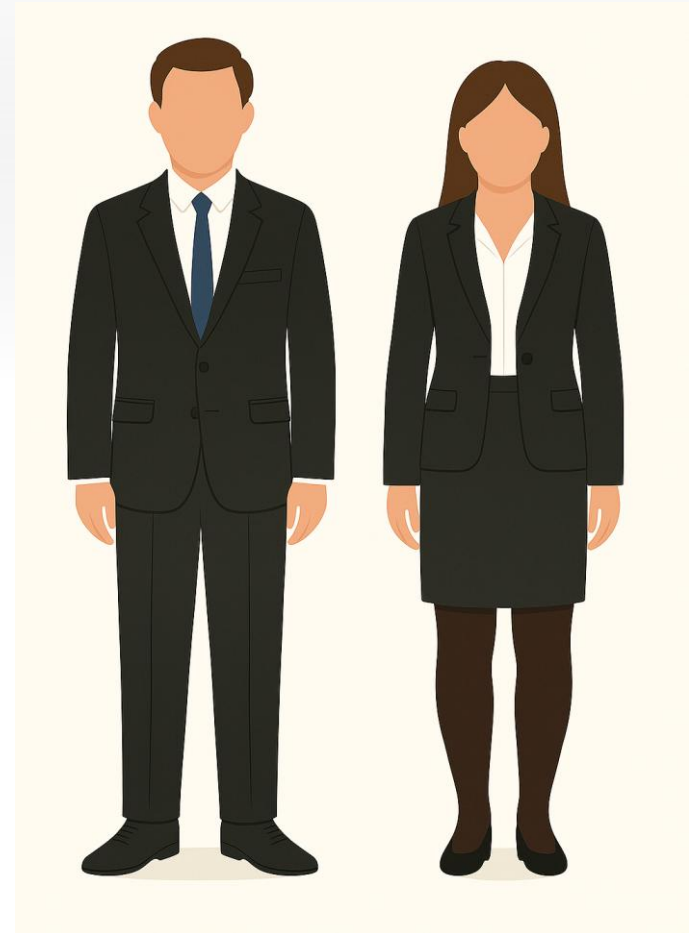


Bilton School Sixth Form is uniformed and as a result, smart dress is always expected. This is because the rest of the school looks up to you, and as Sixth Formers, you are role models to the younger students. Our attitude is that you should be able to walk straight from school into an interview which requires 'office wear.'



Be the best you can be!

Expectations - Dress Code



Be the best you can be!

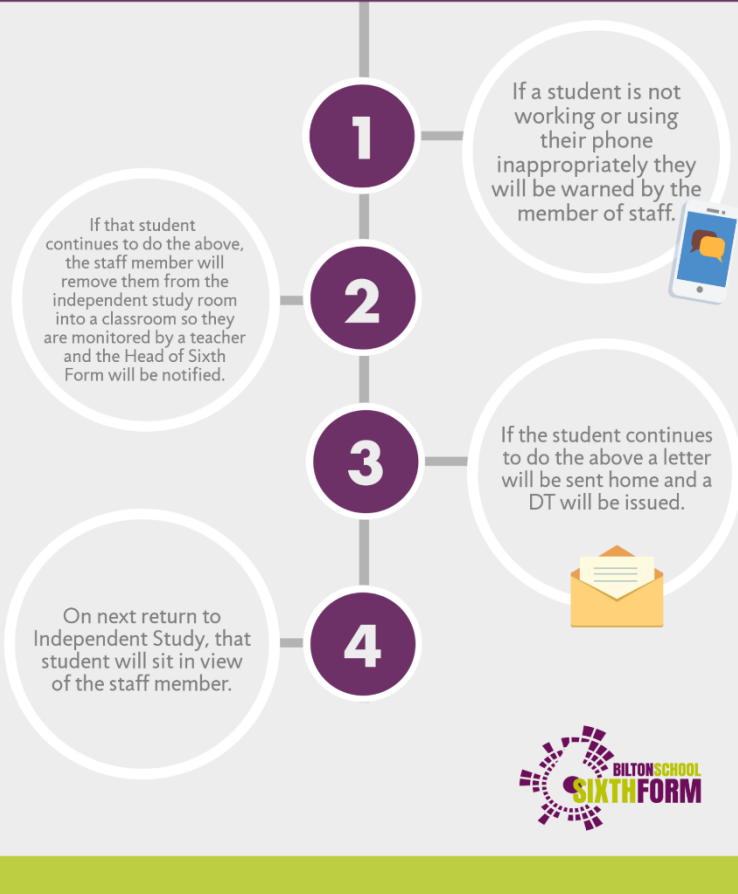


Expectations - Study Room



SIXTH FORM SILENT STUDY ROOM

Student expected to work quietly in Silent Study. This includes not eating, using phones for music only and doing work.



Mobile phones must not be on show in the study rooms or around school. The not seen and not heard rule applies to you when outside of the sixth form areas.

You can listen to music, but the phone must be in your pocket or bag as they are a distraction.

Expectations – Phones

- Year 12 and 13 are only permitted to use mobile phones in the sixth form block.
- Phones should not be seen or heard until you have left the school site.
- What if a student is caught on their phone?
- If a child is seen with a phone outside of sixth form, it will be confiscated for 24 hours and parent/carer required to collect.
- Dumb phones will be provided for students that require a phone for travelling to and from school, if the phone has been confiscated.



Attendance



- **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 open at 08:00am, students arriving after 08:45am will be given a late mark and a detention the following day.

- If you 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.

Please ensure the form is completed with as much information of possible.

Please complete the following form and email a copy to biltonschool@stowevalley.com

[ApplicationforLeaveofAbsenceSeptember2024.pdf](#)



Be the best you can be!



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.

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**



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



Be the best you can be!



Getting your child to school really matters. Did you know...

If in a school year your child is late everyday by ...	Your child will have lost approximately ...	Or they would have missed approximately ...
5 minutes	3 days from school	16 lessons lost
10 minutes	5 days from school	32 lessons lost
15 minutes	8 days from school	48 lessons lost
20 minutes	11 days from school	63 lessons lost
30 minutes	16 days from school	95 lessons lost

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**



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



MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS. **ATTENDANCE EVERY DAY COUNTS**



**ATTENDANCE
TARGET**

No more than 3 missed
school days across the
academic year



Be the best you can be!

LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME - UPDATED INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

- 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.**



 **BILTONSCHOOL**

Date - to be confirmed

Charity Cake Sale

*In aid of a charity which is to be chosen by
you - our students!*

Cakes to be dropped off in the Library

Prizes for Best Staff Donations
and Best Student Donations

 No cakes with nuts please.
Please make sure all cakes are labelled with any allergens.



Respect

Resilience

Kindness