



**Year 7 Pupil Handbook 2024/2025**  
**Hillside High School**  
*Excellence in the Heart of the Community*

# We are proud to welcome pupils from...

**All Saints Catholic Primary**    Arnot St Mary CofE Primary School

Bedford Primary    Christ Church CE Primary School

**Florence Melly Community Primary School**    Four Oaks Primary School

Gwladys Street Primary    Holy Cross Catholic Primary School

**Kirkdale St Lawrence Primary CofE Primary School**    Lander Road Primary

Linacre Primary School    Litherland Moss Primary

**Northcote Primary School**    Our Lady & St. Swithin

Pinehurst Primary School    Ranworth Square Primary School

**Redgate Primary School**    Rice Lane Primary School

St. Elizabeth's Catholic Primary    St Francis de Sales Junior

**St John's CE Primary Waterloo**    **St John's Catholic Primary School**

St Monica's Catholic Primary    St Nicholas's Catholic Primary School

**St Teresa of Lisieux Catholic Primary School**

**Thomas Gray Primary**    Woolton Primary School

Wellesbourne Community School

# Welcome to Hillside High School



**Mrs A Ryan**  
**Principal**

It is with great pleasure I welcome you to Hillside High School. My daughter is in Year 8 and went through the move to High School the other year. I know the questions she had and how she was feeling a bit nervous about such a big change. I hope that this handbook, your Welcome Evening and recent Transition Day all help to make you feel much more at ease about the move to High School. If you still have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

You will start Hillside on Tuesday 5th September and we can't wait to get you started and to get to know you and your families. You are the 'Class of 2028!' How grown up does that sound!

I am delighted you have chosen Hillside as your secondary school and I know that you will be very happy during your five years with us. In your time here, you will find that Hillside has many exciting things to offer you and your family; equally, you will have many interesting talents and skills to share with us. Pupils are the most important people in our school; we are here for you and we will be working with you and your family over the coming years to ensure that you are happy and successful.

At Hillside we are always striving for "Excellence in the Heart of the Community" and achieving 'excellence' needs to be your goal every day. We expect 'excellence' and the highest standards from you, in terms of attendance, punctuality, uniform, behaviour and attitude for learning. We are unwavering in our ambition that you will leave us having fulfilled your academic potential and in doing so, you are able to fulfil your hopes, dreams and ambitions for the future.

We are a forward-thinking school that puts teaching and learning at the centre of everything we do. Your lessons will be challenging, ensuring you make progress. Our curriculum is a 'knowledge led' curriculum which means we prioritise knowledge and understanding and make careful decisions about the most important knowledge our pupils need to succeed in life both academically and personally. At the centre of our curriculum is the core principle that, 'Reading is Power' this means reading is prioritised in all subject areas and timely interventions are in place for pupils who need any extra support with their reading. We have high expectations of our pupils and aim to develop articulate and confident young people who can communicate effectively through the spoken and written word. Our curriculum allows pupils to leave school with the powerful knowledge and personal skills they need to take their rightful 'place at the table.' By this we mean our pupils leave us ready and confident to go onto the next appropriate and aspirational pathway for them

There has never been a more exciting time to join our school. Last September we received a 'GOOD' from Ofsted, a well-deserved judgement for our school community. This year we have welcomed visitors from Challenge Partners and held a Wade Deacon Trust Quality Assurance visit. Both of these visits have been extremely positive and have demonstrated the many strengths of our school. We have also received significant investment in our school ensuring the front of our building demonstrates the grand and historical building our school is. Hillside is a local landmark and I am extremely proud to be the Principal of such an amazing school. Our pupils deserve the best facilities and there has been lots of investment in improving our classrooms and learning spaces too. Hopefully all members of our school community feel as proud as I do of our fantastic school. We now have a school which truly reflects 'Excellence in the Heart of the Community'.

I wish you a warm welcome to the Hillside community, always striving for "Excellence in the Heart of the Community".

Please read through this handbook with your parents. We look forward to seeing you and making you welcome at our wonderful school, don't forget to check our website [www.hillsidehigh.co.uk](http://www.hillsidehigh.co.uk), our Twitter feed [@Hillside\\_high](https://twitter.com/Hillside_high) and our Instagram page [@hillside\\_high\\_school](https://www.instagram.com/hillside_high_school) to keep up to date with everything that's going on at Hillside.



**Senior Link Year 7**  
**Miss Jones**  
**Assistant Vice Principal**

My name is Ms Jones and I am the Year 7 Senior Link. I am looking forward to meeting you and welcoming you into our school community. Here at Hillside High School we strive for excellence in everything we do. We recognise that for many of you this will be both an exciting but also anxious time and want to reassure you that we are all here to help you make the transition from primary school to secondary school as easy as possible. I look forward to meeting you all.



**Mrs Harper**  
**Year 7 Progress Leader**

Hello, Year 7.  
My name is Mrs Harper, and I will be your Progress Leader throughout your time at Hillside High School. It gives me great pleasure to welcome you and I look forward to meeting you and your families over the coming weeks. I understand that some of you may be feeling a little anxious about taking this next big step, but I want to assure you I am here to help you. As your Progress Leader, I will, along with your Form Tutors, be your first point of contact for any concerns or worries you may have and will endeavour to make your transition to high school as smooth and as easy as possible.  
At Hillside, we are one big family and, as such, work hard to look after and support one another. Our standards and expectations are high, giving you the opportunity to fulfil your academic potential and achieve 'Excellence in the Heart of the Community'.  
Attendance is a high priority and as you are aware is clearly linked to progress. It is hoped that we can all work together to strive to achieve the very best attendance.  
I am looking forward to getting to know and support you in this new and exciting chapter of your life and wish you every success in Year 7 and beyond.



**Mr Edwards**  
**Vice Principal**

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to Hillside High School for the start of the next chapter in your lives. With hard work, a willingness to take part, resilience and a smile you will get the most out of your time with us.

Time flies at Hillside and you must try to take advantage of all of the opportunities open to you from day one if you are to achieve 'excellence'. My role as Vice Principal is to lead on behaviour and attendance, and to make sure that you have access to the very best lessons and subjects to ensure that you leave us with world class qualifications. If you are ever unsure or worried about any part of school life you must talk to us and we will always do our very best to help you. By demonstrating a positive attitude to learning, being kind to others and always trying your very best, you will have a bright and successful future here.



**Mrs Wardale**  
**Vice Principal**

Welcome to Hillside, I am really looking forward to getting to know you all and welcoming you to our excellent school. My role is to make sure you achieve the best academic success possible. I work with your teachers to choose the very best knowledge and skills to deliver in your curriculum. As part of my role here at Hillside I will often talk to you about your learning; I regularly look at your books and visit your lessons so that I can learn more about how hard you are working in your lessons and most importantly, find out what you are learning about. Our vision here is to strive for excellence and three of the most important subjects for you to excel in are English, maths and science. I talk to your teachers in these subjects all of the time to make sure you are all on track to succeed and make the best progress that you can. I am really looking forward to working with you all and supporting you in your secondary school journey.



**Mr Campbell**  
**Assistant Vice Principal**

It is an enormous pleasure for me to welcome you to our thriving and inclusive school community. Here at Hillside High School, you will find a community filled with ambitious and dedicated staff and pupils. We are all committed to celebrating the great potential and uniqueness of everyone. To support this commitment of excellence, we expect everyone to be kind, hardworking, determined and well-organised throughout the school day. My role as Assistant Vice Principal is to lead on rewards and behaviour, to encourage everyone to do well, ensure everyone is well prepared, feels happy and safe during their time in our community. I am really looking forward to meeting all of you and supporting you over the next five amazing years.



**Miss Collins**  
**Assistant Vice Principal**

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Hillside and look forward to getting to know you all in September. Starting secondary school may seem a little overwhelming but you really don't need to worry as we have a fantastic team at Hillside who will support you every step of the way. It is part of my role at Hillside to make sure that pupils from all around the world who join our school, whether that be in Year 7 to Year 11, feel supported and welcomed and are able to achieve their true potential in all subject areas. I also lead on Personal Development here at Hillside, ensuring we celebrate our diverse school community, making sure everyone feels included and equipping you all with essential life skills to become responsible citizens who make positive contributions. Enjoy this year and don't forget that with resilience and determination, you are sure to achieve your goals.



**Miss O'Hara**  
**Assistant Vice Principal**

I would like to take this opportunity to offer all of you a very warm welcome to Hillside High School. I am so pleased that you have chosen to be part of our community. My main role at Hillside is Subject Leader of Mathematics, where I will be ensuring that all of you have the very best challenging and enriching curriculum. I will be making sure that you all can become confident mathematicians, critical thinkers and problem solvers. I will be checking in on your learning and progress regularly and will support you when you need help. I am passionate about education and believe that everyone can achieve their goals if they put their mind to it. I am looking forward to getting to know you all and helping you all become your very best selves over the next five years.



**Mrs Miller**  
**Associate Assistant Vice Principal, SENCO**

Welcome to the start of what will be an amazing 5 years at Hillside, I hope you are excited to join our wonderful school. Whilst you are here you will have the opportunity to learn new things, visit new places, meet new people and have experiences that you will not even be able to imagine.

As the Special Educational Needs Coordinator my role is to support you and your family with learning and wellbeing. I work closely with the pastoral team and your teachers to ensure that you get the support you need in every part of life at school. I am committed to ensuring that you have a successful year at Hillside and are able to reach your potential. I am looking forward to working with you all this year and I wish you lots of luck as you start on your journey with us at Hillside.



**Mr Rayson**  
**Associate Assistant Vice Principal**

I am very pleased to welcome you to our fantastic school for what will be an amazing five years. I am the Subject Lead for Humanities, and I am so excited to support you in achieving your goals alongside the dedicated teaching staff here at Hillside. I also have a whole school role in Pupil Leadership and I look forward to introducing you to our Head Pupils and Prefects who are always on hand to help you. You will also be given the opportunity to take part in helping make our school a better place by volunteering for the Student Council. I am passionate about making sure that each of you makes the most of your time at high school and I'm sure that our time together will be full of happy memories!



**Mr Haygarth**  
**Associate Assistant Vice Principal**  
Welcome Year 7!

I am Mr. Haygarth, and I have the pleasure of leading the careers program at our school. I am passionate about guiding and inspiring each of you as you begin to explore and make decisions about your future careers. This year, we have an exciting array of events and activities planned to help you learn about various career paths and the skills needed to succeed in them. I am excited about the year ahead and look forward to helping you discover and explore the many possibilities that lie in your future.



**Mr Smedley**  
**Inclusion Manager**  
As the Inclusion Manager at Hillside, it is my role to work with those pupils who may require some extra help and support in order to access their learning, be that in the main

school or the Inclusion Base. Respect is at the forefront of everything we do for our pupils at Hillside and we promote this in a fully inclusive environment where pupils feel they belong and that they are valued. I am very proud of our pupils and understand the huge responsibility we have to enable them to achieve their full potential and become responsible citizens. I look forward to getting to know you during the next five years and that by working together we will achieve great things at Hillside



**Miss Barrow-Higgins**  
**Lead Practitioner, Associate Assistant Vice Principal**

Welcome to Hillside. It's such a pleasure to be greeting you at the beginning of such an exciting journey! Starting secondary school is a significant milestone, filled with new opportunities, experiences and friendships. As you step into this vibrant and dynamic environment, know that you are joining a community that is here to support you, encourage you and help you achieve your best. Having recently joined the school myself, I can say with confidence that Hillside is a place where curiosity is nurtured, talents are discovered, and dreams are realised. We believe in each and every one of you and are committed to providing an environment where you can thrive academically, socially and personally. As Lead Practitioner in Maths, I look forward to meeting you all and puzzling through the next five years together!



**Miss Austin (7SA)**

Hello, 7SA my name is Mrs Austin and I will be your Form Tutor during your time at Hillside. I am Head of Dance and a PE teacher, I have been at Hillside for over 20 years! I am very much looking forward to supporting

you and seeing you grow and develop during your time here. I know coming to secondary school can be a little scary, but you will fit in very well and you will make new friends very quickly! The teachers are very supportive, and we all work together to help you achieve the very best. We have very high expectations and expect you to be on time every day, be polite, courteous and work hard - in every subject! Have a brilliant summer and I will see you in September.



