BILTON NEWS

Newsletter October 2026

BILTONSCHOOL

Silver Duke of Edinburgh



ATTENDANCE TARGET

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

MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

Be the best you can be!



A big shoutout to our amazing cast of The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe! 🌟 Rehearsals are going really well

An opportunity to reflect on what has been a fantastic start to the academic year



As our first half term ends, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on what has been a fantastic start to the academic year. It has been wonderful to see our students return with such enthusiasm, positivity and determination, setting high standards both in the classroom and across the wider life of the school.

One of the highlights of the term has been the election of our new Year 11 Student Prefects. These students will join our Senior Sixth leadership team in representing the voice of our student body and supporting key school events and initiatives. We congratulate all those who put themselves forward and look forward to seeing our student leaders make a positive impact throughout the year.

We have also enjoyed celebrating the creativity and talent of our students. A particular highlight has been the exhibition of Year 9 artwork at Rugby Art Gallery. Seeing our students' work displayed publicly is a tremendous achievement and a testament to their imagination, dedication and artistic skill. We are grateful to the Art Department for providing such valuable opportunities for students to showcase their talents.

This term has also seen two highly successful open events. Our Year 6 Open Evening welcomed hundreds of prospective students and families, while our Sixth Form Open Evening provided an excellent opportunity for students to explore the next stage of their educational journey. Thank you to our staff, students and parents whose support helped make both events such a success.

I look forward to another exciting and productive term ahead and wish you a restful half term.

Ms Delves, Headteacher

Year 7 Team Building Day

Our Year 7 students had a great day taking part in team-building activities in their tutor groups. Students took part enthusiastically, worked together brilliantly, and demonstrated our school values of kindness, respect and resilience throughout the day.

We are incredibly proud of the positive attitude, teamwork and determination shown by all students as they tackled a range of challenges and supported one another.

Special congratulations to 7AGA, who emerged victorious, helping Gabor House secure the title of winners in the first House Competition of the year. A fantastic achievement following a wonderful start to the school year.

Well done, Year 7!





CHARITY TOTAL 2025-2026

We have raised

£2023.64

for our charities

Thanks to the generosity and enthusiasm of our school community, Bilton raised £2,023.64 for a variety of charities last year through events such as bake sales, non-uniform days and fun runs.

Thank you to everyone who supported these fantastic fundraising efforts.

Protect your child from flu

The School Immunisation Team need your correct contact details



Have your email address or mobile phone number changed within the last year? If so, please get in touch with your team:

Coventry schools:

bewise.immunise@covwarkpt.nhs.u

02476 961422

North Warwickshire schools:

NorthImms@covwarkpt.nhs.uk

02476 321550

South Warwickshire schools:

SouthImms@covwarkpt.nhs.uk

01926 353899

Student Success



Miles achieved an incredible success by winning the Rugby Golf Club Junior Championship, shooting a fantastic gross score of 76 and demonstrating outstanding determination throughout the competition. As Vice Captain, he continues to set an excellent example both on and off the course.

Adding to his achievement, Miles was selected to represent the club in both the Men's Avon League and the Men's Scratch League teams during the summer, and he is hoping to continue competing at this level throughout the autumn.

A fantastic accomplishment, Miles. We are all incredibly proud of you!

Huge congratulations to Izzy C on her fantastic ice skating achievement!
Despite competing with an injury that prevented her from performing some of her planned higher-level elements, including an advanced spin and additional double jumps, Izzy still achieved a new personal best.

Competing at National Level 4 for the very first time, Izzy successfully achieved both her required Elements and Components scores, passing National 4 at her first attempt. This is an outstanding accomplishment and a testament to her skill, determination and resilience.

With those additional double jumps and higher-level spin still to come, there's every reason to believe even higher personal bests are on the horizon.



We're also excited to share that Izzy's National 5 Skills videos have now been submitted to British Ice Skating, and she is awaiting the results. Once approved, she will be eligible to compete at National Level 5, although she plans to gain further experience and confidence with a few more National 4 competitions first.

Well done, Izzy. We can't wait to see what you achieve next!

Gardening Club

Bilton School's Gardening Club enjoyed a fantastic summer term, growing a wonderful selection of vegetables including carrots, beetroot, onions and beans. Students worked hard to care for their crops and were delighted to see the results of their efforts. One of the highlights was a magnificent sunflower that stood proudly among the garden produce!

