

EXCELLENCE IN THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

#### **Dear Parents/Guardians,**

I hope you enjoy reading this week's newsletter which includes our Lead Learners for the last half term. These pupils have been nominated by each subject area for exemplifying the Hillside Way and working the hardest in the subject. Well done to them all, I am super

proud!

Please take the time to read the back page of this week's newsletter, which ties in with Mrs Wardale's assemblies. This article really made me stop and think. I am always struck by how authentic our pupils are and how much they support and celebrate each other's authenticity. This is the 'norm' at Hillside but this article really made me think how this isn't the case everywhere! I loved the message 'So be brave, speak up and make a difference', what a reminder for us all! Well done to all our pupils who have got themselves back into school this week. We have had a much better week in terms of attendance. As we know, when our pupils attend well, they will achieve well in our school. Last week I asked for your support in ringing school every day your child is absent, (Ms Wilson one of our Attendance Officers is available from 7.30am every day). This has been much better this week, meaning our Attendance Team can concentrate on supporting children and families, so a huge thank you from me. A reminder we break up next Friday for February half term and return on Tuesday 25th February. The Monday is a staff training day.

Key Dates 2024-2025

12th February—Year 11 Form Group Photographs

14th February —Last Day of Term

24th February—INSET Day— No Pupils in School

25th February—Back to School—Pupils Return

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

Thursday 21st August 2025 GCSE Results Day

**Amanda Ryan, Principal** 

## **Attendance**

Attendance this week has taken an upturn and I am delighted that so many of our young people are taken their education seriously and do not want to miss a thing. To encourage attendance today, we will be launching the first ever 'Win a Telly Friday'. We have a digital television for the lucky pupil, all you have to do to have a chance to win is to be in!

Mr Edwards

# Win a Telly Friday!



## **Arts Ambassadors 2025**

Mrs Ryan was delighted to reward this year's cohort of Arts Ambassadors with their hoodies and blazer pins during assembly this term. These Year 10 pupils are selected for the commitment they have shown to their studies and extra curricular activities in the Performing Arts department. They have all been involved in school productions and given so much of their own time to performing arts activities, they do themselves and Hillside very proud! Congratulations to Lilie C, Kaityln H, Darren H, Queensly I, Raymond I, Frankie L, Tia L, Jo Leigh O ... Keep it up!

Miss Brown

# South Sefton Schools Sports Hall Athletics Event

Over 30 boys and girls from Years 7 and 8 took part in the South Sefton Schools Sports Hall Athletics event on Tuesday 28th January. It was a great afternoon with several pupils winning their individual events including track events such as the obstacle race and relay races, as well as field events such as the standing long jump, vertical jump and shot putt. Pupils performed well throughout and also displayed exemplary attitude and behavior with the Year 7 girls, Year 8 girls and Year 8 boys all coming second in their category.

Mr Clarke



#### **Year 7—Lead Learners**



Zenaab Al J—Art Neive T—Computer Science Kaitlyn Q—Technology Eva P—Drama Sadie K—English & Religious Studies Lottie C—Geography Chaya T—History Alexandra N—Maths Erikas L—Music Emmi F—Science Daniel H—Spanish Ruby-Lea C—Personal Development Gracie O'R—Physical Education



### Year 8—Lead Learners



Amelie H-Wakefield—Art Matilda S—Computer Blake G—Technology & Religious Studies Charlie H—Drama Zach C—English Ebtesam S—Geography Kiara May P—History Amelia McC—Personal Development Hanley L—Music Michael J— Science Matilda S—Spanish Zach M—Physical Development

# Year 9—Lead Learners



Nadia K—Art Mason W—Computer Science Charlie S—Technology Florenta C—Drama Betty R—English & Spanish Paige H—Geography Dayan K—History & Physical Education Max M—Maths Jaylen H—Music Sidra A—Religious Studies Kyle D—Science Megan C—Personal Development





#### **Year 10—Lead Learners**





Dexter D—Art David H—Business Studies Jacob W—Computer Science Frankie L—Drama Jessica McD—Dance Queen I—English Christian T—Georgraphy Abigail T—Hospitality HaiYing X—History Marina A—ICT Unique O—Maths Alfie H- McG—Music Joel F—Science Jack D—Spanish Rebecca M—Photography Queensley I—Physical Education Jack McD—3D Design





Morgan-May S—Art Tamika B—Business Studies Tom D—Computer Science Callum P—Design Technology Jake B—Drama Ava-Rose O—English Fatma Z—Geography & Hospitality Leighton C—History Alexander Y—ICT & Physical Education Zain D—Maths Arthika S—Music Kiera C—Science Marron G—Spanish Alan D S M—Photography William O—3D Design



# Safeguarding, Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health

# **Being Your Authentic Self to Tackle Diversity**

Have you ever felt like you needed to change who you are to fit in? Maybe you've held back from sharing your thoughts, interests, or identity because you feared being judged. Being your authentic self means embracing who you truly are, without pretending to be someone else. But did you know that by being yourself, you can also help tackle discrimination and create a more inclusive world?

#### What Does It Mean to Be Authentic?

Being authentic means being honest about your values, beliefs, and experiences. It means not hiding parts of yourself to make others comfortable. But it also means recognising and respecting the authenticity of others. Everyone has unique backgrounds, cultures, and perspectives that shape who they are. When we accept and celebrate those differences, we make our schools and communities stronger and more welcoming for everyone.

#### Why Does This Matter for Diversity?

Diversity is all about the differences that make us unique—our race, religion, gender, ability, culture, and so much more. When people feel they can be their true selves, they contribute to a more vibrant and creative society. But when people feel pressured to hide who they are, it can lead to exclusion, loneliness, and discrimination.

By being authentic, you encourage others to do the same. When you show that you are comfortable with who you are, you create an environment where others feel safe to express themselves too. This helps to break down stereotypes and challenge discrimination.

#### **Reflecting on Privilege**

Privilege means having advantages that others might not have because of their background, identity, or circumstances. Understanding our own privileges can help us be better allies to others. Take a moment to reflect on these questions:

- Have you ever felt accepted without having to change anything about yourself?
- Have you seen someone being treated unfairly because of their race, gender, religion, or another part of their identity?
- Do you feel safe expressing your culture, religion, or personal identity at school?
- What challenges might other people face that you don't have to think about?
- Recognising our own privileges isn't about feeling guilty—it's about understanding how we can use our position to support and uplift others.

  Thought for

## **Being Brave and Taking Action**

- Tackling discrimination isn't always easy, but it's necessary. Here are some ways you can make a difference:
- Speak up If you see someone being treated unfairly, don't stay silent. Challenge discriminatory remarks and behaviours.
- Be an ally Support your friends and classmates by standing with them and validating their experiences.
- Educate yourself Learn about different cultures, identities, and experiences. The more you understand, the more inclusive you can be.
- Celebrate stories Encourage people to share their experiences and listen with an open mind. Every story matters, and representation is key to making everyone feel valued.

Being your authentic self is one of the most powerful things you can do—
not just for yourself but for those around you. When you embrace your
identity and encourage others to do the same, you help create a world where
everyone is accepted and celebrated. So be brave, speak up and make a
difference. Together, we can tackle discrimination and build a future where
everyone belongs.

Mrs Wardale

We see the world not as it is, but as we are.

Stephen Covey