**Mrs Rayson (7CR)**

Hello 7CR and welcome to Hillside High School! My name is Mrs Rayson, and I feel very privileged and excited to be your Form Tutor as you start your journey here in September. It is also my first year as part of this school

community, so we will be learning our way around together. My role is to help you feel settled, happy and confident so that you can be the best possible versions of yourselves as individuals. I expect the same from you as I do from myself: respect for all, kindness, resilience and a positive attitude.

As well as being your Form Tutor, I also teach English. I am so passionate about my subject because I know that understanding the world around us and being able to express ourselves is so vitally important, so I look forward to seeing all of the wonderfully creative ideas you have to share!

Although starting in a new place can make you feel a little nervous, remember that this is the start of a new, exciting chapter where you will grow, learn and meet so many new people. I hope you have a wonderful summer, and I look forward to meeting you all in September.



**Miss Thornton (7HT)**

Hello there 7HT and welcome to Hillside! My name is Mrs. Thornton and I am going to be your Form Tutor this year helping you navigate the move from your primary school to our lovely secondary school. I am looking forward to a wonderful year

with you all.

We set standards high in 7HT, everyone will be required to have exemplary uniform, have all of their Essential 8 equipment and be ready to learn. I expect top notch manners, which you can also expect from me. We will be where we are expected on time, doing the right thing, in the right way, every time.

We are going to enjoy this year, exploring your new school and all the amazing opportunities we offer you together.



**Miss Kelly (7SKE)**

Hello 7SK, my name is Miss Kelly and I am so excited to be your Form Tutor during your time at Hillside! I am joining the Geography department this September at Hillside and I am delighted to be welcoming you into our amazing school. I

absolutely love my subject and am passionate about the wonderful world we live in, I can't wait for you to get to learn all about it with us. I have worked previously as a Teaching Assistant and completed my teacher training here at Hillside and I know you will love the school as much as I do. I understand joining a new school can be a little scary but rest assured I will be there to support you and help you transition into your next big adventure. At Hillside we work hard, are kind to each other, show resilience and always follow The Hillside Way. It is important you come to school with a positive attitude to learning and always try your absolute best so you can reach your full potential. You will go so far being part of our school and I cannot wait to see you all flourish over the next 5 incredible years. Enjoy your summer and I will see you in September!



**Miss Owen (7SO)**

Hello!  
I'm Mrs Owen and I am excited to meet you all as you embark on your Hillside journey. As your Form Tutor I will be here to celebrate your highs, support you in your lows and to be

that friendly face that you see in the morning. We will have lots of fun together and make sure we follow the Hillside Way ensuring we are always being the best versions of ourselves. I can't wait to get to know you all and I know that the next five years is going to be an amazing adventure!



**Miss Wong & Miss Christian (7NW)**

Hello 7NW and welcome to Hillside High School! My name is Miss Christian and I am a maths

teacher here at Hillside. I will be your Form Tutor on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays and Miss Wong will be your form tutor on Wednesdays and Fridays. We are very much looking forward to supporting you and seeing you grow and develop during your time here. We know coming to secondary school can be a little scary, but we are sure you will have a fantastic time here at Hillside, growing and developing as an individual! The teachers are very supportive, and we all work together to help you achieve your very best. We have very high expectations and I know that all of you will share Hillside's values of having excellent manners, being kind and supportive and resilient. We hope that you have a fantastic summer and look forward to seeing you in September.

# Before You Arrive

Before term starts it would be a good idea to check that everything is ready for the BIG DAY!

You will need to check that you have all your uniform; you will also need a pen, pencil, purple pen, ruler and calculator (along with a pencil case to keep them in), a school bag, PE/Drama kit as required. On the first day you will be given a timetable and your Knowledge Organiser, which you must bring to school every day. At Hillside we call this the Essential 8.

It is essential that you have a bag CLEARLY named for your belongings.

You will need your PE and Drama kit. They must be clearly labelled with your name.

## The First Day

On Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024, you will arrive at 8.20am. For this day only, you can come in through the front of school.

You will need to bring:

- Your Essential 8 (see page 9).
  - Money to credit your cashless catering account for school lunch (maximum daily spend £4).
- or*
- Your packed lunch if you are not purchasing a school lunch.

If you are entitled to free school meals, **your entitlement will not automatically transfer over to Hillside High School. You must contact your local authority and inform them of the change of school.** Your parents/guardians need to apply to your Local Authority, who then notify us.

### **Sefton Residents**

Pupil Support Section  
Free School Meals  
Magdalene House  
Trinity Road  
Bootle  
L20 3NJ  
Tel: 0151 934 3263

<https://forms.sefton.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals/>

### **Liverpool Residents**

Liverpool Direct  
Free School Meals  
Education Awards  
PO Box No. 6573  
Liverpool  
L69 2WJ  
Tel: 0151 233 3006

<https://liverpool.gov.uk/benefits/free-school-meals/application-form/>

**REMEMBER: You are not allowed to go out of school at lunchtime.**

# What you need

## Essential 8

Please note it is essential you bring a bag to school **every** day.

This school bag should be big enough to hold your Knowledge Organiser which is A4 in size.

You must bring all your Essential 8 into school every day. Without a properly stocked pencil case and bag, you will be putting up your first hurdle to making excellent progress – for yourself and your peers.

At the start of every day in form time, your Form Tutor will conduct an 'Essential 8 Equipment Check'. If you do not have the complete set of necessary items in your Essential 8, a negative behaviour point will be logged on your Class Charts and you will receive a 10-minute break time detention for that day.

You should not bring anything valuable to school with you. The school is not covered by insurance for the loss of personal property on the premises.

**Hillside High School accepts no responsibility for replacing personal property that is lost, stolen or damaged whilst on school premises, during school events, travelling to and from school or whilst attending educational visits. Parents/guardians are therefore advised to take out appropriate insurance cover for your property, including mobile phones, portable devices, bicycles and other valuable items.**



## ParentPay - our online payment service

All trips that are organised at Hillside High School, ParentPay is our only method of payment. The online platform also gives your parents/guardians the option to top up your dinner money account. To set up your online account you will need your activation code which is provided by school on your first day. Using the secure website, you will be able to pay online using your credit or debit card.

ParentPay offers you the freedom to make payments whenever and wherever you like, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, safe in the knowledge that the technology used is of the highest internet security available. Once you have activated your account, you can make online payments straight away.

If you want to find out more about ParentPay go to:

[www.parentpay.com/Parents](http://www.parentpay.com/Parents)



# Your School Uniform

Option 1		Option 2	
Skirt	School Kilt	Trousers	Charcoal grey or black, no colours
Blazer	Black with trim and badge	Blazer	Black with trim and badge
Blouse	White, collar and short/long sleeves	Shirt	White, collar and short/long sleeves
Cardigan or Pullover	Plain black with long sleeves Plain black, V-necked with long sleeves	Pullover	Plain black, V-necked with long sleeves
Tie	Royal Blue	Tie	Royal Blue
Socks	White	Socks	Black, dark grey or navy blue
Tights	Black or navy blue		
Shoes	Standard black (no boots) see page 12	Shoes	Standard black (no boots) see page 12



## Items of clothing which are not allowed

Under no circumstances may training shoes, pumps or shoes that look like training shoes be worn in school. Shoes must be plain black with no colouring or designs on them. Plimsolls, sparkling or decorated shoes are not allowed. Boots are not allowed. White or other coloured tights, coloured/patterned socks, sweatshirts of any kind, pinafores, scarves, caps or any other variations on standard school uniform are not allowed. Any missing items of uniform (e.g. blazer, ties, school shoes) can be borrowed from our spare uniform in Pupil Support and worn for the day. Refusal to wear necessary uniform will result in you being isolated with either your Form Tutor or in our reflection room.

## School Blazer

A school Blazer is **compulsory** throughout the school. The only coat you are allowed to wear in school is a blazer. Outdoor coats must be removed when you arrive at school and are not worn inside the school buildings.

## Kilts

Kilts must be an appropriate length i.e. to the knee. You must not roll your kilt up, if you do you will be directed to adjust this.

## **Jewellery**

No jewellery is allowed to be worn except a wrist watch, which should not be a smart watch of any type. If you come into school wearing jewellery you will be expected to remove it, this includes earrings.

## **Make up**

It is not appropriate for you to wear make-up, coloured nail varnish or false eyelashes for school. You will be expected to remove any make-up. If you refuse or cannot remove it (e.g. nails) you will be isolated with your Form Tutor or in our reflection room.

## **Hair**

A pupil's haircut is a very important part of their overall presentation. At Hillside we will not accept extreme haircuts and colour change should appear **natural**. If you arrive to school with an extreme haircut or hair/braids of a colour that does not appear natural you will be isolated with your form tutor or in our Reflection Room. Hair bands/bobbles should be small, simple and black or navy.

## **Uniform Suppliers**

Items of daily school uniform can be bought from various specialist shops, including:

- TRUTEX, 27 COUNTY ROAD, WALTON L4 3QU  
(0151 523 8422)
- LASER SCHOOLWEAR, 61 COUNTY ROAD, WALTON, L4 3QD  
(0151 524 9818)
- PAUL'S PLACE, 272 STANLEY ROAD, BOOTLE, L20 3ER  
(0151 922 2472)

At Hillside we have extremely high standards of uniform. This means that if you come to school without full uniform for any reason you will automatically spend the day away from other pupils working in isolation in our reflection room. This is not a punishment, but a way of ensuring that we maintain our high standards at all times.

We expect all of you to wear full school uniform, including school shoes and blazer on their way to and from school. This is something we take very seriously as we believe you are ambassadors for our school at all times.

# Examples of appropriate footwear:

Boys

Girls



If you are unsure about what shoes to buy please speak to your Progress Leader

# Examples of inappropriate footwear:

Boys



Girls



# Examples of appropriate school bags:

All pupils need a suitable sized school bag.

Big enough to fit your Knowledge Organiser, and all Essential 8.



## PE Equipment - Unisex PE Kit, manufactured by O'Neill's Sportswear

### Essential

- Navy blue t-shirt with logo
- Black shorts with logo
- Black football socks
- Training shoes

### Additional Optional

- 3 Quarter zipped top with logo
- Black pants/leggings with logo
- Black rain jacket with logo
- Football Boots



Please note that you are required to wear appropriate footwear in PE. This does not include canvas pumps or “Converse” shoes, as they are unsafe for the types of activities we offer.

## Drama Kit

*Drama T-shirts can be purchased through Trutex.*

### Drama Kit – Boys

- Black tracksuit pants – no stripes.
- Black t-shirt with Hillside logo or a plain black t-shirt.

### Drama Kit – Girls

- Black tracksuit pants or leggings.
- Black t-shirt with Hillside logo or a plain black t-shirt.



# Important School Dates for Year 7

## Pupils and Parents/Guardians

### Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024

First day at Hillside High School for Year 7  
8.30am – 2.45pm

### Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Your parents can come along at either  
10.30am or 5pm to find out more about  
Hillside, see how you have settled in and ask  
any questions they may have.

### Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025

Year 7 Progress Evening from 4.15pm – 6.45pm  
This is an opportunity for your parents to meet all of your subject  
teachers and gain the most up to date picture of your academic  
progress.

## School Terms, Inset and Holidays 2024 – 2025

### AUTUMN TERM

Start of term for Pupils	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2024
Half term	24 <sup>th</sup> October to 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2024 (we break up on Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2024)
End of term	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2024

### SPRING TERM

Start of term for Pupils	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025
Half term	17 <sup>th</sup> to 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
End of term	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2025

### SUMMER TERM

Start of term for Pupils	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2025
Half term	26 <sup>th</sup> May to 30 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
End of term	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> July 2025

**Bank Holidays:** Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2025

**Inset Days:** Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024  
Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025

- All dates are inclusive.
- You do not attend school on INSET days. We remind parents/guardians by Class Charts notifications when these are due to take place.

This information is correct as we go to press. We will notify you of any changes as necessary and all dates are kept up to date on our website.

# Behaviour in School

At Hillside we all follow 'The Hillside Way' (see page 24). This outlines our expectations for pupils.

The school behaviour guidelines, which should be strictly adhered to at all times, can be summarised as follows:

- Respect yourself and your work.
- Respect other pupils.
- Respect all adults in school.
- Respect your school.