The project provided a great opportunity for students to develop gardening skills, learn about where food comes from, and enjoy spending time outdoors. Well done to everyone involved for helping the school garden flourish.

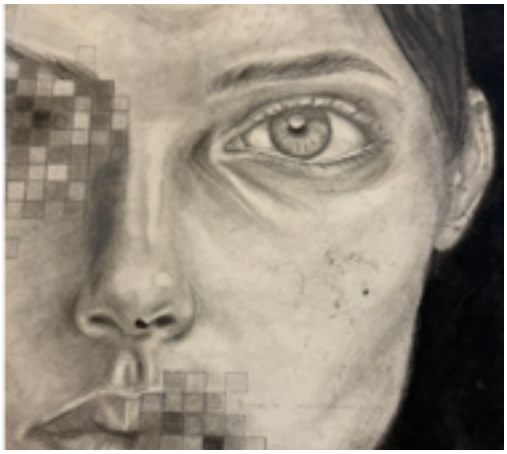







Well done to Rose, Year 12!

Rose has made a fantastic start to her A Level Art studies, showing real dedication both in class and with her homework. Her beautiful pencil and charcoal studies highlight her talent, creativity, and commitment to developing her skills. Keep up the amazing work, Rose!


Parking outside school

Please can we remind you to be considerate of our neighbours when parking within the school's vicinity to pick up your children. This includes blocking drop kerbs, drives, pavements and using grass areas to park. Can we also remind you not to use the disabled bays without a badge.

Year 13 Geography

As part of their Water Unit Year 13 have been looking at which rock type make good aquifers they looked at a range of rock types igneous metamorphic and Sedimentary and then ranked the rocks identifying if they where porous, permeable or impermeable.

Students could also identify which rocks where good capping rocks that resulted in the non renewable fossil water supply

Students looked at some of the oldest sandstone from Scotland which dates back to the Pre Cambrian era which is 538.8 million years old

Mrs Newbery



Charity Cake Sale

The sixth form student leaders hosted a bake sale in aid of **Macmillan Cancer Support** raising £52.95 all in all.



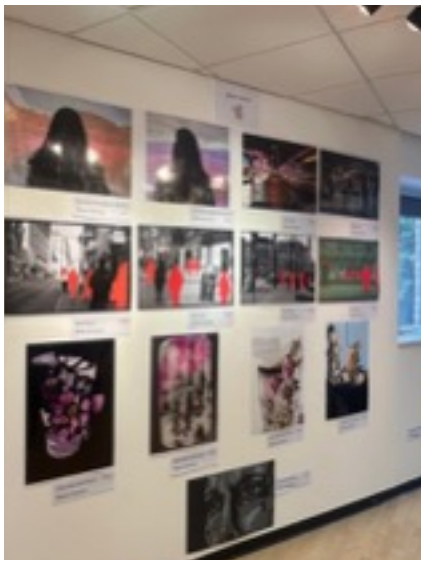


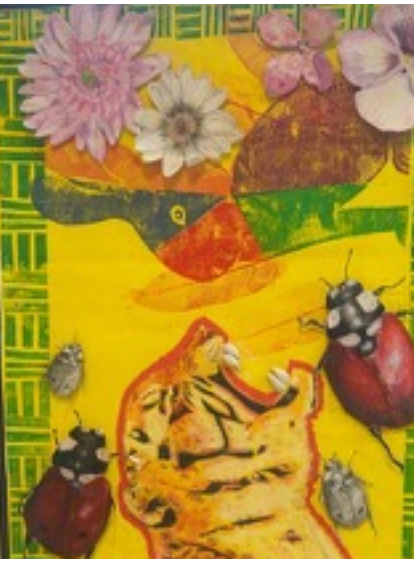
Congratulations to Drew Taylor's who went to Cyprus to represent England in the 51st FEW European Wadokai Championships!

Drew had the most incredible experience and learned so much from speaking with different countries and fully immersing himself. We are very proud of Drew for taking part in this brilliant competition!

Art Exhibition, Rugby Art Gallery









Celebrating the creativity of Rugby's young people.

Congratulations to our students whose work has been selected for the 'Art of our Schools' exhibition at Rugby Art Gallery.

Our students work looks fantastic and is showcased alongside artwork from 9 other local schools. The exhibition runs until Friday 1st October.









Year 8 Abstract Art

Year 8 have kicked off the year with a very cool Abstract Art project! Look at these fabulous mixed media pieces inspired by their research into the artist, Jane Davies.

