

EXCELLENCE IN THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

Dear Parents/Guardian

I hope you enjoy reading this week's newsletter. Our pupils get some amazing opportunities and a particular highlight is our Performing Arts trip to London. I know from speaking to the pupils who attended they had an amazing day, one pupil told me it was their first time going to the theatre, what a way to do it!

Wednesday was every bit as emotional as I thought it would be. We said 'Goodbye' to our Year 11's, a year group who have held a very special place in our hearts. Although we still have Prom to look forward to on Thursday 26th June, so we will get to celebrate with them again. We are going to miss them so much and I hope all their hard work and determination pays off in their results this Summer.

Amanda Ryan, Principal

Class of 2025

After a memorable 5 years, Year 11 said their last goodbyes on Wednesday. After completing their final exams, they were welcomed with a Leavers' Breakfast, which included shirts being signed, photographs, selfies, speeches and a video which highlighted the key moments in Year 11's journey throughout their time at Hillside.

Though many tears were shed it was a lovely event and one that they will remember for a long time to come. A particular highlight for me was looking back on their Year 7 photographs, it was a leaky eye moment, to remember how far they have come. As I said on Wednesday, we have often spoken over the years about what a special year group you are, you really are and I am missing you already.

It is sad saying goodbye but I know the time is right and you are ready for the next chapter of your lives. I wish each and every one of you all the success and happiness in the world, I know you are going to go on and do great things. You will always be a part of the Hillside family so don't be

strangers, keep in touch and let us know what you are doing. I will look back on my time with you and I can honestly say that I will remember this time for the rest of my life.

Class of 2025 this is not a goodbye but a see you later!

Love always Mrs McCarthy





Learning Disability Week











Strong to the End: The Power of Good Attendance at Hillside High School

As we enter the final stretch of the academic year at Hillside High School, we want to remind all pupils and families of the crucial importance of strong attendance right up until the very last day of term. Every day matters, and finishing the year with excellent attendance not only supports learning but strengthens the sense of belonging and community that is at the heart of the Hillside Way.

Why Every Day Counts

National data shows that attendance is directly linked to academic success. Pupils with attendance of 95% or higher are far more likely to meet or exceed their target grades. In contrast, missing just one day every two weeks (around 90% attendance) can lower a pupil's academic performance by up to a whole grade. For those falling below 90%, the impact becomes even more significant—placing them at risk of underachieving and missing out on future opportunities.

Belonging Begins with Being Here

But good attendance isn't just about academic results. It's about connection. When pupils are in school regularly, they build stronger relationships with their peers and staff, feel more supported and are more likely to participate in the full life of the school—from lessons and form time to trips, events and enrichment. Simply being present fosters a sense of belonging—and that's something every child deserves.

The Hillside Way: Being On Time, All the Time

At Hillside, we're proud of the high standards we set and support. Being "On time, All the time" is a key part of the Hillside Way. It shows responsibility, respect, and a readiness to learn. With just a few weeks left of term, now is the time to show that commitment—day in, day out.

A Call to Families: Let's Finish Strong

We know that, with your support, our pupils can end the year on a high. Please continue to ensure your child arrives at school on time every day, avoids unnecessary absences, and understands the value of completing the year with focus and pride. Together, we can make a real difference.

Let's keep aiming high—right to the finish line.

#EveryDayMatters #TheHillsideWay

Mr Edwards







ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Oliver! London's West End

Last week our cast of Oliver headed to London's West End to see the production of 'Oliver The Musical' at the Gielgud Theatre. The coach left Stuart Road before 7am as we headed down to the capital to see our summer production live on stage, and it did not disappoint! We got to experience a beautiful Art Nouveau style theatre in the heart of London which had maintained its original décor. It was exquisite! As we took to our seats and the lights went down there was a buzz of excitement in the air amongst the Hillside pupils. What we saw on stage was simply stunning! The music, the costumes, the set, and most of all the talent, left us all mesmerised. It was a delight for staff to see the faces of our pupils light up as they watched the show. We left feeling totally inspired to make our show the best it can be! As we headed home to a chorus of Oliver songs on the coach, we reflected on another fantastic day out with our brilliant pupils who, as always, did Hillside proud!

Miss Brown









Attention Year 6 Parents

If you haven't already done so can you please click on the link below to order your child's uniform. This needs to be done by Friday 20th June to ensure orders are ready for collection day on Wednesday 13th August. You will also be able to access this link through our website.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=96LpjadP-0ePu6oqGn6VSzfk6X4cH79PrOTXP2tPDwRUOTVGWk9CRzc1SE1LNF MxV08wS1hINTI2NCOIOCNiPTEu

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

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

The Big Top is coming to

Hillside

FUNI STEP RIGHT

UP

For an evening of Circus Themed family fun!

Thursday 10th JULY
5.30PM - 7.30PM

Safeguarding, Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health

Learning Disability Week 2025: Inclusion Starts with Kindness

This week, we're proud to be marking **Learning Disability Week 2025**—a time to celebrate the strengths of people with learning disabilities and reflect on how we can all help create a more inclusive school community.

A **disability** is when someone experiences a barrier that affects how they learn, movel communicate, or process information. Unfortunately, the word itself—dis-ability—can sound quite negative. It suggests a lack or something "not working," but in reality, people with learning disabilities often have many abilities, just expressed or accessed in different ways.

At our school, we believe we all have a **moral purpose** to look after one another and ensure everyone feels valued, included, and safe. That means making our environment welcoming and fair for everyone, especially those who may need a bit of extra support.

One way we can do this is by thinking about **Universal Design for Inclusion**—a big phrase that simply means making spaces, lessons, and activities accessible for everyone from the start. It's not about making special rules for a few, but better design for all.

Here are some **simple**, **everyday actions** our pupils can take to support inclusion:

- **Keep floor areas clear** so everyone can move around safely, including wheelchair users or those with visual impairments.
- **Tuck chairs in** after leaving the table to prevent tripping hazards.
- **Walk on the left** in corridors and move sensibly, helping everyone stay calm and focused.
- **Use kind, inclusive language** and offer help if someone looks unsure or left out.

These small acts reflect our school's **core value of kindness**—because true kindness is about noticing others, making space, and being thoughtful.

Let's use this week to reflect, act, and grow together as a more inclusive and compassionate community.

Newsletter reflection questions:

- Why do you think inclusion is everyone's responsibility, not just teachers or adults?
- How do our everyday actions—like walking sensibly, tucking in chairs, or using kind words make a difference to someone with a learning disability?
- What does our school value of kindness mean when we think about inclusion? Can you give an example of "kindness in action"?

Mrs Wardale

Learning Disability Week

Learning Disability Week 2025

Every year we celebrate Learning Disability Week.







We want Learning Disability Week to be about:



It is a week where people show what life is like if you have a



This year the theme is "Do you see me



'Do you see me?" is about people with a learning disability being seen, heard and valued.



Being valued means that people are respected by others, and their views and feelings are listened to.

want to be seen, heard and valued

That's why we're calling for a change to improve statistics like these:



1 in 3

Over 2,000



Celebrating the things that people with a learning disability do



• Challenging the barriers that people with a learning disability face.

A barrier is something that stops someone from doing

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Learning Disability Week starts on Monday June 16 2025



Let's tell everybody about Learning Disability Week 2025!

In 2025 Learning Disability Week starts on Monday 16 June.

Learning Disability Week takes place

annually during the third week of

The theme this year is "Do you see me?" which is all about people with a learning disability being seen, heard and valued.