We must emphasise to all pupils that **at Hillside we do not tolerate bullying of any description including homophobia, racism or any other form of discrimination.**

All pupils have the right to enjoy their education in safe and secure surroundings. Anyone breaching these conditions will be dealt with appropriately. Sanctions for serious misconduct include time spent in our remove classroom, time in our Inclusion Centre and even fixed term or permanent exclusion.

A full copy of the Behaviour for Learning Policy can be found on our school website [www.hillsidehigh.co.uk](http://www.hillsidehigh.co.uk).

The School Governors are required by the government to inform all pupils what they consider to be unacceptable. In our school the following are considered to be examples of serious misconduct and might be grounds for suspension from school for a fixed period or permanent exclusion:

- Violence or bullying.
- Swearing or other bad language directed at pupils, teachers or other adults with intent to insult people or disrupt lessons.
- Bringing a prohibited (forbidden) item to school.
- Persistent disruption of lessons.
- Vandalism.
- Racial or sexual harassment
- Repeated failure to carry out detention or similar imposition.
- Theft.
- Any criminal act.
- Any form of behaviour considered to be dangerous which puts the safety and wellbeing of other people at risk.

Suspensions may be fixed term or, in the case of extremely serious misconduct, we may even permanently exclude pupils.

## **Racial Harassment**

Hillside High School is an inclusive multicultural school with a commitment to raising international awareness. We implement fully the Sefton MBC guidelines on racial incidents. Racial harassment is:

*“Verbal or physical violence which includes attacks on property as well as on the person which is suffered by individuals or groups because of their colour, race, nationality and ethnic or national origins, and where the victim believes that the perpetrator was acting on racial grounds and/or there is evidence of racism”.*

Any racial incident will be reported to the local authority and the school will decide the most appropriate course of action to be taken in view of the seriousness of this type of offence.

## **Safeguarding Children**

Safeguarding and Child Protection are issues about which we all feel extremely strongly. We have a culture within school of looking out for each other and making sure that all members of our school community feel safe and know what to do if they are worried about their own personal safety or the safety of someone else. Mrs Jones, Assistant Vice Principal is the strategic lead for safeguarding across the school. She is fully trained in safeguarding and has an overview of all matters relating to pupil safety. School has two Designated Safeguarding Leads, Mrs McGing and Miss Sheils. The school has a duty of care to our pupils and if any young person makes a disclosure regarding his or her personal safety or well-being it is the school's responsibility to make a referral to Social Care outlining our concerns. When this happens, Mrs Jones, Mrs McGing or Miss Sheils will endeavour to inform parents/guardians of their actions the same day, although this is not always possible. For example, if a parent/guardian's telephone number has changed it would cause a delay. Social Care will visit the family within 24 hours of receiving the referral and assess the situation. Often, they will simply offer a family advice or signpost other services that can support the family. Any concerns about the procedures in safeguarding and child protection should be discussed directly with Mrs Jones at Hillside, in the first instance.

In addition, Mr Smedley, Inclusion Manager, Mrs Banks, Pupil Support Co-ordinator and Mr Campbell, Assistant Vice Principal are also up to date with safeguarding training and are Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSL) they would deal with a safeguarding concern in the absence of Mrs McGing or Miss Sheils.

## **Medical/Dental appointments**

Ideally all appointments should be made outside of normal school hours, or during school holidays. If this is not possible we request that on the day of the appointment your child brings a covering letter to school signed by a parent/guardian which includes:

- The time you would like your child to leave school.
- If your child is to make their own way home at that time, go directly to the appointment venue, or if your child will be collected from school by an adult.

We will require proof of the appointment for school records, this should be attached to your letter (we will make a copy of the appointment card and return the original to your child).

In the event of an emergency appointment whereby an appointment card is not available, please request an appointment card/slip when you attend, which your child must hand to Pupil Support on their return to school.

If you obtain an emergency appointment for your child for the same day, and as a consequence of this you have been unable to provide them with a covering letter from you, please telephone school providing the information listed above. You will still be required to follow the procedure outlined above for an emergency appointment.

# Attendance

At Hillside High School we recognise that to achieve our mission statement of achieving 'Excellence in the Heart of the Community' and ensuring you make progress you are capable of, we must ensure that your attendance is continually, and consistently seen as a high priority. Attendance is the responsibility of all staff, pupils and parents/guardians. In order to achieve this, we have set in place specific support systems and have staff with specific responsibility for attendance. Attendance is high profile with staff, pupils and parents. Your form room has a display of weekly attendance for the whole school and by year group. Attendance is reported and commented on by the Principal in the weekly newsletter sent home to parents/guardians. Ensuring your regular attendance at school is the legal responsibility of your parents/guardians. Permitting absence from school without good reason creates an offence in law and may result in the prosecution of parents/guardians.



## First Day Response / Communication between home and school – daily procedures

If you are unable to attend school your parent/guardian will need to ring the school office on 0151 525 2630 between 7.30-8.30am. The call will be received by one of our admin team who will discuss the reason for your absence.

\* Dependent on the reason and your current attendance there will be some challenge as to why you are not able to come to school.

Each day at 9.30 am the pastoral team meet and establish who is absent and the reason why. Please see the Days Escalation Approach for Attendance on page 21. Dependent again on your attendance and the reason for your absence the most likely outcome will be a member of the pastoral team visiting your home to discuss how we can get you back into school with as limited time absent as possible.

## Telephone Numbers

There are times when Hillside will need to contact your parent/guardians for a range of issues, including absence, so it is essential that the school has at least two up to date contact numbers at all times.

## Understanding Types of Absences

Every half day absence has to be classified by the school (not by your parent/guardians) as either authorised or unauthorised. Information about the cause of any absence is always required from your parents/guardians, preferably in writing.

### Authorised

Authorised absences are mornings or afternoons away from school for a good reason such as illness, medical/ dental appointments which unavoidably fall in school time, or emergencies. Please note, The Principal decides which absences are authorised **not** parents/guardians.

## **Unauthorised**

Unauthorised absences are those which the school does not consider reasonable. This type of absence can lead to the Local Authority using sanctions and/or legal proceedings. This includes:

- Parents/guardians keeping pupils off unnecessarily.
- Truancy before or during the school day.
- Absences which have never been properly explained.
- Shopping, looking after other children or birthdays.
- Day trips and all holidays in term time.
- Oversleeping.
- Absence to look after a sibling who is unwell.
- Confusion over term dates.

Any problems with regular attendance are best sorted out between school, your parent/guardian and you. If you are reluctant to attend, your parent/guardians should not condone your absence or give in to pressure to excuse you from attending school, they must contact school immediately to discuss.

## **Medical Evidence**

The school reserves the right to insist on medical evidence in order to code any absence as authorised or unauthorised and this decision will be made on an individual basis depending on your current and historic attendance.

## **Holidays**

We do not authorise any holidays during term time. Exceptionally, if you and your family are going on holiday, you must complete a holiday request form which can be obtained from your Progress Leader or Miss Elliott in Attendance. This must be returned to Miss Elliott well in advance of you taking the holiday. The Principal will then decide if the holiday will result in a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) fine.

## **Compulsory Catch Up**

To support your progress, if you miss curriculum time, you will be required to complete Compulsory Catch Up to support your learning and reduce any knowledge gaps.

In the event of missing curriculum time, you will have until Friday of the week following your absence to complete any work that was missed, and ensure your teacher has signed it off as complete.

It is your responsibility to identify and complete any work that has been missed. You must present your catch-up sheet to your Progress Leader on the Friday of the week following your absence. If all work has not been completed, you will be required to stay behind where you will be supported by staff to complete your catch-up work.

## **Transition Year 6 – Year 7**

Primary school staff will advise the Year 7 Progress Leader of Year 6 pupils experiencing problems with attendance. Attendance information is requested from the primary schools for all pupils transferring to Hillside. Extra support can be offered to you and your family if you are experiencing attendance problems to facilitate the transition process.

# Attendance Matters

If you do not attend school, or are not taking part in an approved educational activity, you will be classed as ABSENT from school. This means that if you are off school for any reason, even if you are ill or have a medical appointment, you are classed as ABSENT. The link between good attendance and the GCSEs you achieve is clear. This table is based on our Year 11 pupils and the GCSE results they achieved in 2023!

**100% Attendance = 188 days at school**

**8 days absence is 96%**

**12 days absence is 94%**

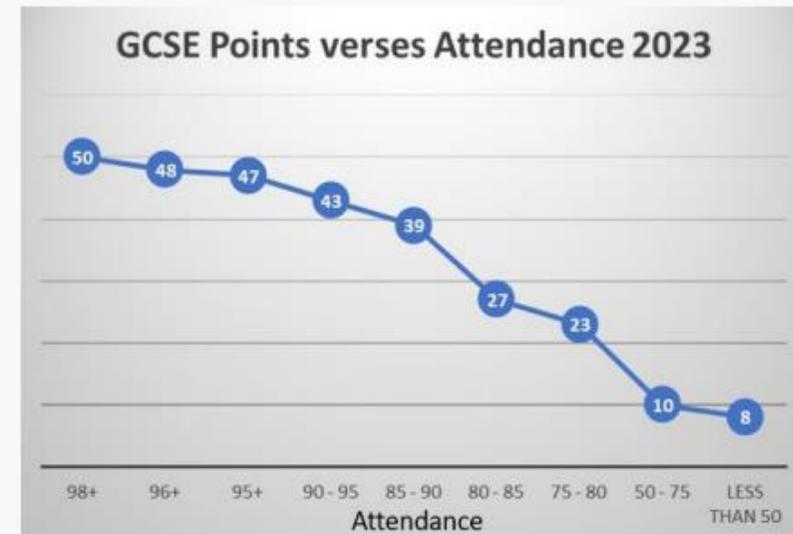
**19 days absence is 90%**

**29 days absence is 85%**

**38 days absence is 80%**

**47 days absence is 75%**

## WE CAN PREDICT YOUR FUTURE GRADES



**PUPILS WITH ATTENDANCE OF 90 - 95% LAST YEAR ACHIEVED 7 LESS GCSE GRADES THAN THOSE WITH 98% OR ABOVE**

**THE TOP FIVE PERFORMERS LAST YEAR HAD ATTENDANCE HIGHER THAN 97%**

**WRITE YOUR OWN FUTURE - BE IN TO WIN**

# Meet the Attendance Team

We are lucky to have a dedicated attendance team to support you and your families in attending school. No matter what the reason for an absence is, every day of school missed is 5 hours of learning missed that cannot be caught up.

The attendance team are responsible for monitoring and support on a daily basis, this may include phone calls home, home visits or direct work with pupils and their families. Our Attendance Team also works with pupils 1:1 regarding attendance and hold attendance workshops.

If you are unable to attend school your parent/guardian will need to ring the school office on 0151 525 2630 between 7.30-8.30am and explain your absence to one of the team.



**Miss Chialton**  
**Attendance Officer**



**Miss Elliott**  
**Attendance Officer**



**Mrs Wilson**  
**Attendance Officer**

*“People do not decide their futures, they decide their habits and their habits decide their futures.” F.M Alexander*

Without a doubt the most important habit you need to succeed in school, is good school attendance. **“Arrive on Time, All the Time”** and you will achieve your best at Hillside.

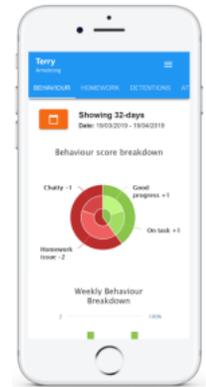
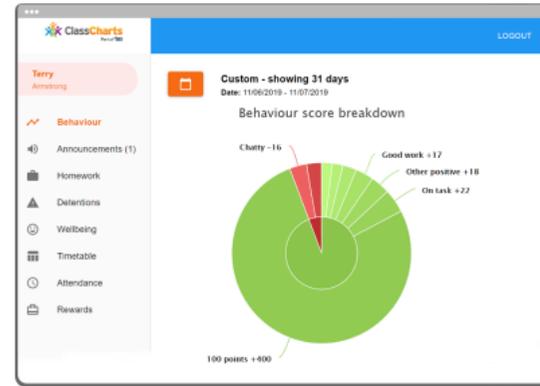
# Class Charts

## What is Class Charts?

Class Charts allows you to keep track of your achievements and behaviour, buy rewards from the Reward store with your points, stay on top of your homework, keep track of scheduled detentions, view your timetable, check your attendance and view announcements from your school.

