

# EXCELLENCE IN THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

### **Dear Parents/Guardian**

It has been another very busy week at Hillside. Year 11 are nearly there in terms of their GCSEs and I am already bracing myself for next Wednesday when we have to say 'Goodbye' to them. They are a very special year group and I know we are all going to miss them lots!

As always at this time of year it feels like there is a lot going on. Please make a note of the dates included in the Key Dates selection and the important dates as we celebrate Pride month (on the back page).

There is still a lot of learning to do in the next 25 days, but running alongside this I know we are going to have a lot of fun! Something our pupils deserve when I reflect on how hard they have worked this year.

**Amanda Ryan, Principal** 

# The Big Top is coming to Hillside STEP RIGHT UP For an evening of Circus Themed family fun! Thursday 10th JULY 5.30PM - 7.30PM

### **Ice Ice Baby**

Last Friday we had a lovely end to the week celebrating the good attendance of 448 pupils, with some time out of lessons and an ice cream. Good attendance is what we expect from every pupil, every day and it is always nice to have the opportunity to celebrate the pupils who achieve this. The weather certainly wasn't on our side and at one point Year 10 ended up having to hide from the showers in the LRC, but I don't think that dampened anyone's fun!

Mrs Ryan



### **The Bread and Butter Thing**

Hillside High School is a 'The Bread and Butter Thing' hub. On Wednesdays, volunteers from our community, sort and pack three bags for our members. One bag is fresh fruit and veg, one bag is filled with store cupboard items and one bag is refrigerator goods.

As a member you can receive all this for just £8.50 a week, paid on collection by cash or card.

It's really easy to join 'The Bread and Butter Thing'. Everyone is welcome, there is no fee, no contract, you can dip in and out as you need and the membership rules are really simple.

Text to join!

Text 07860 063 304 with your full name, postcode, and the name of the hub you will be collecting from.



### **Congratulations Megan!**

Congratulations to Megan C in 9DH for winning her Martial Arts Tournament! We are so proud of you!

"I started doing Kuk Sool Won in 2022 during a really tough time — I was dealing with bullying at my old school and wasn't in school for a while. Kuk Sool Won helped me get through all of that. When I joined Hillside, I was a yellow belt (4th belt), and my confidence was starting to build, but I still had a long way to go.

Now I'm in Year 9 and I've come a long way — I've earned the title Dahn Bo Nim, which means "before black belt" in Korean. Recently, I went to Scotland for the UK Championships and competed in the 13–17 DBN sparring division. I was super nervous at first, but once I stepped into the ring, I felt a boost of confidence.



I sparred two girls from Scotland — I lost the first match, won the second, and then because of how the points added up, I had to do a rematch with the first girl. On the very first kick, we both went for it and my leg got swept (it's okay, you can laugh I did too). My thigh was hurting, but I got straight back up and kept going. After another tough three-minute round, the judges added up the points again... and I came first!" Each match was a challenge, but I learned a lot and gained even more confidence from the experience.

### **Attendance**

At Hillside High School, we believe that 'Arriving on time, all the time' is a key part of the Hillside Way—our shared commitment to high standards, personal responsibility, and creating the best environment for learning.

Being punctual to school and lessons is not just about arriving on time—it's about setting the tone for the day. Pupils who arrive late often miss key instructions, disrupt learning for others, and find it harder to settle into the rhythm of the school day. Over time, these small losses add up, leading to gaps in knowledge, reduced confidence, and increased anxiety about catching up.



Studies show that even being a few minutes late each day can have a significant impact on learning. For example, arriving 10 minutes late each day means losing nearly 33 hours of learning time over the school year. This lost time will make the difference between achieving a grade or falling short.

To support all our pupils in building excellent habits, we will be having a drive to tackle lateness over the final weeks of this term. Form tutors, pastoral staff, and senior leaders will be working closely with pupils to improve punctuality and highlight its importance in both school and life beyond Hillside.

We are asking for the continued support of all parents and carers to reinforce the importance of good routines at home. Please ensure your child is leaving home in good time and is prepared for the school day.

Together, by valuing every minute, we can make sure every pupil is fully equipped to succeed. Let's all live the Hillside Way: 'Arriving on time, all the time'.

