



Dear Parents/Guardians

I can hardly believe I am writing my final newsletter message for this half term! We have achieved so much and Christmas certainly feels like a distant memory now! As we finish for the break we say Goodbye to Mr Timmons who has been at Hillside for 7 years and during the time taught 100s of our pupils maths as well as contributing to many other areas of school life. I know he will be missed greatly and I am sure everyone will join me in wishing him every success in the future.

I know when we get back the next half term is always extremely busy, with Year 9 completing their Options, Year 10 on Work Experience and Year 11 in the final push to their GCSEs. So I hope everyone can enjoy the break and have a good rest.

A reminder we break up today for February half term and return on Tuesday 25th February. The Monday is a staff training day.

Amanda Ryan, Principal

Attendance

Well we definitely 'Sprung back' this half term. A considerable number pupils have maintained excellent attendance, with over 400 pupils maintaining attendance over 95% since September, that's 120 more pupils than this time last year!

114 pupils have maintained 100% attendance since September- that's 40 more pupils than this time last year, well done team Hillside!

There has been a slight delay in organising the 24/25 challenge rewards - I am working on finalising transport and then I will reveal all - apologies.

We are looking forward to next half term - let's Spring back again! We also had a very lucky winner of "Win a telly Friday", congratulations to Jensen B in form 7CR. Well done, you were definitely in to win!

Mr Edwards



Alma and her School Photo 1932

Last year we were honoured to welcome Alma to visit Hillside. Alma attended Hillside when it opened in 1932 and was delighted to be shown around school by Tilly and Tom. She entertained us all greatly with her stories of life at Hillside back in 1932. She was also full of advice on how to live a long and happy life. She said she had her school photo and would we like it. We are delighted to now have this photo and it is hanging with great pride in the Foyer. If you recognise anyone on the photo please do drop us an email at Admin@Hillsidehigh.co.uk

What an amazing piece of our school's history!

Mrs Ryan



BOOTLE SECONDARY SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.
April 1932.

Photo by Pearson Ltd, London, W.C.1.

The Real Life 'Hunted'!

Hi, my name is Frankie and I am a member of the explorers of 22nd Bootle. On 1st February, we took part in a competition called Operation Moonlight. It is an escape and evasion exercise in which you get dropped at a location 15 miles as the crow flies away from base and have to make your way back. While walking back to base, there are catchers looking for teams to catch. The event is 10 hours and we walked 30km. Due to our teamwork and navigation skills, we made it back to base without being caught and were 13th back to base. This meant that we not only won the explorer category but came 1st overall out of 150 teams. We brought home 2 trophies that night!

A huge well done to Frankie and all the other members who participated! We love hearing about all of our pupils' achievements both in and outside of school, let us know what you have been up to!



Reading for Academic Success

Last week Hillside was visited by 16 pupils from our link school Colegio La Reina which is in Málaga, Spain. The Spanish students spent the week taking part in a variety of workshops including Science, Art, PE, Computer Science, Music and Drama. They also attended several Key Stage 4 Spanish lessons which gave our pupils the opportunity to put their Spanish skills to the test. New friendships were made and a good time was had by all. A big thank you to everyone who delivered workshops. They can't wait to come back next year!

Miss Collins



Sports Leaders

Last week several of the Year 10 Sports Leaders organised and ran sporting activities for Year 3 children from Bedford Primary School. Activities included football, basketball, tennis, boxing, athletics and cricket and all pupils had a go at each. Hillside pupils demonstrated excellent leadership skills and were a real credit to the school.

Mr Clarke



Reading for Academic Success

At Hillside, we are committed to encouraging a love of reading among our pupils, not just for academic achievement, but also for their overall wellbeing. Reading regularly has long been recognised as one of the most effective ways to support both cognitive development and emotional health.

Reading for Academic Success

Regular reading is key to helping pupils improve their academic performance. Exposure to a variety of texts expands vocabulary, enhances comprehension skills, and deepens understanding across all subjects. By engaging with a wide range of genres, pupils develop critical thinking abilities and improve their writing skills. The benefits extend beyond English lessons, positively influencing performance in subjects such as history, science, and even mathematics, where strong reading skills are essential for understanding complex concepts and instructions.

To support our pupils' academic growth, we provide a **BIG Reading List** for each year group. This list is carefully curated to ensure that pupils are introduced to a variety of genres, including fiction and non-fiction. These books are not only rich in challenging vocabulary but also represent a diverse range of cultures and experiences, helping students broaden their worldviews and gain a deeper understanding of different perspectives.

Reading for Wellbeing

Beyond academic achievement, reading has significant mental health benefits. It can provide a much-needed escape from the stresses of daily life, offering a quiet space for reflection and relaxation. For some, getting lost in a good book can be a calming way to wind down after a busy day, helping to reduce anxiety and improve focus.

Moreover, reading can foster empathy and emotional intelligence by allowing pupils to see the world through the eyes of different characters, developing a greater understanding of their own emotions and those of others. Books can also be a source of inspiration and motivation, especially those that showcase stories of resilience, courage, and self-discovery.