Also, at the end of every lesson you will be issued a number awarded on Class Charts based on your performance in that lesson by your class teacher. This number indicates your attitude and behaviour in that lesson:

- 1 – ‘Outstanding in lesson’ (2 positive points)
- 2 – ‘Good: Met Expectations in Lesson’ (1 positive point)
- 3 – ‘Requires Improvement in lesson’ (1 negative point)
- 4 – ‘Serious Cause for Concern’ (2 negative points)



## Logging into Class Charts

You will be given a unique pupil access code for Class Charts when you start here in September which will look similar to the example code shown on the right. This code is used to log into your pupil account.



## How do I get Class Charts?

Class Charts for pupil can be accessed via our website [www.hillsidehigh.co.uk](http://www.hillsidehigh.co.uk) or via iOS and Android apps.

You can also access the pupil website and links to the pupil apps at <https://www.classcharts.com/student/login>



# The Hillside Way

At Hillside we are all working towards the one shared goal of achieving “Excellence in the Heart of the Community”. The Hillside Way summarises what all members of our community; pupils and staff need to do to achieve ‘excellence’.



# The Hillside Way

The nine features of The Hillside Way are split up into two parts, Standards & Expectations and Character Virtues.

## Standards and Expectations

- Essential 8
- Arrive on time, all the time
- Work Hard
- Participate in Lessons
- Excellent Manners
- Best presentation of yourself and your work

To be an effective learner at Hillside, you need to meet these six Standards and Expectations in every lesson. You will be monitored each lesson to show how well you are meeting these standards.

## Character Virtues:

The following three aspects of The Hillside Way are what we believe are the key virtues that will help you in your own personal development to grow into confident, successful individuals. A virtue is a type of behaviour which people agree is morally right. Someone who is virtuous leads a good, moral life.

### Resilience

This virtue is about being able to cope when things get tough. Resilient people are good at dealing with change and are able to use their skills to recover from problems and challenges. This could be within a lesson such as having the strength to tackle challenging work but it could also be problems in people's personal lives.

### Kindness

This virtue is all about being caring and approaching people you meet with respect, appreciation and interest. People who regularly demonstrate kindness are happier than those who don't and studies have shown that kindness also stimulates the production of serotonin which is the feel-good chemical. The kindness virtue is also about how we can benefit our communities through our actions and taking part in events and activities in and around school for charity.

### Positivity

The positivity virtue gives us a reason to believe in ourselves. Positive people are less isolated because others want to be around them. People who are positive are optimistic in life meaning they expect good things to happen. Positive attitudes cause positive thoughts and outcomes and produce positive results.

# Steps to support Excellent Manners

As represented by our Hillside Way, it is important that we are polite and show great manners to one another. To help you remember our 'pleases' and 'thank yous' we have our 'STEPS'.

STEPS stands for the following:



Sir or Miss every time. We call this the full stop. It should end every sentence.

*For example, when answering the register, 'Yes Sir' or 'Yes Miss'.*



Thank you, every time someone does something for us.

*For example, when someone holds the door open for you on the corridor, 'Thank you'.*



Excuse me, every time you need to enquire or get attention, then we wait.

*For example, when you need help in lesson, 'Excuse me Miss, can you help with this task please?'*



Please, every time that you request something.

*For example, when you ask for more paper during an exam, "Excuse me sir, can I have more paper please?"*



Sorry, every time we make a mistake. We ensure we do everything we can to put it right.

*For example, when we make a mistake, 'Sorry Sir' or 'Sorry Miss'.*

# STAR

During a lesson, when your teacher needs everyone to refocus or pay attention, possibly after a whole class or group discussion task, your teacher (the speaker) will use the STAR strategy. This can also be used by your teacher when a pupil is contributing to a discussion, to ensure everyone is giving their full respect and attention to the speaker. It ensures you are concentrating on what you should be focusing on rather than being distracted by other things that may be going on around you.

STAR stands for:



When using STAR, your teacher may say:

*“OK, let’s see you all demonstrating STAR”* or;

*“I expect STAR”* or;

*“I know you will impress me demonstrating STAR”.*

# Diversity

Diversity is one of our core strands that permeate our curriculum right across school which we believe provide you with the highest quality learning experience. Our curriculum is rich in personal development and powerful world knowledge; allowing you to orientate your place in the world and express your individuality. At Hillside we are delighted to welcome children from all around the world and we are incredibly proud of the cultural diversity they bring to our school. There are currently over 32 languages spoken by staff and pupils across our school, including Polish, Romanian, Turkish, Cantonese, Farsi and Hindi to name but a few! Take a look below to find out how to say 'Hello' in these languages!

<b>Afganistan</b> – "سلام"	<b>Belgium</b> - "Salut"	<b>Brazil</b> - "Olá"	<b>Bulgaria</b> - "Здравейте"	<b>China</b> - "你好"
<b>Czech Republic</b> - "Ahoj"	<b>Eritrea</b> - "Selam"	<b>Germany</b> - "Hallo"	<b>Greece</b> - "Χαίρετε"	<b>Hungary</b> - "Szia"
<b>India</b> - "नमस्ते"	<b>Iran</b> - "Salam"	<b>Italy</b> - "Ciao"	<b>Kuwait</b> - "Marhaba"	<b>Netherlands</b> - "Hallo"
<b>Nigeria</b> - "Sannu"	<b>Phillipines</b> - "Kumusta"	<b>Portugal</b> - "Olá"	<b>Romania</b> - "Buna ziua"	<b>Russia</b> – "привет"
<b>Saudi Arabia</b> - "Assalaam 'alaikum"	<b>Somalia</b> – "Subax wanagsan"	<b>South Africa (Ndebele)</b> - "Siyalemukela"	<b>Spain</b> - "Hola"	
<b>Sri Lanka (Tamil)</b> - "வணக்கம்"	<b>Switzerland</b> - "Grüezi"	<b>Thailand</b> - "สวัสดี"	<b>Ukraine</b> – "привіт"	
	<b>U.S.A</b> - "Hello"	<b>United Kingdom</b> - "Hello"		

**D**ifferent  
**I**ndividuals  
**V**aluing and accepting  
**E**ach other  
**R**egardless of  
**S**kin colour, gender  
**I**ntellect  
**T**alents or  
**Y**ears



*'We all should know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all the threads of the tapestry are equal in value no matter what their colour' - Maya Angelou*

# Celebrating Excellence

## Rewards

At Hillside we have a range of rewards which are used to recognise and celebrate 'Excellence'. Rewards can take many forms including; our rewards store linked to Class Charts, postcards/phone calls home and numerous departmental rewards.

## Badges

We strive for all of our pupils to achieve a blazer full of badges as demonstrated here by one of our Prefects. We believe that you should be proud of your achievements, and wearing the badges which you have been awarded allows you to demonstrate this to our whole school community.

## Lead Learners

At the end of each half-term, all pupils can be nominated to be a Lead Learner by their class teachers for a number of reasons. Certificates and badges will be given out to pupils during our Lead Learner assemblies.

## Annual Presentation Evening

Each year, Hillside holds a Presentation Evening to celebrate pupils' achievements. This evening is shared with; parents/guardian, governors, Trustees of the Wade Deacon Trust and invited guests from the local community. Prizes for Achievement and Endeavour are awarded to pupils from each class as well as prizes for attendance. Prizes are also awarded for excellent performance in external examinations, service to the school and character and personality.

## Display of Work

When pupils do particularly good work we will display it on the boards in classrooms and the corridors for others to see, admire and learn from. In doing this we hope other pupils will aspire to produce the same high standard of work.

Displays of pupils' work around school also helps you in your learning and progress. Excellent examples of the use of the purple pen of progress, and how to achieve the top grades in subjects, can be seen in each subject area around school.

## Hillside 100

If you are in school for the whole week, achieving 100% attendance, your name will be entered into the following week's prize draw.



## Newsletter, Twitter and Instagram

Our weekly newsletter is available on the school website where we celebrate all of our pupils' achievements and successes as well as all the great things going on here at Hillside High School. Any pupil (or their work) who features in the newsletter is invited to see the Principal at break on Friday to receive a copy of the newsletter and a gift. You can also follow us on Twitter [@hillside\\_high](https://twitter.com/hillside_high) or Instagram [@hillside\\_high\\_school](https://www.instagram.com/hillside_high_school) for daily updates about what's going on in school.



# Photographs of School Activities

At Hillside, we have a tradition of celebrating our pupils' involvement and achievement in a wide range of activities and events by taking photographs, when appropriate, and displaying them in school, in school publications or in the local press. We also have a website and Twitter accounts that celebrate pupils' work and achievements, as well as weekly newsletters for parents/guardians, a school Prospectus and this Pupils Handbook.

If your parent/guardian does not wish your photograph to be used in this way, please be sure they fill in the appropriate form in the admission documents.

# Mobile Phone and Portable Music Players in School

During lessons we do not allow you to use personal mobile phones, tablets, Apple watches or any form of portable music player. We have very good reasons for this, based on pupil safety and the maintenance of high standards in the classroom. However, we do understand that many pupils and their parents/guardians like children to have a mobile phone as a security measure on the way to and from school.

Our rules are clear on this:

- Electronic devices should not be brought to school at all.
- Mobile phones may be kept in a school bag but must be switched off at all times.
- Mobile phones should not be taken out during lessons, at break and lunchtime.
- **If you are seen with a mobile phone or an electronic device, the item will be confiscated and placed safely in Pupil Support. If this is the first occasion that your phone is confiscated it will be given back to you at the end of the day. On a second occasion it will not be given back to you until an adult family member comes to collect it.**
- The school accepts no responsibility for replacing personal property that is lost, stolen or damaged whilst on school premises, during school events, travelling to and from school or whilst attending educational visits. Parents are therefore advised to take out appropriate insurance cover for your property, including mobile phones, portable devices, bicycles and other valuable items.
- Please note that the school has absolutely no insurance to cover the loss or theft of these or other valuable items belonging to either pupils or staff. Should a loss occur, we will obviously investigate to try to recover the item but cannot guarantee success. For lessons in PE, a 'valuables box' is available from the teacher of Teaching Assistant. It is your responsibility to put any valuables into that box for safekeeping.



# Where do I get help if I need it?

## Lost property

Try not to worry. Most lost property turns up in the most unusual places. This is the best plan:

- ✓ Stop and think when you last remember having your property, e.g. the classroom you were in.
- ✓ Go and look there and all of the rooms you have been in since.
- ✓ See if it has been handed in at Pupil Support or the Office.
- ✓ Report the lost property to your Form Tutor.
- ✓ Check again at HOME!

## Illness or Injury

If you feel ill, tell the teacher in charge of your class. Should you feel ill, or have an accident, at break time or lunchtime, then tell the teachers on duty. You will be sent to Pupil Support and a member of staff will then decide what further action is necessary.

## Medication

If you have asthma and you would like Pupil Support to hold an emergency inhaler or medication, please ask your parents/guardian to contact Mrs Banks, who will gladly discuss this. Alternatively, the school nurse can be reached on 0151 247 6033/6013.

## Care Plan

Some pupils may have a long-standing medical problem which requires a Care Plan to support them. If you need a Care Plan this will be drawn up with your parents/guardians, the school nurse, Mrs Banks (Pupil Support) and your Progress Leader. This information will then be shared with your teachers so that they can give you the appropriate help and support.

## If you are unhappy or worried

If something is making you, or a friend, unhappy, a quiet talk with your Form Tutor or Progress Leader will help sort things out. If you have any worries, do not hesitate to tell any teacher or friend. At Hillside, any teacher or other adult can be approached if you have a problem. You can also talk to the Prefects.

## Problems with classwork or homework

If at any time you do not understand the work being given to you in class or do not understand the homework set, go and talk to your teacher either before you leave the class or later in the day. Your teachers will always be pleased to help you.

## Most important

For safety reasons you must not under any circumstances leave the school premises during morning or afternoon sessions without permission from the Year 7 Progress Leader and your parents/guardians. No Hillside pupils may leave the premises at lunchtime to go to local shops or their friends' houses.



# Who can help?

At Hillside we have a team of staff who are here to help you with all aspects of school life. We understand that sometimes things can happen outside of school that can make learning and concentrating in school a bit harder so we have that covered as well. We all need a little help from time to time and it is important that if you need any extra help that you know who to ask.