Mr Edwards

### **Goodbye Hillside High**

I am delighted to share this poem written by the parent of a Year 11 pupil in Mr Henesy's Form.

Mrs Ryan

### **Goodbye Hillside High**

It's the final countdown, our time is nearly done five years together, five years of fun.

Now 11THe are walking away leaving behind our last school day.

No more blazers, no more ties no more forgetting homework with just a few white lies.

Mr Henesy is there trying not to cry a tear in his eye but he won't say why He's been with us right from day one now its time to part and soon be gone.

Mr Henesy has been there right from the start with his aftershave strong and a kind caring heart.

Tales of his car and holidays in the sun he knows our time is nearly done.

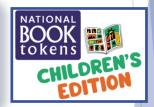
The time has now come to walk our guard of honor Mr Henesy stands proud. No moment could be fonder. With a smile on his face and tears in his eyes he watches us leave as the final bell cries.

Goodbye, good luck he says through a smile I have watched you all grow through every mile.

And as we turn wit heads held high we leave with his words and a tear in our eye.



Please go to https://www.nationalbooktokens.com/schools-prize to vote for Hillside High School and help us win £1000 in books and £300 to add to our fantastic Learning Resource Centre. Thank you for your support.



### Key Dates 2024-2025 For Hillside Pupils and Our New Year 6 Pupils

Wednesday 18th June—Year 11 Leavers Breakfast—10.45am 12.30pm

Thursday 26th June — Year 6 Transition Day & Year 11 Prom
Thursday 3rd July—Welcome Evening - 6pm Start for Year 6
Pupils and Parents

Wednesday 2nd July—Immunisations Catch Up Session for Years 7-10

Friday 4th July—Festival of Sport Day

Thursday 10th July— Summer Community Evening—All Welcome

Wednesday 16th & Thursday 17th July—Summer Production 7pm

Friday 18th July—Last Day of Term

Wednesday 23rd July - Friday 25th July—Summer School for Year 6 Pupils

Wednesday 13th August—Uniform Collection for Year Pupils
Thursday 21st August - GCSE Results Day





## PRIDE IN HILLSIDE

**Pride Month** is celebrated every June to honour the LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, and others) community, their history, achievements, and ongoing struggles for equality and acceptance.

Although Pride Month originated in the United States—commemorating the **Stonewall Riots** of June 1969, a pivotal moment in the LGBTQ+ rights movement—it is now observed globally, including in the UK. Here's why it's significant in the UK:

Pride Month provides a platform for LGBTQ+ individuals to be visible, share their stories, and celebrate their identities in a society that has historically marginalized them.



Pride Month

Happy

The UK has its own milestones in LGBTQ+ rights which we need to celebrate, such as:

- The partial decriminalisation of homosexuality in 1967 (England and Wales).
- The repeal of Section 28 in 2003, which had banned the "promotion" of homosexuality in schools.
- The legalisation of same-sex marriage in England, Wales (2014), and Scotland (2014), and later in Northern Ireland (2020).

Pride events raise awareness about ongoing issues like discrimination, mental health disparities, and the need for inclusive policies in education, healthcare, and employment.

It's also a time to celebrate how far society has come in terms of acceptance, rights, and representation of LGBTQ+ people in media, politics, and everyday life. Pride parades, festivals, and events across UK foster a sense of community, joy, and belonging.

Hillside is an inclusive school and we have always supported our LGBTQ+ community so we thought we would celebrate PRIDE in Hillside throughout the month. Take a look at what we have going on this month!

Miss Collins

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Date	Event	Extra information
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Calendar of LGBTQ+ inspirational people	In form for each school day of June form tutors will talk about a different inspirational member of the LGBTQ community.
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	Rainbow badges go on sale.	A range of badges at different prices ranging from 30p£1. School council reps will sell the badges in the LRC at breaktime.
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	PRIDE in Hillside Non-uniform day.	Wear your brightest colours to support PRIDE. £1 voluntary contribution.
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	Rainbow Cake Sale	Break time. Bring some change to buy a cake or two!



All funds raised will go to supporting diversity in our local community.

### **PRIDE IN HILLSIDE 2025**

To celebrate PRIDE month, we will take a look at a different inspirational person form the LGBTQ community each day!









Thought for the Week

