



## Dear Parents/Guardians

Inside this week's newsletter you will find an article about Social Signature and the work of our School Council. Attending this event was a real highlight of last week, I was so impressed with the ideas that our young people came up with. What was even more impressive was their plans to make these ideas a reality. Well done to all our School Council Representatives. As Mr Rayson says if any family members or friends can help with these projects please contact us.

The back page contains some important information about Safer Internet Day. I know how worrying the online world is to us adults and as a parent the feeling that our young people know more than us at times, doesn't help! Please take the time to have a read and encourage your child to do the same. As with all these things I think reminding our young people to tell us if something doesn't feel right is one of the most important pieces of advice.

We have two weeks of school left before we break up for half term and it would be great to see attendance improve during these weeks. Every day I attend the 'Huddle' where we look at the pupils who are absent and plan the work of the attendance team. Increasingly we are seeing a number of parents not ringing in to report their child's absence, this is a safeguarding issue as we don't know if the child is ill or has sent off for school and not arrived. Could I ask for your support in ringing school every day your child is absent, Mrs Wilson one of our Attendance Officers is available from 7.30am every day.

**Amanda Ryan, Principal**

## Thought for the Week

"In today's digital world, anyone can fall victim to online scams—no matter their age or experience. Our responsibility is to stay informed and share that knowledge with others. By educating those around us, we can create a safer online space for everyone. Let's work together to recognise the warning signs, protect our personal information, and empower others to do the same."



"Excellence in the Heart of the Community"  
PIC•COLLAGE

## Attendance

Last week was difficult for attendance and we were very disappointed with the amount of pupils that were absent. Can I remind all parents/carers that if your child is feeling unwell but you think they may improve during the day, please send them in and let us know so that we can keep an eye on them and if we think they are too unwell to be in school we will send them home. Mrs Ryan's 24/25 challenge has now finished, congratulations to those pupils who were successful. We will be sharing the details of the rewards shortly.

To keep us going into the Spring I have dusted off my bingo machine and I am revving up for the whole school 'Spring Bingo', watch this space!

**Mr Edwards**



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## Breakfast Club

Come along to our fantastic breakfast club which is free of charge to all pupils.

Mrs McGing will be in the Dining Room everyday between 7:45am-8:20am

family  
action



National School  
Breakfast Programme



family  
action



National School  
Breakfast Programme

## Hillside Pantry

We are working with the charity MCKS who are funding the food for the pantry. MCKS is a Charitable Foundation and partners with schools to provide school pantries on a regular and permanent basis. They provide food, toiletries and sanitary supplies for those in need.

Hillside Pantry will be open to any families who have a child at Hillside. You will be given a food hamper containing some essentials listed below.

Items available include

- Tinned meals
- Breakfast cereal
- Tea / Coffee
- Long Life Milk
- Biscuits
- Pastas / Rice / Noodles
- Tinned vegetables
- Long life bread



Toiletries such as soap, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste and toothbrushes, deodorant are also available.

Please bring your own shopping bag to collect items. Any questions – please contact the school office.

If you are unable to collect on Friday - please contact the school office to make arrangements for collection at another date.

**The Hillside Pantry is open everyday until February Half Term. Please go to the school Main Office.**



## Student Council - Social Signature and a Call for Help!

On Friday 24th January a number of our dedicated Student Council members from all year groups stayed after school to take part in a session delivered by Pete and Helen Hawkins from the Windmill Foundation. The session focused on the very important idea of social action to make an impact on the lives of the people around us, our community and the world.

Mrs Ryan, Mr Edwards and Mr Rayson were so proud to hear some of the amazing ideas our Student Council had to improve the experience that all pupils get at Hillside and settled on three projects. The projects are:

- Organising First Aid training for as many pupils and staff as possible and raising awareness about the nearest emergency kits to school such as bleed control kits and heart defibrillators
- Developing even further our mental health support by creating a pupil support system through groups and buddies.
- Implementing a litter pick group to improve the school environment before expanding out into the local community.

If you or someone you know thinks you can help out with any of these projects then please do contact school. Well done to our wonderful Student Council!

*Mr Rayson*



# Safeguarding, Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health

## Safer Internet Day 2025: Protecting Yourself from Online Scams

Every year, Hillside celebrates Safer Internet Day to raise awareness about staying safe online. This year's theme focuses on the dangers of online scams, which can trick people into giving away personal information or money. Here are some of the most common scams young people face:

**Phishing:** Scammers send fake emails or messages to steal personal details like passwords or credit card numbers.

**Impersonation:** Someone pretends to be someone you trust, like a friend or celebrity, to trick you into sending money or information.

**Online Shopping Scams:** Fake websites or sellers offer great deals, but you never get your products or lose money.

**Romance Scams:** Scammers build fake online relationships to gain trust and then ask for money.

**Money Muling:** Scammers ask you to transfer money or goods on their behalf, which could get you into serious trouble.

Here are four tips to help avoid online scams:

Never share your personal information, like passwords or bank details, with strangers online.

Be careful when clicking on links in emails or messages, especially if they're from people you don't know.

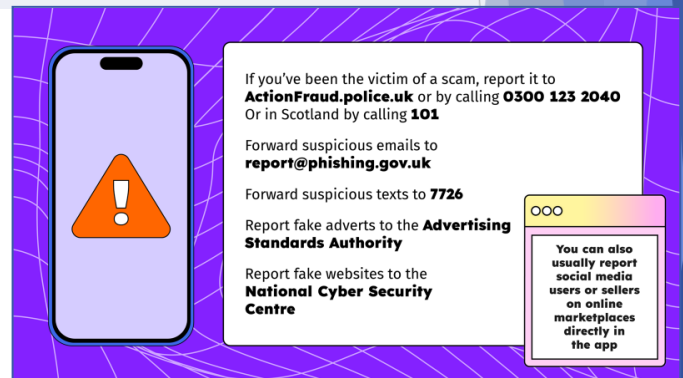
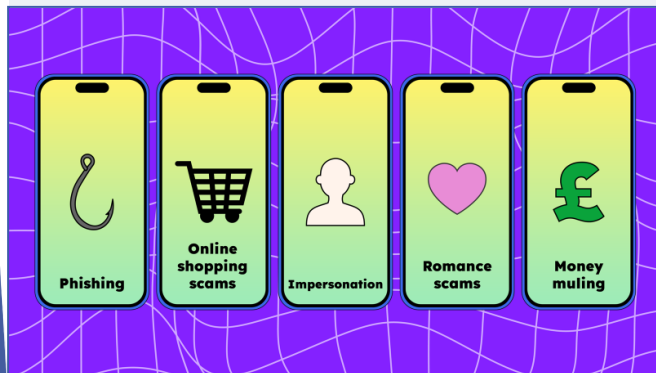
Always double-check website URLs and look for signs of a secure website before making online purchases.

If someone asks you for money or to send something on their behalf, be suspicious, and talk to an adult or teacher.

Stay safe online and remember, if something feels too good to be true, it probably is!

*Mr Haygarth*

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### Key Dates 2024-2025

**3rd February —Year 11 Core Progress Meeting, Invited Pupils Only— New Date**

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

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

**14th February —Last Day of Term**

**24th February—INSET Day**

**25th February—Back to School**

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

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