Who is who? The Progress Leader for Year 7 is Mrs Harper (see page 4).



**Mrs Banks**  
**Pupil Support**

Mrs Banks is based in Pupil Support and is on hand to help any pupil who may feel unwell. She leads on first aid and care plans for individual pupils. Mrs Banks is always

available to support any pupil and their family. In addition Mrs Banks is also safeguarding trained.



**Mrs McGing**  
**Designated Safeguarding Lead**

Mrs McGing is our school's Designated Lead for safeguarding, she also supports pupils and families who may need support in a number of areas in relation to

issues both in and out of school.



**Miss Sheils**  
**Designated Safeguarding Lead**

Miss Sheils is our school's Designated Lead for safeguarding, she also supports pupils and families who may need support in a number of areas in relation to

issues both in and out of school.



**Mrs Woodhall**  
**Reception**

Mrs Woodhall is the school receptionist at Hillside, she is often the first person visitors to our school

meet and will be happy to help your parents in any way that she can.



**Miss Mason**  
**Reception**

Miss Mason is also a receptionist at Hillside and will help you and your parents in any way she can.

Miss Mason also records pupils who are late in to school.

Miss Mason produces the weekly newsletter in our school.



**Miss Tarnowska**  
**Higher Level Teaching Assistant**

Miss Tarnowska is a Higher-Level Teaching Assistant who works directly with our

pupils for whom English is an additional language. Miss Tarnowska not only supports our EAL learners with their English language acquisition but also supports them in navigating our school, our community and the UK.



**Miss Rourke**  
**Higher Level Teaching Assistant**

Miss Rourke is a Higher-Level Teaching Assistant and our Wellbeing Hub Co-

ordinator. Our Wellbeing Hub is a space to support young people with their mental health and those who need additional tuition. If you feel you need someone to talk to you can request to speak to someone in our Wellbeing Hub by talking to your Progress Leader.

## Prefects

I am extremely proud to share with you the Prefect team. You will easily be able to recognise these Prefects as they wear red ties, and have red badges on their blazers. Our Prefects exemplify the very best of our pupils and consistently show the high standards that we expect from everyone at Hillside in terms of attendance, punctuality, uniform, 'Essential 8' and demonstrating the Hillside Way. I hope that you all strive to be a Prefect in the future.

Can I thank these young people for the contribution they make to our school each and every day.



## Head Pupils

I am delighted to formally introduce our Head Pupils, Jack Vaughan, Tilly Wallace and Jack Gee who support me and the Leadership Team in leading our school.

## Young Interpreters

At Hillside we are very proud to have a cohort of 18 pupils in Year 9 and 10 who have successfully completed the Young Interpreters training. They are trained with the skills needed to support pupils who arrive at Hillside from different countries with little to no English.



Our trained Young Interpreters help newly-arrived pupils feel welcome and settled in their new school environment which can often be a very daunting prospect for pupils from a different country as it can be a very different experience to what they are used to. The scheme also develops the confidence, communication and leadership skills of the Young Interpreters. It's a way of valuing multilingualism whilst acknowledging and celebrating the skills of their learners.

Young Interpreters can be speakers of English only or speakers of other languages. Together they use a range of inventive ideas modelled during their training to communicate with their new classmates. Our Young Interpreters have already set to work as they have supported several new arrivals from countries such as India and Ukraine.

We are always looking for new pupils to join our Young Interpreters team so if you are interested in multilingualism and feel passionate about making a difference to the wellbeing and happiness of new arrivals, then express an interest to Ms Collins or Miss Tarnowska!



# Timetable

This is a sample timetable.

	08.30 – 9.00	Lesson 1 9.00 – 10.00	Lesson 2 10.00 – 10.30	10.30 to 10.45	Lesson 2 10.45 – 11.15	Lesson 3 11.15 – 12.15	Lesson 4 12.15 – 12.45	12.45 to 1.15	Lesson 4 1.15 – 1.45	Lesson 5 1.45 – 2.45
<b>Monday</b>	Registration in form	English GW Room 5	Science SC Room 41	Break	Science SC Room 41	PE SAC SH1	Maths HT Room 46	Lunch	Maths HT Room 46	Spanish LC Room 31
<b>Tuesday</b>	Registration in form	Art LW Room 35	English GW Room 5	Break	English GW Room 5	English GW Room 5	Geography NK Room 15	Lunch	Geography NK Room 15	History LR Room 10
<b>Wednesday</b>	Registration in form	Spanish LC Room 31	Maths HT Room 46	Break	Maths HT Room 46	Geography NK Room 15	R.S. RA Room 15	Lunch	R.S. RA Room 15	Science SC Room 39
<b>Thursday</b>	Registration in form	Science SC Room 41	Comp. Sc. DH Room 23	Break	Comp. Sc. DH Room 23	Music JM Room 18	PE SAC SH1	Lunch	PE SAC SH1	English GW Room 5
<b>Friday</b>	Registration in form	History LR Room 10	Design Tech. ML Room 14	Break	Design Tech. ML Room 14	Maths HT Room 46	Drama LB Room 13	Lunch	Drama LB Room 13	Maths HT Room 46

# Homework – Year 7

At Hillside we are determined to raise achievement and expectations among all our pupils. High quality teaching and learning is critical to pupil’s progress, and appropriately challenging and purposeful homework is a key support to the learning carried out in the classroom. Homework refers to any work or activities which pupils are asked or encouraged to do outside lesson time, either independently or with other adults or pupils. It is important in raising pupil achievement. Not all homework is done at home; in fact, for some pupils who find it hard to work at home, or for some tasks which may require resources (books, software, equipment) more readily available at school, it is necessary or desirable to carry out the task at school. Homework enhances pupil learning, improves achievement and develops pupils study skills and as such is an integral part of the curriculum.

You will receive regular homework from your teachers which will reinforce the learning that has taken place in class.

‘Forgetting’ is a problem we all have as humans! It is the way our brain is built. Regular retrieval and revisiting of core content, helps you remember more.

The majority of homework will be set on one of online platforms. These platforms allow teachers and parents to track the completion of homework. You will also be expected to read regularly at home and engage with your Knowledge Organisers, sharing these with your parents/guardians is a good idea.

During your first week at Hillside you will receive your login details for our online homework platforms.

Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday / Weekend
<b>Subject 1</b>	<b>Science – RCWC</b>	<b>Geography - Seneca</b>	<b>English - Bedrock</b>	<b>History - Seneca</b>	<b>English - Bedrock</b>
<b>Subject 2</b>	<b>Maths - Sparx</b>	<b>Reading - Reading (School or other reading book)</b>	<b>Spanish – Language Gym / RCWC</b>	<b>Reading – Reading (School or other reading book)</b>	<b>Maths - Sparx</b>
<b>Reading</b>	<b>Bedtime Reading (at least 10 mins)</b>	<b>Bedtime Reading (at least 10 mins)</b>	<b>Bedtime Reading (at least 10 mins)</b>	<b>Bedtime Reading (at least 10 mins)</b>	<b>Bedtime Reading (at least 10 mins)</b>
<b>Year 7 (Time)</b>	20 mins (each subject)	20 mins (each subject)	20 mins (each subject)	20 mins (each subject)	20 mins (each subject)

# Arrival, Break and Lunchtime arrangements

## Arrival

You should aim to arrive in school by 8.20am. When you arrive, you should go straight to the backyard where you will be met by senior staff who will welcome you into school. Once in school you should go to your Form Room and stay in there.

School starts at 8.30am so it is imperative you are in school at 8.20am. If you are late you must sign in at reception.

## Punctuality

If you are late to school after 8.30am, you will have to enter school through the front doors and sign in at the front office. You will receive a 10 minutes late detention which will be taken at morning break on that day. If you fail to attend your detention you will receive a 1 hour detention on Friday after school. If you fail to attend your upscaled Friday detention you will receive a 90 minute after school detention on the following Tuesday. Refusal or failure to attend the Tuesday upscaled detention could result in a suspension.

## Break time

There is a 15-minute break each morning from 10.30am – 10.45am, part way through Period 2. This must be taken on the school premises.

You may go to the Dining Hall for a range of hot and cold snack and drinks. They include toast, muffins and waffles.

You are also allowed to go to the Learning Resource Centre for reading, homework and to use the computers.

You must not leave the school premises for any reason at break time.

## Lunchtime

For Year 7 your lunchtime is 12.45pm to 1.15pm. You will have your lunch with your year group and no other pupils.

***At lunchtime, we operate a 'stay on site' policy. Under no circumstances may you go off school site at lunchtime.***

You are expected to stay on the premises and eat a **school lunch** or your own **packed lunch**.

## Continued...

Food is on sale in the Dining Hall: at break time and at lunch time. At Hillside we have a cashless catering system. This means that no money can be used in the dining Hall. Instead, you use your fingertips to access your account at the till. Money can be credited to your account by putting cash into the machines located either side of the foyer, by cheque to the school office or by paying online. All food, including packed lunches must be eaten in the Dining Hall.

All pupils are allowed to go into the Learning Resource Centre for reading, homework and using the computers.

Toilets should be used during break or lunchtime, not during lessons.

Times of the school day

### Morning

8:20am Arrive

8:30am Registration

9:00am P1 Lesson

10:00am P2 Lesson

10:30am Break

10:45am P2 Lesson

11:15am P3 Lesson

### Afternoon

12:15pm P4 Lesson

12:45pm Lunch

1:15pm P4 Lesson

1:45pm P5 Lesson

2:45pm End of school day

## On the corridors

We have some simple rules for moving around the school corridors.

- Walk on the left.
- Never run.
- Wear your blazer, but do not wear an outdoor coat.
- Do not eat on the corridors – you should do so in the Dining Hall.
- Line up in single file outside the classroom.

You will only be allowed to leave a lesson in exceptional circumstances. If you do ever go out on the corridor during lesson time you must have a tag signed by your teacher and you must wear your blazer.

# Literacy

Literacy underpins all our learning at Hillside High School; featuring in every lesson across school. Our literacy education is driven through our whole school 'Reading is Power' strategy. Our teachers will support and encourage you to develop transferable skills, enabling you to be an excellent communicator. Good literacy is the key to a good future: studying at college and being successful in work and life.

At Hillside we believe that:

- Strong literacy skills support your ability and skill in speaking and listening activities, being able to express your ideas and opinions fluently.
- Excellent literacy skills will enable you to read widely and access a range of learning materials in all your classes. Reading and understanding is very important in developing your potential to achieve well in all subjects. Reading a wide range of books will help you to develop opinions about issues in the world around you.
- Furthermore, strong literacy skills will help you to be a strong and effective writer: using a wider vocabulary, using a range of punctuation and spelling complex words correctly. The ability to communicate is an essential life skill.

All of your teachers will check and help you correct your spelling, grammar and punctuation, where necessary. In addition, we will give you time to proof-read and perfect your written responses.

You will be encouraged to read for pleasure. We have an excellent Learning Resource Centre (LRC) and we emphasise the importance of independent learning. We aim to inspire you to love reading, and will offer you a range of texts from across all subject areas. Last year, we are launched our reading lists that challenge you to read a wonderful fiction or non-fiction book in the Summer break and each term. Can you read them all?

The Hillside Core 5 has a focus on literacy, all lessons will include "word rich" activities were teachers in all subject areas will work to improve your understanding of important academic vocabulary.

**Please look on our website for more information on how we can support you with literacy at home**



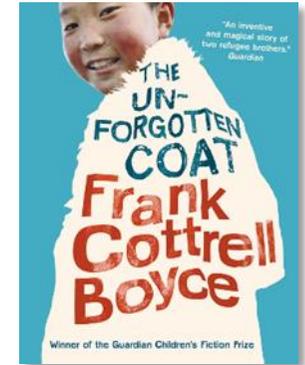
# Reading is Power

At Hillside we prioritise reading through our whole school Reading is Power Framework. This means that we expect you to be taught reading through every element of our curriculum. This includes form time, all subjects and additional opportunities at break, lunch and after school.

*Reading regularly is invaluable for personal growth and also academic success.*

*Reading expands vocabulary, enhances critical thinking skills and fosters creativity*

You will have a form novel that you read with your form tutor during Register and Read. Your first form novel will be *The Unforgotten Coat* by Frank Cottrell-Boyce.



