



# HILLSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

WADE DEACON TRUST

EXCELLENCE IN  
THE HEART OF  
THE COMMUNITY

## Thought for the Week

There may be times  
when we are powerless  
to prevent injustice,  
but there must never  
be a time when we fail  
to protest.

Elie Wiesel

Friday 24th January 2025

### Dear Parents/Guardians,

Can I start by saying how sorry I am to our families that we had to shut school on Thursday. On Wednesday we had a burst pipe and despite every effort to repair this we were unsuccessful meaning the work had to be completed on Thursday, leaving us with no heating. Obviously at this time of year it is not feasible to open school with no heating and as always my decision was made with the best interests of our pupils and staff team in mind. As a parent myself I am acutely aware of the inconvenience a school closure has on our families. Please accept my apologies. It has been lovely to welcome everyone back in school today.

Inside this week's newsletter you will find an article about Year 11 Predictor Results Day, this is a huge day for our Year 11s and sees them collect their results for all the Predictor Exams they sat in December. It replicates the summer results day and we hope helps prepare them for the real experience. (GCSE Results Day is Thursday 21st August 2025). A massive well done to so many of the Year 11s who worked hard for these exams and achieved good results, as Mrs McCarthy says in her article there is still a lot to do before now and the final examinations which start in May.

**Amanda Ryan, Principal**

### Key Dates 2024-2025

**27th January—Year 11 Core  
Progress Meeting— POSTPONED**

**6th February—Year 9 Progress  
Evening**

**12th February—Year 11 Form  
Group Photograph's**

**7th March—Year 9, One to One  
Options Conversations with the  
Governors**

**Thursday 21st August 2025  
GCSE Results Day**

## Attendance - Let's Spring Back in January!

A massive thank you to our whole community is needed - as the latest Department for Education Attendance report for the Autumn Term shows how hard we have all worked to improve attendance! An improvement of 4% compared with this time last year may seem a small amount but in the world of attendance it is massive and will make a big difference to the life chances and outcomes of our pupils.

It is vital we keep up the good work and maintain good habits of attendance - we should be aiming for attendance above 96% all the time!

On return from the Christmas break there has been poor weather and some illness. Please remember if your child is feeling under the weather - let us know - we will keep an eye on them and if they are too poorly we will send them home. Often pupils do 'rally' after they arrive in school and make it through the day.

**Mr Edwards**



# SPRING BACK

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

#BEHERE

EXCELLENCE  
IN THE HEART  
OF THE  
COMMUNITY



admin@hillsidehigh.co.uk



0151 525 2630

## Join us for the Celebration

We are excited to bring you the delicious food menu to celebrate the arrival of the Chinese New Year, and we hope you'll join us in making this a memorable occasion for everyone. Whether you are honoring your own Chinese heritage or simply enjoying the beauty of the traditions, our menu will offer a wonderful opportunity to connect with the other pupils, learn, and share in the joy of the season.

Mark your calendars and prepare for a joyful, prosperous, and vibrant Chinese New Year!

**Chinese New Year**  
New Years Day  
**Wednesday 29th January**

**Menu**

**Monday 27th January**  
Sweet & Sour Chicken (Halal)  
Rice  
£2.03

**Wednesday 29th January**  
Chicken & Mixed Pepper in Black Bean Sauce (Halal)  
Rice  
£2.03

**Friday 31st January**  
2 Giant Spring Rolls, Deep Fried served with Sweet Chilli Sauce—Vegetarian  
£1.50

**Year of the Snake**

# 2025 YEAR OF SPOKEN WORD

**LAUNCH EVENT**  
**12PM ON SATURDAY**  
**25TH JANUARY 2025**  
**AT CENTRAL LIBRARY**  
**WILLIAM BROWN STREET L3 8EW**



Please note  
places for some activities are limited and will need to be booked on arrival  
Southport Writers Circle workshop  
The Reader shared reading

## Kingsley & Co

Kingsley and Co are the book shop at the front of the strand. We have worked with for many events in school, they play a big role in delivering this day alongside many other wonderful projects for our families to enjoy a free day out. It will be held at Central Library where people will get to take part in lots of literacy activities, story writing workshops, meet the author and watch performances and exhibitions. Would be lovely if some of our families attend and say hello to the team from Kingsley & Co.

*Ms Rice*

## Mr Webb retires!

On Tuesday we said goodbye to Ray Webb. Ray has been a Governor at Hillside since September 1998. During those 27 years he has supported the school through some significant changes. We have benefitted from Ray's wise words and guidance throughout that time and will miss him so much. Thank You Ray.