Encouraging a Reading Habit at Home

To fully reap the benefits of reading, we recommend that pupils read regularly at home, whether it's for just 20 minutes a day or longer. Parents can support this habit by encouraging a positive reading environment at home and discussing books together. Sharing what they're reading with family members can spark interesting conversations and further deepen the enjoyment of literature.

We also suggest setting aside quiet time for reading, free from distractions such as screens, to help pupils truly immerse themselves in the stories and ideas they encounter.

In conclusion, regular reading is an essential part of academic success and personal wellbeing. By encouraging pupils to engage with a variety of texts, we are helping them to become not only better learners but also more thoughtful, empathetic, and resilient individuals. We are proud to offer the BIG Reading List as a tool to support their reading journeys, and we look forward to seeing the positive impact it has on both their learning and overall wellbeing.

Happy reading!

Mrs Wardale

YEAR 7 READING LIST

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, Francis Hodgson
Burnett

YEAR 8 READING LIST

Summer Holiday Read:
The Hunger Games, Suzanne Collins

Term 1 Read:
I Capture the Castle, Dodie Smith

Term 2 Read:
You Are a Champion, Marcus Rashford

Term 3 Read:
Chinglish, Sue Cheung

YEAR 9 READING LIST

Summer Holiday Read:
They Both Die at the End, Adam Silvera

Term 1 Read:
Frankenstein, Mary Shelley

Term 2 Read:
I am Malala, Malala Yousafzai

Term 3 Read:
Heartstopper, Alice Oseman

YEAR 10 READING LIST

Summer Holiday Read:
Children of Blood and Bone, Tomi
Adeyemi

Term 1 Read:
Things Fall Apart, Chinua Achebe

Term 2 Read:
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, Maya
Angelou

Term 3 Read:
Colour Outside the Lines, Sangu
Mandanna

YEAR 11 READING LIST

Summer Holiday Read:
The Midnight Library, Matt Haig

Term 1 Read:
One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich,
Alexander Solzhenitsyn

Term 2 Read:
The Body, Bill Bryson

Term 3 Read:
Girl, Woman, Other, Bernadine Evaristo

Safeguarding, Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health

LGBT+ History Month 2025

At Hillside we are celebrating LGBT History Month. LGBT History Month in the UK is an annual event that takes place in February. It is a time to celebrate and recognize the achievements, contributions and history of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community.

The month-long event aims to raise awareness of the history, struggles, and successes of the LGBT community, and it provides an opportunity to promote equality and diversity.

The focus of LGBT History Month is not only on historical milestones but also on contemporary issues and the ongoing fight for equal rights.

UK 2025 LGBT+ History Month theme this year is: **Activism and Social Change**

From BC to AD LGBT+ people have existed. Over the past 20 years, since the first UK LGBT+ History Month in 2005, This movement has tried to highlight the incredible things LGBT+ people in all their diversity have achieved throughout history in all areas of life.

Over the past 50 years Schools OUT have worked to **#educateOUTprejudice** and usalise LGBT+ lives, creating learning environments where all LGBT+ people feel safe, seen, and supported; which is why it was founded in the UK LGBT+ History Month following the repeal of Section 28 to be a dedicated space to celebrate their rich and diverse history, herstory, their story.



Key Dates 2024-2025

14th February —Last Day of Term

24th February—INSET Day— No Pupils in School

25th February—Back to School—Pupils Return

6th March—World Book Day

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

12th March—Year 8 HPV Vaccinations

17th March—Year 10 Core Progress Evening

20th March— Year 9 Options Evening

4th April—Last Day of Term

22nd April—Back to School—Pupils Return

Thursday 21st August 2025 - GCSE Results Day

What's On?

Star
Centre

YOUNG PERSON'S DROP IN

Offers young people the chance to talk through any struggles or issues they may have in a safe and non-judgemental space. No appointment needed, just drop by.

Mondays 4-6pm & Thursdays 3-5pm at the Star Centre

CREATIVE DROP IN

For ages 11-18, this is a fun and relaxed group, developed based on research that suggests being creative can increase positive emotions, reduce stress levels, decrease anxiety and improve overall mood and wellbeing. You can come and explore your own creative ideas or just watch and enjoy.

Thursdays 4-6pm at the Venus Centre

MAKE A REFERRAL

We offer a variety of group and 1-2-1 therapeutic interventions, to support and manage a range of mental health concerns such as anxiety, worry and low mood. We can work with ages 5-18 living in Sefton, based on your home address. You can make a self referral, or a professional like a school nurse can make a referral for you, with your consent.

Complete a referral form on www.venuscharity.org or www.seftonliverpoolcamhs.com - or attend a drop-in session

Contact Us:

Star Centre

98b Linacre Lane, Bootle, L20 6ES

Call us Mon-Fri 12-2pm: 07483 909 834