Hillside High School  
Established in the Heart of the Community  
READING IS POWER

**2024-2025**  
**READING IS POWER**  
The BIG reading list

We reward great readers!

Reading is important, because if you can read, you can learn anything about everything and everything about anything.  
Tomie DePaola

MEMBER OF THE WADE DEACON TRUST  
EXCELLENCE IN THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

You will also be part of our BIG reading challenge. Here you can see our BIG reading list, this is our school reading challenge. You will be provided with your first book *The Race* by Roy Peachey. If you complete the challenge and return your Reading Guide signed in September you will receive Term 1 BIG read for free!

Here you can see the Year 7 BIG reading list for next year. There are special rewards for all those who complete the termly challenge.

**YEAR 7 READING LIST**

ROY PERCHEV  
**THE RACE**

Summer Holiday Read:  
The Race, Roy Peachey

Term 1 Read:  
The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe,  
C. S. Lewis

Term 2 Read:  
Kay's Anatomy, Adam Kay

Term 3 Read:  
The Secret Garden, Frances Hodgson  
Burnett

HILLSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

# Numeracy

At Hillside we place an extremely high value on the delivery of numeracy for all our pupils. Being numerate is essential for all pupils enabling you to access several key areas of the curriculum, and for day to day life in the world outside school. Strong numeracy skills are key for life and for securing the best college places and workplace opportunities.

Numeracy is a life skill. Being numerate goes beyond simply 'doing sums'; it means having the confidence and competence to use numbers and think mathematically in everyday life. Here are some examples of what we mean by numeracy:

- Being able to manage family budgets – credit cards, offers at supermarkets etc.
- Being able to estimate – in all kinds of situations, e.g. journey speed, time and distance, roughly how much a bill will be or your expected bank balance at the end of the month.

In order to give you the best possible chances to develop strong numeracy skills we aim to develop and improve standards of numeracy through providing models and opportunities for you to practise using number in a range of lessons; not just mathematics.

## **In lessons**

Teachers will plan to develop and improve standards of numeracy through providing good models and opportunities for you to practise your skills. You will be expected and encouraged to use a range of mental mathematics strategies to answer simple questions outside of mathematics lessons. Where more complex calculations are needed, you will be expected to clearly show each stage of the working out leading to the final answer.

## **At home**

In Year 7, you will be expected to access Sparx maths each week to improve fluency and retention.

During your time in school so far you will have spent a significant amount of time going over your times tables and this is something that we continue through Key Stage 3 using SPARX. You are expected to access SPARX each week to continue to practise your maths.

This little-and-often approach using SPARX, supports the research that constant revisiting of topics ensures that your numeracy skills and fluency are retained over time.

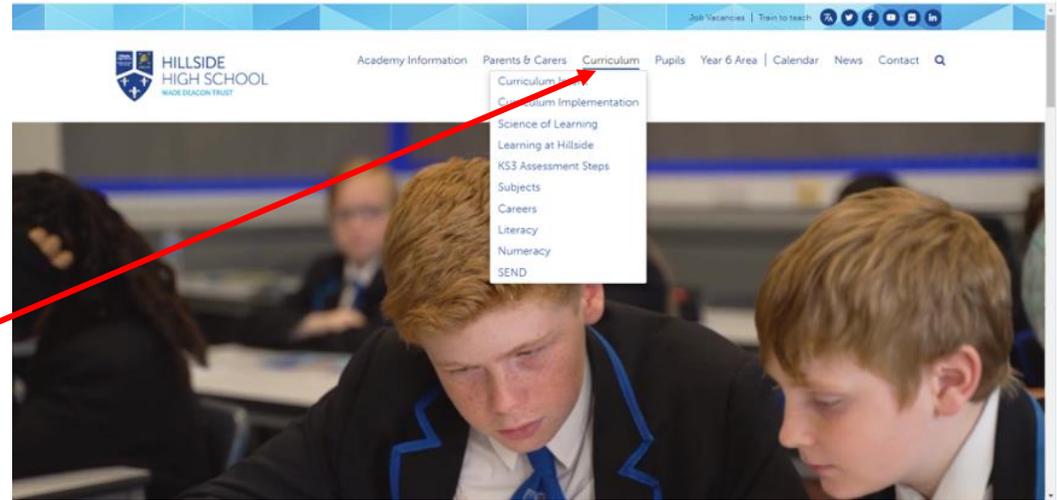
**Please look on our website for more information on how we can support you with maths at home.**

# Curriculum

In Year 7 you will study the following subjects:

English; Maths; Science; Modern Foreign Languages; Art; Drama; Music; History; Geography; Computer Science; Technology; PE.

We study the National Curriculum and beyond. You can find out more about what you will be studying in each subject area by looking on our website [www.hillsidehigh.co.uk](http://www.hillsidehigh.co.uk)



## Curriculum Intent

If you select 'curriculum intent' you will be able to read about our whole school curriculum and why we value our three cores strands.

## Curriculum Implementation

If you select 'curriculum implementation' you can find out more about what lessons will look and feel like. All lessons are planned and delivered in accordance with our Hillside Core 5.

## Science of Learning

It is very important to us that our pupils understand the process of learning. Understanding how your brain works can then help you to improve the quality of your learning and make better progress. You can find out more by clicking on 'science of learning'.

## Learning at Hillside

Or you can click 'Learning at Hillside' to watch a video of what learning is all about at our school.

For each subject we provide a curriculum overview of the year ahead and also you can read about the core knowledge you must attain for each unit of work. We encourage you to read ahead to find out more about the core knowledge you will learn about in your lessons.

## Subjects

When you scroll to the bottom of the page you will see links to the 'Learning Journey', this is the curriculum overview for the year ahead.

Then you can click on the Journey of Knowledge to find out the core knowledge to be learnt in each unit of work.

# Knowledge Organisers

## What is a Knowledge Organiser?

A knowledge organiser is a document which sets out the important, useful and powerful knowledge on a topic. This is presented in a way which is designed in a way to improve pupils recall. With the content demands of GCSE courses we must ensure that we have a knowledge rich curriculum which spans across pupils five years of education.

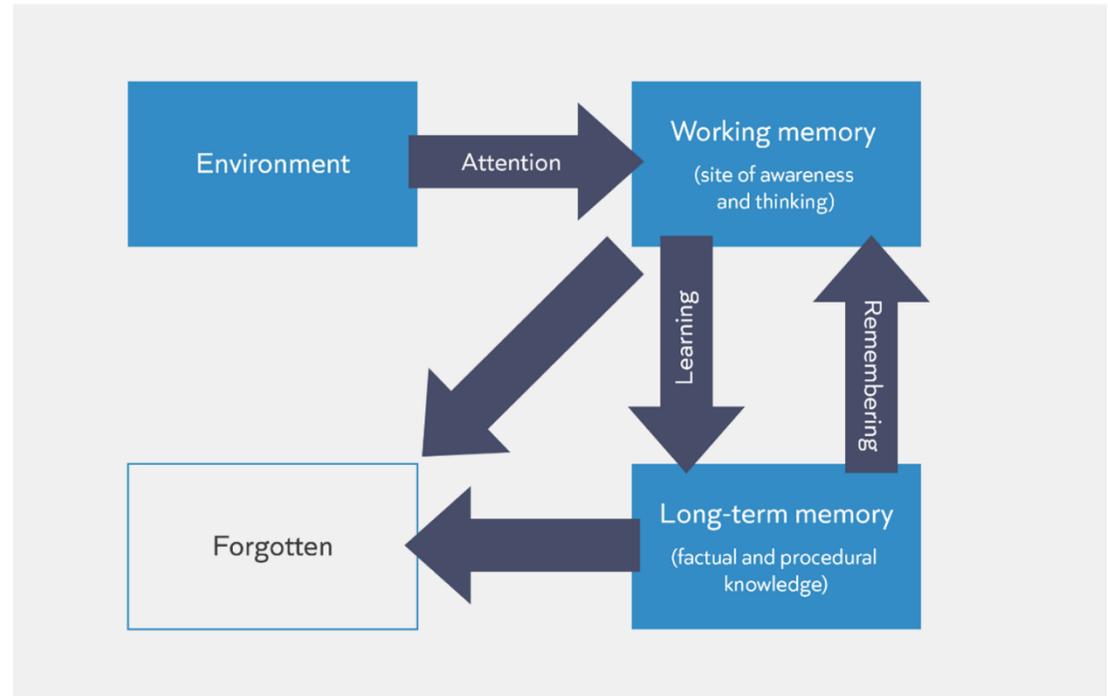
## What is the purpose of a Knowledge Organiser?

For pupils to succeed in a particular area, they must have a foundation of core knowledge. They must be able to understand the core knowledge, recall this and subsequently apply this. Knowledge Organisers are a way to enable pupils to achieve this, evidence has shown that they are far more impactful in improving memory than traditional revision guides and text books.

Memorising knowledge is crucial. Our brain works by using our working memory before we store information in our long term memory. Our working memory is very limited but our long term memory is not. For pupils to be successful we need to store as much knowledge as possible in our long term memory. This means our working memory has space to learn and process new knowledge.

## What should you do with your knowledge organiser?

You will be provided with a Knowledge Organiser booklet for each term. You will be expected to bring this to school every day to use in your lessons. Your teachers will incorporate the Knowledge Organisers into lesson activities and will help you learn how to improve your recall. These activities may look different for different subjects. You will also be taught strategies that you can use at home to improve recall and maximise the use of your Knowledge Organiser. It is important that you regularly share your Knowledge Organisers with your parents or guardians at home as they will be really interested in what you are learning about and it will help them to support you even better in your learning.



# Subjects you will study in your first year

## English

English is very exciting at Hillside; we love reading and writing and we want you to love them too. During your time at our school, you will become expert readers and writers, and be confident to speak in a variety of situations.

As well as creating and crafting your own stories, you will read an exciting novel, an entertaining comedy by Shakespeare, and study superb sonnets. Not only do we read fascinating fiction, we also read and study non-fiction, discovering fascinating locations around the globe and learning how rhetoric can change the world. In each of our units, you will be challenged to develop your narrative and non-fiction writing.

In addition, Mrs Rice will welcome you to our library and Learning Resource Centre where you can develop your learning further. The library has a wide selection of fiction and non-fiction books for you to borrow and enjoy at home. A variety of after school clubs take place in the LRC as well, so there is never a dull moment at Hillside!



# Mathematics

In Year 7 you will work on topics in five areas:

1. Number
2. Data Handling
3. Algebra
4. Ratio & Proportion
5. Geometry & Measure

Each topic has a specific career linked to it so that you can see how the mathematics skills we look at could be important later in life.

Your work in mathematics will be varied and you will be given opportunities to take a hands-on approach to your learning, for example using individual work, group work, investigations and practical work/computer work. We use interactive whiteboards in every lesson and you will be encouraged to participate in every aspect of their learning. We have mini whiteboards in every classroom and many interactive games to make mathematics fun.

In Year 7 you will start work on a Key Stage 3 curriculum that incorporates topics studied in primary school but in more depth along with new topics that you will develop through your 5 years at Hillside.

We use SPARX Maths during lessons and as additional work to improve mathematical understanding and to support classwork outside lesson hours.

Assessment throughout the year will take the form of end of unit review sheets (also known as MAP's), maths quizzes and formal examinations in each pathway to success. In the mathematics department, we monitor progress very carefully to ensure that you make expected progress or better, and put support in place for those of you who need it.



## Science

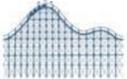
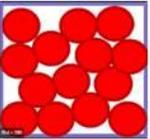
The main aim of the Science department is to support you in becoming successful learners who enjoy science, make good progress and achieve your full potential.

We aim to:

- Provide a curriculum which you can access and allows you to make good progress.
- Inspire you by making you aware of the relevance of scientific ideas

In Year 7, the curriculum is carefully sequenced to allow you to develop your knowledge and understanding through a range of exciting and stimulating learning activities and develop the foundations and explore the big ideas in science.

In Year 7 you will study the following topics:

Atoms, Elements, Compounds 	Forces 	Energy Stores 	Particle Model 	Cells 	Movement 	Separating Mixtures 	Human Reproduction 	Plant reproduction 
---	---	--	---	--	---	---	--	--

Throughout the year you will be provided with a range of opportunities to develop practical skills as well as literacy and numeracy skills. You will be assessed on each topic throughout the year and this will be followed by acceleration. You must also complete homework tasks which will be set by your teacher based on the journey of knowledge set out for each unit.