# Predictor Results Day

On Monday 20th January, Year 11 received their Predictor results from the examinations completed in December. It was lovely to see some of them so pleased with what they have achieved and whilst there are reasons to be happy there is also a lot of work to be done before their exams start in May. Pupils should be engaging in every opportunity to advance their learning by attending Period 6 and any Saturday schools available to them. A copy of the Period 6 timetable can be found below. Keep up the good work Year 11.

*Mrs McCarthy*



## SEND AND INCLUSION Coffee Morning's

Meet our team

Find other services that are available

Chat to other parents/carers

Helpful tips and advice

Drop in to talk to our SEND team to discuss any queries about SEND, inclusion, schools and EHCP's

Please come along on the dates below:

Marie Clarke Family Hub, Linacre Lane, L20 5AQ  
Thursday 3rd October 9.30-11.30am  
Thursday 9th January 9.30-11.30am

Netherton Family Hub, Magdalen Square, L30 5QH  
Thursday 7th November 9.30-11.30am  
Thursday 6th February 9.30-11.30am

Talbot Street Family Hub, St Andrews Place, PR8 1HR  
Thursday 5th December 9.30-11.30am  
Thursday 6th March 9.30-11.30am

## CHESS CLUB

IS ACCEPTING NEW MEMBERS

ALL AGES CAN APPLY

Every Tuesday in the LRC

2:45pm—3:45pm

Please see Mr Phillips or Mr Timmons for more information

"IT'S YOUR MOVE"

# Safeguarding, Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health

## Holocaust Memorial Day

This week's assemblies have been focused on the extremely important theme of Holocaust Memorial Day. This event is marked annually on the 27th January which is particularly poignant this year as we commemorate the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau in 1945.

Pupils were reminded that this is a time to remember the millions of people murdered during the Holocaust, under Nazi Persecution and in the genocides that followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

In assemblies we discussed the theme of this year's Holocaust Memorial Day, For a Better Future, and the idea that genocide doesn't just happen on its own and is a steady process which can begin if discrimination, racism and hatred are not checked and prevented. We are also commemorating HMD at Hillside with 28 of our Year 9 pupils taking part in a community event at the Plaza Cinema in Waterloo, where they will watch an animated version of "The Diary of Anne Frank" which tells the story of a little girl and her family who hide desperately from the Nazis to avoid persecution.

There is still so much to do for everyone and HMD is an ideal opportunity to start this process as we honour the experiences of those people who suffered and challenge ourselves to work for a safer, better future.

**Mr Rayson**


### Why 27 January?



Auschwitz-Birkenau – Nazi death camp

27 January 1945 – Auschwitz-Birkenau was liberated.


### The Holocaust



This picture shows terrified Jewish people in the Warsaw Ghetto, and Nazi guards with guns.


The Holocaust was the attempt by the Nazis and their collaborators to murder all the Jews in Europe. Six million Jewish men, women and children were killed in ghettos, mass-shootings, concentration camps and extermination camps.

### Susan Pollack



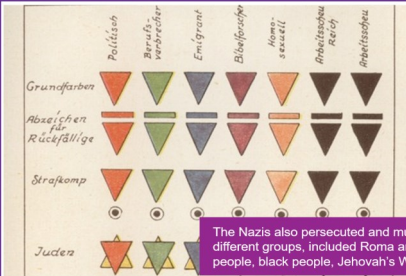
*'How do you get over such an experience? Is it possible to walk away and learn to live with all of this? How do you find the strength? Life is precious – you can go in one of two ways – up or down. I chose to walk away and rebuild my life. There was no revenge, and no justice.'*

### Rudolf Brazda



*'If I finally speak, it's for people to know what we, homosexuals, had to endure in Hitler's days... it shouldn't happen again.'*


### Nazi Persecution



Different groups of people were given different coloured badges in concentration camps

The Nazis also persecuted and murdered people from a range of different groups, included Roma and Sinti people ('gypsies'), gay people, black people, Jehovah's Witnesses, political opponents.

### Auschwitz poem



The semiquaver chugging of the train on the track  
And the people on board who will never go back  
And the terror in the eyes of all the young ones to go  
With no one knowing as the train comes to slow

Those men at the station as the ramps drop down  
Where humanity lost is the only crippled sound  
Hope gone for those who stand behind the hard sharp wire  
And the smoke in the towers rises just a little higher

And the blue ink stabs a little harder in the skin  
Above the veins of despair where murder let it in  
And the terror in the eyes of all those about to leave  
Another train on the track no last minute reprieve

And the slow, crot...chet chugging of the train on the track;  
And the people on board. Who will ne...ver go.  
Back.

Poem by Charles N. Whittaker  
Read by actor Olivia Colman