Well done year 8!
Mrs Parker and the Art Department











Student Leadership



We are proud to introduce our newly appointed Year 11 prefects. A group of dedicated, responsible and enthusiastic pupils who will play a key role in supporting our school community this year.



In October our student leadership groups held their first meetings with our 6th Form Leadership Team outlining their aims and goals for the year!

Students from our wellbeing ambassadors, student council, prefects and anti-bullying ambassadors were all involved in creating a vision for how we can work together to help Bilton be the best it can be!

Student Success



Congratulations to Ela-Mai B and Sophia H, who have been selected to represent the Rugby Schools' FA District Football Team following successful trials last week.

Both students have shown outstanding skill, determination and attitude, and we are incredibly proud of their achievement. They will now compete in the English Schools' FA Champions Cup and the new Midlands Counties Schools District League.

We wish them the very best of luck as they represent both Rugby and our school this season!

Split Second

Year 8 and Year 9 students enjoyed a fantastic visit from Split Second, who shared their music alongside powerful and inspiring discussions about their experiences with bullying and neurodivergence.

It was wonderful to see our students engaging so thoughtfully with the session and showing the values that make our school community so special. They demonstrated genuine kindness, respect and encouragement, enthusiastically cheering on their peers who supported Split Second's performances.



Mathemagicians of the Month



House Information

We have relaunched the House system here at Bilton and students are working hard to achieve house points for their respective houses. There are house competitions each month, and so far this year we have had competitions in Art, Technology, Languages and also most recently linked to Black History Month.



Dennis Gabor was a Hungarian-British electrical engineer and physicist.
He is best known for inventing holography, the science of creating three-dimensional images using light. This groundbreaking work earned him the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1971.
Gabor's innovations revolutionized imaging technology and paved the way for advances in fields like data storage, security, and medicine. His creativity and problem-solving represent a spirit of innovation and curiosity.



Frank Whittle was a British Royal Air Force officer and engineer.
He invented the jet engine, which transformed aviation and helped shape modern air travel and military aviation.
Whittle's invention changed the world by making high-speed flight possible. His vision and engineering brilliance stand as a symbol of innovation, perseverance, and transformative impact.



Katharine Merry is a British former Olympic athlete and television presenter.
She won a bronze medal in the 400 metres at the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, making her one of the world's top sprinters.
She was the fastest woman in the world over 400m in 2001.
Merry's dedication to sport, overcoming injury and challenges, highlights the values of resilience, determination, and excellence. She now inspires others as a commentator and role model.



Rose Macaulay was a British author, journalist, and poet.
She wrote over 30 books, including novels, biographies, and travel writing. Her most famous work, The Towers of Trebizond, is widely regarded as a classic of 20th-century English literature.
Macaulay's writing explored themes of faith, independence, and society with intelligence and wit. As a woman succeeding in the male-dominated literary world of her time, she is an inspiration for perseverance and intellectual courage.

An Evening of Dark Tales!

What a fantastic evening we had sharing our original spooky stories and dark tales. Students demonstrated incredible creativity, imagination and confidence as they brought their writing to life for an audience. From chilling mysteries to spine tingling twists, every story showcased the hard work and talent of our young writers.

A huge congratulations to everyone who participated. A special well done to Amara who won a prize for her fantastic story which contained many twists and kept us on the edge of our seats!

Thank you for making it such a memorable evening of storytelling and celebration.



Rewards at Bilton

All students are working towards 4 badges here at Bilton; Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum.
The House point totals roll over each academic year, and hundreds of badges were issued last year.
This year Conor North was the first student to achieve their Gold badge- well done Conor !!
We look forward to issuing more badges this year to recognise hard work and effort.

Remembrance Day

In support of Remembrance Day our school community will have a ceremony, assemblies and a dedicated Big Create as well as charity donations via MCAS.
During the first week back after half term our Sixth Form Leaders and Year 11 Prefects will visit each of our form groups in order to raise money which goes directly to the Royal British Legion - there will be a range of remembrance accessories that pupils can donate towards.