You may find the following websites useful over the summer to start preparing for your Year 7 Science lessons:

<https://classroom.thenational.academy/subjects-by-key-stage/key-stage-3/subjects/science>

[www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zng4d2p](http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zng4d2p)

<https://www.educationquizzes.com/ks3/science>

[www.ntsscience.co.uk/powerpoint/index.html](http://www.ntsscience.co.uk/powerpoint/index.html)

<https://www.dontstoplearning.com/ks3science/contents.htm>

We look forward to meeting you in September and welcoming you into the world of Science.



## Drama

Drama is taught throughout Years 7, 8 and 9 with the option to study at GCSE level in Years 10 and 11.

In Year 7 the emphasis is on activities designed to build confidence and improve communication skills. The interactive nature of the lessons helps to ease the transition from primary school and enables you to develop relationships more easily.

Drama lessons are active and cover a wide range of theatre skills throughout Key Stage 3. You will learn about different forms of theatre including: improvisation, script, mime and mask. Our aim is to encourage skills in teamwork, communication and literacy which will prove invaluable in other aspects of school life.

Above all, drama lessons promote an atmosphere of self-respect, raise self-esteem and combine a comfortable learning environment with an element of fun.

In order to attain maximum benefit, you are required to wear drama kit (see page 15).

We encourage you to enjoy live theatre and offer you the opportunity to attend extra-curricular theatre trips throughout the year.



## Music

All pupils in Years 7, 8 & 9 receive an hour's whole class music lesson every week during which you will have the opportunity to begin to learn to play a range of instruments including: violin, guitar, ukulele, singing, & piano. We that hope you will enjoy listening to music and making music with other pupils.

You will also be given the opportunity to learn about different styles of music from other cultures, such as African drumming and Brazilian Samba.

You will be offered the chance to learn an orchestral instrument such as: the trumpet, trombone, flute, saxophone, clarinet, cello, double bass, viola and the violin, with the opportunity to develop new skills with our Hillside Ensemble. Or, you could take the opportunity to learn guitar, bass guitar or drums and study rock & pop music.

Our team of Peripatetic Music Teachers are highly experienced professional musicians who will guide your progress from beginner to Grade 8 success.

At Hillside we provide free instrumental lessons for those of you that choose to learn an instrument. We also have a stock of instruments that we will lend to you when you begin your musical studies.

You are encouraged to develop your musical skills further by accessing the ABRSM & Trinity graded exams.

Making music is the key aim at Hillside and we aim to help you to learn about music and to appreciate music by playing music.

## History

During your time here at Hillside you will gain a broad knowledge including local, national and international history which spans from the Byzantine era through to present day. You will study key themes such as the religious and political changes that have taken place, along with economic and social history. By the time you leave you should have a broad understanding of how and why Britain and the wider world have developed over the last 1000 years thinking about key second order concepts such as cause, consequence, significance, change and continuity and what these changes have meant for you as individuals and as part of wider society. You will have a clear understanding of what human rights, equality, freedom and democracy are, and how these concepts have changed over time including the impact this has had on the way we live today. You should be able to draw comparisons between the past and the present and identify the reasons for change and how the time period you're studying is similar or different from today.

The Year 7 course is divided into 3 parts:

- The Byzantine Empire.
- Medieval England from 1066.
- Tudor England.

In the history department we believe that you learn from investigating the past in pro- active ways. These include handling and assessing real historical artefacts, day trips and going on exciting and interesting trips abroad. For example, Year 8 have been to the International Slavery Museum and taken part in an artefacts workshop and we are planning a trip to the Medieval monastery Norton Priory in Runcorn to support the Year 7 curriculum. At KS4 we are hoping that Year 10 and 11 will have the opportunity to visit the First World War Battlefields to support their GCSE studies!



## Geography

Did you know that you live in one of the most geographically blessed places in the UK? Our geography curriculum at Hillside will inspire you to become fascinated about the physical and human geography around your city, your country and across the world. In geography, you will embed your map skills, using both the traditional Ordnance Survey maps of our local area, and the modern technology available through Google Earth and Google Street View. You will study a wide range of units including the study of Liverpool, rivers, the continent of Africa and ending the year exploring development in the continent of Asia. Throughout the units, you will discover where geography can take you; this will focus not only on travel but also on the possible careers following the study of geography.



## Religious Studies

The UK is a diverse country in which many interesting cultures and beliefs co-exist. Your Religious Studies (RS) lesson is a time in which you will be given the opportunity to explore the beliefs of others and develop your own opinions on current issues and “ultimate questions”. We will show you how to approach RS through the different lenses of theology, sociology and philosophy. We teach religions from both Eastern and Western cultures and our lessons on ethics will help you with the decision-making skills needed in adult life. We encourage you to think about ideas and beliefs about other people from around the world to broaden your cultural awareness and become more accepting of others. This will allow you to make a caring contribution to your local community, school and home life.

During your time at Hillside, you will be given the opportunity to participate in fundraising activities for local and global charities such as Trussell Trust and Christian Aid. You will also be given the option to visit local places of worship and to hear guest speakers from all walks of life; this will enrich your understanding of our community.

## Personal Development

This subject is one which we are sure that you will find interesting, helpful and enjoyable.

To begin with, Personal Development lessons will help you to settle into the school. You will learn how to deal with problems you may meet in your new school and how to cope with homework and examinations.

After this you will actively learn about:

- Health and Wellbeing.
- Staying Safe.
- Financial Education.
- Careers.
- Families.
- Relationships Education.
- Equality and Diversity.
- Citizenship and British Values.

Personal Development lessons are designed to help you get the most out of your stay at Hillside and they will prepare you for adult life. You will have one Personal Development lesson every two weeks delivered by one of our Personal Development teachers.



## Art

We aim to develop your enjoyment of art and build confidence in your artistic skills. We believe Art in Hillside positively encourages self-expression and your passionate teachers will help you harness this to create a unique and broad range of work. We are very proud of our pupils and the work they produce, and this is evident on the walls of our Art rooms.

Our schemes for learning offer a personalised approach to your learning which allows you to enjoy, achieve and make progress. We use a range of different artists, craftspeople and architects to inspire your projects.

Hillside's Art and Design department encourages: skills-based learning, high standards, patience, creativity, organisation, research skills and independent learning; skills we believe are transferable and will help to enrich your wider life.

In Year 7 we build on the art skills learnt in primary school, providing a sound basis for future progress and attainment. We encourage you to experiment with a broad range of skills, materials and techniques as early as possible so that you are confident in these skills and therefore will achieve and succeed. A broad and varied range of skills are taught at KS3 including: introduction to formal elements, drawing, painting, print making, collage, artist research, textiles, 3D design and ICT. You will work creatively on composition boards and complete final responses to each of the projects studied throughout the year.

We offer after school clubs and activities and promote pupils work by showcasing 'Artist of the month' at Key Stage 3. We work with visiting artists, encourage cross curricular projects and regularly enter pupils into Art competitions.

The Art rooms are open at certain times after school for you to work on class projects and homework to develop your skills and enjoyment of the subject further.



## Computer Science

In your first computer Science lesson you will be given your own Office 365 account. This account will give you access to all office software including Teams, Word, PowerPoint, Excel and many more. This will allow you to complete work in school and at home, on any device. You will also be given your own school email account which will allow you to communicate with teachers and other pupils.

In Year 7 you will learn about how to stay safe online, on social media and whilst gaming. You will also learn how to use office software effectively and securely.

You will also learn about how computers are made and will get the chance to take apart and build your own PC.

You will learn Computational Thinking skills which will enable you to think like a computer programmer to solve real life problems. You will learn vital programming skills in Year 7 which will allow you to get hands on and switch from being users of digital technology to being creators and designers. In your Computer Science lessons, we will use software such as Scratch, Micro-Bits and Python to practice your programming skills.

Finally, enterprise and being creative is another important topic and during your Computer Science lessons you will learn about the world of business and will be given opportunities to develop your creative skills through various business focused projects using ICT skills.



## Technology

Design and Technology is about designing and making products, using different materials and production processes.

At Hillside, you will have the opportunity to work with food, construction materials, electronics, graphics and information systems including the use of computers and computer aided design software. You will learn how to work through the “Design Process” using interactive design and problem solving. This includes:

- Identify a problem.
- Find a solution to the problem through design.
- Planning and making that solution.
- Testing it!

The main aim of Hillside's Technology department is to develop your skills and knowledge. We want you to enhance your ability to produce well informed design ideas in an ever-changing technological world. Our team strives to:

- To prepare you for life in ever changing technological society; ensuring that you are equipped with the cognitive and practical skills required.
- To develop your skills as problem solvers, either individually or as part of a team.
- To teach you how to use various methods of communicating design ideas and making quality products. Therefore, developing skills, knowledge and understanding.
- To make Design & Technology accessible to everyone of all abilities.

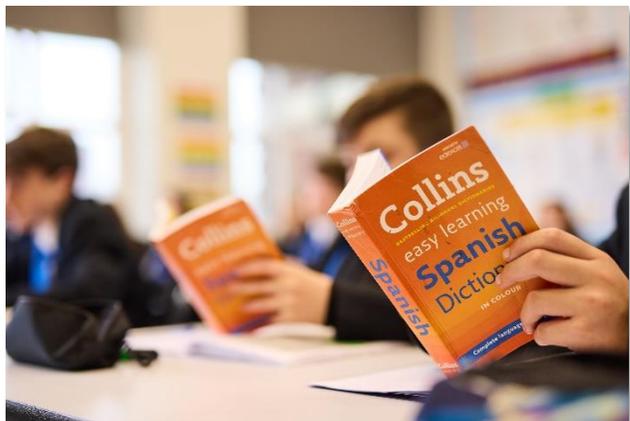
Our curriculum has been designed sequentially to allow you to develop your learning and thinking skills effectively and be able to retrieve information in different contexts. In Year seven you will develop a good understanding of the key concepts in Technology, which you will further develop in years eight and nine. Through a series of learning activities, including practical sessions using tools and equipment, you will consolidate your knowledge with the development of skills.

Design Technology allows you to study the different areas of D&T holistically and focuses on mastery of skills. The projects featured in these areas offer you an insight into the design process and how to plan, design and make a product successfully using the iterative process.

Some topics include:

- Health and safety.
- Designing for consumer needs.
- Marketing.
- Iterative design.
- Packaging.
- Environment and sustainability.





## Modern Foreign Languages

At Hillside we are very proud to offer every pupil in Key Stage 3 the opportunity to study Spanish. The engaging KS3 curriculum enables you to develop practical language skills whilst learning about the culture and history of the Spanish-speaking world. We also run various trips such as visiting an authentic Spanish restaurant to try tapas and university experience days. You have the chance to put into practice what they have learned by conversing with the waiters in Spanish.

In Year 10 you will have the opportunity to begin the GCSE Spanish course. The GCSE course provides the grounding for you to go on and study A Level Spanish. We study a wide range of interesting topics such as entertainment and leisure, food and drink, social issues and the festivals and traditions of the Spanish-speaking world. The enriching curriculum at KS4 allows you to explore authentic literary texts, Spanish music and films.

MFL provides a wide range of enrichment activities which aim to broaden your knowledge of the wider world and supports you in developing important life skills. We have grammar clinics in the morning in KS4 focusing on the key skills for GCSE. Furthermore, as part of your enrichment, we also invite guest speakers from universities to highlight the advantages of learning a foreign language. You also have the chance to hear from people who have a career in languages and learn about the opportunities it brings.

## Physical Education

During Year 7 you will experience all areas of the National Curriculum for PE. You will have two lessons of PE a week; one lesson which will focus on skills in sports such as: basketball, netball, athletics, handball, cricket and rounders. The second lesson of the week will be a fitness-based lesson seeking to develop pupils health and wellbeing, which will focus on activities such as: circuit training, cross country running, dance, coordination and problem-solving skills. Athletics will take over from fitness lessons during the second half of the Spring Term and into the Summer Term. You will be assessed throughout the year using our own in-house system called 'Me in PE.' Through 'Me in PE', your PE teacher will assess your ability across a range of areas within Physical Education - Skill, Fitness, Decision-making, Teamwork and Mindset.

There are a range of after-school clubs available throughout the year and regular fixtures and competitions with other schools.

Hillside pupils regularly attend additional PE workshops and also perform in our own Sports Day, Bootle Athletics, Sefton Athletics and our extensive extra curricular offer run by all members of the PE staff.

In addition, you will also have the opportunity to participate in activities at lunchtimes too through 'active lunch'.



## The Learning Resource Centre

Our LRC is a place for quiet study, reading and research. It is open to pupils and staff, every day from 8:00am to 3:30pm. We have a morning LRC club from 8:00am to 8:30am and an afternoon LRC club from 2.45pm – 3.30pm during the after school sessions we offer a range of activities including; crochet; homework club; reading groups and our popular Friday night games club.

Alongside an extensive stock of fiction and non-fiction books, Kindle e-readers and audio books, there are 10 computers available for you to carry out research or complete homework.

The LRC is open to pupils at break and lunchtime to all year groups for independent study and reading. Books may be borrowed at these times too.

The LRC is used by the English department for lessons and intervention lessons throughout the school day and you will be encouraged to borrow a book during these sessions.

## Careers Information

At Hillside, we will give you a wide range of information about careers and future pathways beginning in Year 7 through the Personal Development curriculum and also through your different subjects.

Our careers adviser, Mr Peace, is available in school one day a week. All pupils will have an appointment with our Careers Advisor when they are in Years 10 and 11 however, you can pop in and chat about careers with Mr Peace at break and lunch times in the T&L Base.

Our Careers Lead, Mr Haygarth will organise lots of events and activities which will help inspire you about your future.

At Hillside High School we hold regular careers events for all pupils including Year 7 such as our careers fair in which you will find out lots of information about your future and meet employers from lots of different careers. This gives you a wealth of additional information and guidance. In Year 7 you will also be involved in trips and activities which will show you the different careers and pathways open to you when you leave school.



**Mr Haygarth**  
**AAVP & Careers Lead**



**Mr Peace**  
**Careers Advisor**

# Clubs and activities

There is a wide range of club activities that you can join in school. Most activities take place after school. You will have the opportunity to get involved in lots of different activities. These include:

**LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE** Before school, after school, break and lunch you can access the LRC study club to continue with your learning or enjoy reading. Our LRC is a real hub of learning and each night after school you will also find a tutor on hand to help you with your homework.

**ART CLUB** In Art club, you are encouraged to explore different media and develop your skills by exploring possibilities and refining your artwork in order to realise an idea.

**COMPUTING / CODING CLUB** Computing club provides a great opportunity for you to further develop coding skills using a range of software including scratch, Kodu and Python. There are opportunities after school to use a wide range of computer programs. Last year pupils used this opportunity to test retro games and to design and program their own games.

**DANCE CLUB** At Hillside, dance is a very popular extra-curricular activity. We run a dance club every week that caters for both boys and girls allowing you the opportunity to perform at the 'Wally Cain Dance Festival,' school events and other projects that we run during the year. We also organise dance workshops and dance trips.

**DRAMA CLUB** Drama is another popular extra-curricular activity, with pupils working towards a number of performances throughout the school year including; Remembrance Evening, Nativity performance and our end of year musical.

**DT CLUB** In DT club, you will be encouraged to build on your manufacturing skills and work on a skills passport enabling you to become mini masters within lessons.

**GEOGRAPHY CLUB** Looking at issues around sustainability, geographical issues from around the world and a cinema club!

**HISTORY CLUB** Investigating historical events outside of the curriculum such as the sinking of the Titanic, murder mysteries and local history studies.

**MATHS CLUB** Come along for a game of chess or to play darts.

**MFL** Spanish Film Club. KS3 Language Gym Club.

**MUSIC CLUB** Various musical activities are available after school which will give you the opportunity to learn new instruments or to carry on playing instruments already learnt. You can join the Guitar Group, the Keyboard Club, or the Drumming Group.

**SPORTS CLUB** These include: football, badminton, rugby, netball, basketball, dance, cricket, rounders and table tennis. All pupils are welcome.

**At Hillside we are always keen to listen to your opinion. If you have ideas or suggestions for a club or activity then please let your Form Tutor or the School Council Representative know.**

# Every day before coming to school check

- 1) Are you in the correct uniform?
- 2) Have you packed your bag properly?

Does it contain?

- ✓ Essential 8 (see page 9)
- ✓ Completed homework
- ✓ Knowledge Organiser

Have you:

- ✓ Credited your personal account, or
- ✓ Got your packed lunch?

- 3) If you have been absent, have you remembered your note explaining your absence?

## One final point

Don't forget, we are all here to help you and to make sure that you are happy and successful at Hillside. For your part, you must be in school every day, on time, work hard and take full advantage of all the opportunities available here. By doing this you will achieve "Excellence in the Heart of the Community".

We look forward to seeing you on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024 at 8.20am**

# What happens if the fire alarm sounds?

Here is our “Fire Drill”. It is posted up in every classroom.

On hearing the FIRE ALARM, stop working. On the wall by the door in every classroom there are instructions about which way to go out of the building. This will be your nearest exit; your teacher will remind you about this. Also, when you go out of your classroom door you will see a **green** arrow.

FOLLOW THE DIRECTION OF THE ARROW

When instructed:

- 1) STAND BY YOUR CHAIR
- 2) WALK IN SINGLE FILE OUT OF THE ROOM AND THE BUILDING
- 3) GO TO SOUTHPORT ROAD PLAYGROUND
- 4) LINE UP BY YOUR FIRE POINT NUMBER IN REGISTER ORDER. THE NUMBER IS ON YOUR REGISTER
- 5) KEEP QUIET AND LISTEN TO INSTRUCTIONS

Any pupil found to have wilfully set off the fire alarm will face serious disciplinary consequences.

Every term we practise what to do if the fire alarm sounds so please don't worry.

At least once a year we also practice our ‘Lockdown’ procedure, again this is nothing to worry about and your teachers will reassure you at the time. They will explain to you how you will know if we are in ‘Lockdown’ and what you should do, be this in lesson time or break and lunch times.

# Teaching Staff

Mrs A. Ryan	Principal	AR
Mr M. Edwards	Vice Principal	ME
Mrs S. Wardale	Vice Principal	SWa
Mr M. Campbell	Assistant Vice Principal	MCA
Miss L. Collins	Assistant Vice Principal, Subject Leader, MFL and Personal Development	LC
Mrs A. Jones	Assistant Vice Principal	AJ
Miss R. O'Hara	Assistant Vice Principal, Subject Leader, Maths	ROH
Mr D. Haygarth	Associate Assistant Vice Principal, Subject Leader, Computer Science and Business Studies, Careers Lead	DH
Mrs R. Miller	Associate Assistant Vice Principal, SENCo	RM
Mr L. Rayson	Associate Assistant Vice Principal, Subject Leader, Humanities	LR
Miss K. Barrow-Higgins	Associate Assistant Vice Principal, Lead Practitioner, Maths	KBH
Ms R. Ashraf	History, Religious Studies and Personal Development	RA
Miss S. Austin	Physical Education and Dance	SA
Miss E. Bell	History and Religious Studies	EB
Miss L. Brown	Subject Leader, Drama	LB
Miss R. Christian	Maths	RLC
Mr S. Clarke	Subject Leader, Physical Education	SAC
Mrs T. Clarke	Modern Foreign Languages	TC
Mrs J. Cleave	Director of Maths, Wade Deacon Trust	JC
Mr S. Code	Science, Primary Enhancement Co-ordinator	SC
Mr M. Cosgrove	Spanish	MC
Miss L. Gallagher	Science (maternity leave)	LG
Miss C. Halsall	Art	CH
Mr T. Henderson	Science	TH
Mr T. Henesy	Computer Science and Business Studies	THE
Mrs M. Hind	Assistant Subject Leader, English	MH
Miss S. Kelly	Geography and maths	SKE
Mr N. Kitching	Geography	NK

## Continued...

Mr M. Lambert	Subject Leader, Art & Technology	ML
Mr J. Meakin	Music	JME
Mr O. Moore	English	OM
Miss J. Nelson	Subject Leader, Science	JN
Miss S. Owen	English and Personal Development	SO
Mrs C. Rayson	English	CR
Miss J. Rice	Early Reading	JR
Miss T. Salmon	Technology	TSA
Mr R. Seaman	Spanish	RS
Mrs C. Symes	English	CSY
Miss H. Thornton	Assistant Subject Leader, Maths	HT
Mr D. Timmons	Maths and Numeracy Lead	DT
Mr S. Wardale	Assistant Subject Leader, Science	SW
Miss G. Wharton	Science	GMW
Mr A. Wellington	Physical Education	AWE
Miss L. White	Art	LW
Miss N. Wong	Maths	NW
Miss G. Wright	Subject Leader, English	GW

## Schools Direct Trainee Teachers

Mr J. Palin	Science	JLP
-------------	---------	-----

## Academic Mentor

Mr J. Richardson		JR1
------------------	--	-----

## Support Staff

Mrs W. Banks	Pupil Support	WB
Miss V. Convey	Senior Administrator	VC
Mrs A. Ginley	Finance Manager	AGi

## Continued...

Mrs P. Keating	Reprographics Clerk	PK
Miss Z. Mason	Receptionist	ZM
Mrs N. McPoland	Finance Officer	NMc
Miss J. Mullen	Data and Examinations	JMu
Mrs A. Wharton	Data and Examinations	AW
Mrs D. Woodhall	Receptionist	DW

## Teaching Assistants

Miss C. Ellis	Teaching Assistant	CE
Miss L. Gillen	Teaching Assistant	LGi
Mrs J. Harrison	Teaching Assistant	JHa
Miss K. Harrison	Classroom Support Assistant	KH
Miss S. Jewell	Teaching Assistant	SJ
Mrs K. Lee	Classroom Support Assistant	KLE
Miss C. Mahony	Classroom Support Assistant	CM
Mrs C. McIntyre	Teaching Assistant	CMc
Mr R. Mockl	Teaching Assistant	RM
Miss B. Newsham	Teaching Assistant	BN
Mr J. Phillips	Teaching Assistant	JPH
Miss K. Rourke	Higher Level Teaching Assistant, Wellbeing Hub Co-ordinator	KRo
Miss D. Smith	Teaching Assistant	DS
Miss K. Sreekumar	EAL Teaching Assistant	KS
Miss I. Tarnowska	Higher Level Teaching Assistant, EAL Co-ordinator	IT

## Pastoral Staff

Miss V. Chialton	Attendance Officer	VCh
Miss D. Elliott	Attendance Officer	DE
Mr A. Gallagher	Inclusion Mentor	AG
Miss F. Gibbons	Assistant Progress Leader, Key Stage 3	FG
Mrs L. Harper	Progress Leader, Year 7	LHa

## Continued...

Mrs J. McCarthy	Progress Leader, Year 11	JMc
Mrs A. McGing	Home Liaison / Safeguarding	AMc
Mrs J. Phillips	Progress Leader, Year 8	JPh
Miss H. Roby	Progress Leader, Year 10	HRo
Miss C. Sheils	Home Liaison / Safeguarding	CS
Mr T. Smedley	Inclusion Manager	TS
Mrs D Wilson	Attendance Officer	DWi
Miss I. Yusuf	Progress Leader, Year 9	IY

## Curriculum Support

Miss H. Barclay	Senior Science Technician	HB
Mrs D. Hamm	Science Technician	DH1
Mr W. Thomas	Technician, ICT	WT

## Maintenance Staff

Mr C. Flynn	Site Manager / Caretaker / Maintenance Team	CF
Mr E. Quinn	Caretaker / Maintenance Team	EQ
Mr M. Tracewski	Caretaker / Maintenance Team	MT

## Kitchen Staff

Mrs K. Hankinson	Catering Manager
Miss S. Doyle	Catering Staff
Mrs D. Edwards	Catering Staff
Mrs T. Newman	Catering Staff
Mrs L. O'Brien	Catering Staff
Miss D. Power	Catering Staff
Miss G. Rawcliffe	Catering Staff
Mrs S. Seddon	Catering Staff
Mrs C. Toop	Catering Staff

**Excellence**  
in the **Heart** of the  
**Community**