Suggested donation of £1

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**

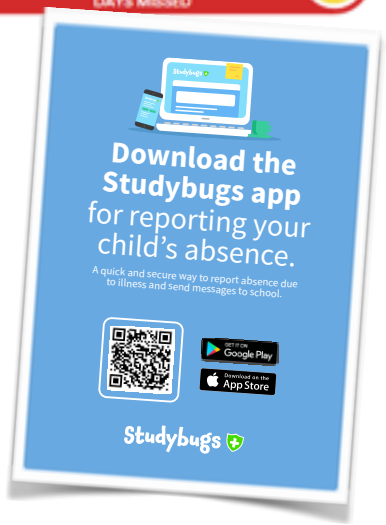
Medical Appointments

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 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 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 <u>each parent of each absent child</u>, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means <u>each</u> parent will receive 2 invoices – 4 in total).
    - <u>First Leave of Absence offence:</u> The Penalty Notice amount of £160 to be paid within 28 days, this is reduced to £80 each child if paid within 21 days.
    - <u>Second Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice):</u> 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 <u>(from the date of issue of the first penalty notice):</u> 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

KINSHIP

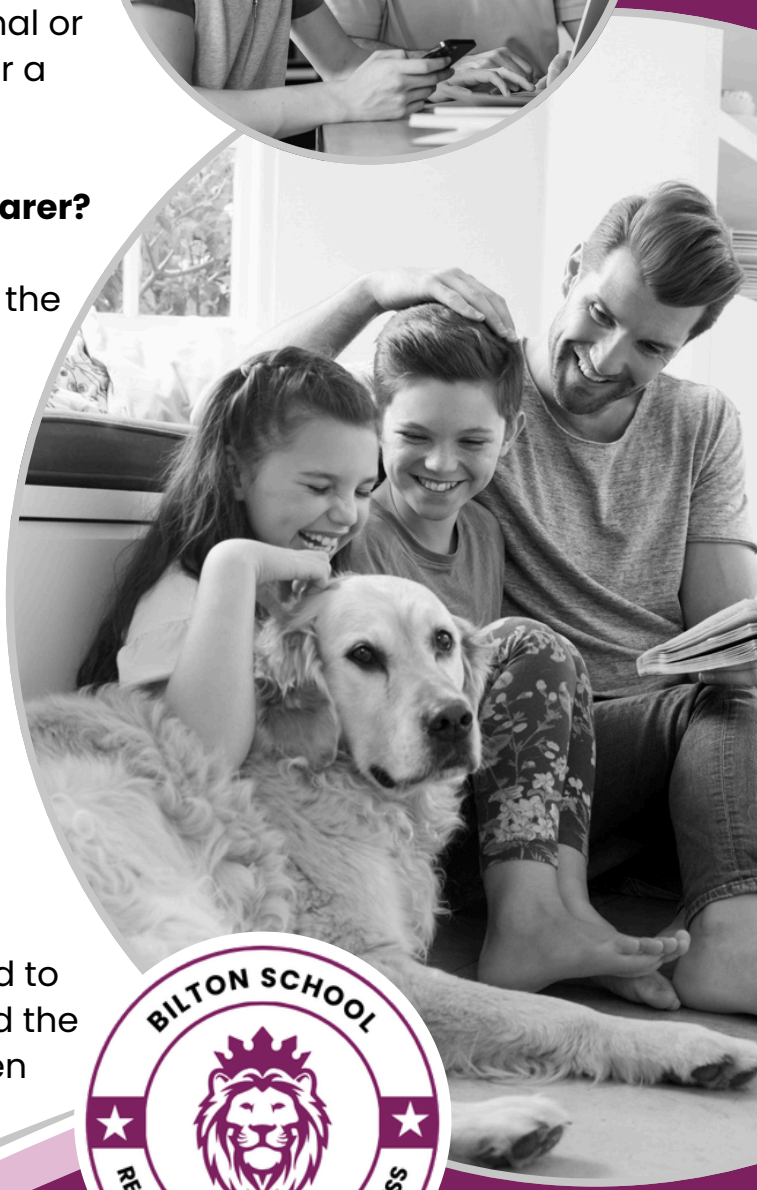
New guidance for carers



What is Kinship Status?
Kinship care means children living in a formal or informal arrangement with family, friends or a connected person.

What to do if you think you are a Kinship Carer?
Please reach out to your child's school and inform their Head of Year so we can ensure the right support is in place.

What is new ?
The Virtual School now provides some support for this cohort, supporting and working with families.



KINSHIP

Awareness Week

This is taking place w/c 5th October
Kinship Care Week is an opportunity to recognise the vital role of kinship carers and to help school communities better understand the strengths, experiences and needs of children growing up in kinship care.

BILTON SCHOOL
RESPECT RESILIENCE KINDNESS

Stowe Valley
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

For more information visit

Website:
www.fostering.warwickshire.gov.uk/types-fostering/local-kinship-offer