



HILLSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

WADE DEACON TRUST

School Calendar

Please see back page for a calendar which I hope will help you plan for the year ahead. We also share key dates and information on our social media. Your child's Pupil Handbook is also a good source of information.

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It has been a brilliant first week here at Hillside. It has been an absolute pleasure to welcome all our pupils back to school and get to meet our new Year 7 pupils, who seem to have settled in very well.

Pupils have returned in a very positive and purposeful manner. We have made some changes to how the school day runs, with all of us lining up in our form groups before we enter school, this allows us to check all our pupils are ready for the day ahead and upholding our standards and expectations. On the corridors we are walking on the left, quietly, in single file. It has been a pleasure to see our pupils follow these basic standards and I know the calm feel to school is something everyone appreciates and benefits from.

Just before we broke up for the Summer we had our amazing Summer Production of Oliver and I am delighted to share more about this in this week's newsletter. The level of performance just seems to go from strength to strength and it was an absolute pleasure to end the year in such a joyous way with so many of our school community.

I am very much looking forward to an amazing academic year 25-26 and will be sharing more details of the highlights of school in this weekly newsletter.

Amanda Ryan, Principal

Thought for the Week



Friday 5th September 2025

Progress Leaders

If you need to discuss any matter regarding your child, please feel free to contact us at school. We find that pupils achieve their best when there is open communication between home and school. Your child's Form Tutor should be the first port of call. Every year group is lead by a Progress Leader who can be contacted if you have any worries or concerns, or have any information that you would like to share as a reminder.

Please see below for your child's Progress Leader.



**Miss Clayton,
Year 7
Progress
Leader**



**Mrs Harper,
Year 8
Progress
Leader**



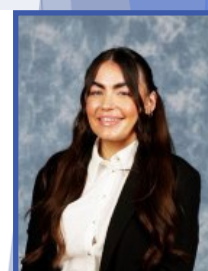
**Ms Phillips,
Year 9
Progress
Leader**



**Miss Yusuf,
Year 10
Progress
Leader**



**Mrs McCarthy,
Year 11
Progress
Leader**



**Miss Gibbons
Assistant
Progress
Leader**

Pupil Support



**Mrs Banks,
Pupil Support**

A reminder that if your child takes medication during the school day then this should be brought into school and clearly labelled with pharmacy instructions for administering the medicine. Parents/Guardians need to sign a form to say that you agree to your child being given medicine. Except for any inhalers or in some cases an epi-pen, a pupil should not carry any medication on them in school including paracetamol. If we held medication for your child last year, please contact school to check that we have enough stock and that it is in date. Mrs Banks is the Pupil Support Co-ordinator and will assist with any enquiries regarding medication. If your child has an ongoing medical condition and requires a care plan, please contact Mrs Banks who will work with you to create or update this.

Student Council Launch 2025/26

As we start this academic year, we are looking for pupils who are interested in becoming members of Hillside's Student Council!

What is the Student Council?

The Student Council is a body of young people from each year group who will make decisions, put on events, fundraise, bring opinions and views from their year group and bring about change for good within and outside of our school!

What have they done in the past?

Last year pupils contributed hugely to the life of the school during the Summer Term by promoting and running charity events, organising litter picks and feeding back to the Senior Leadership Team on pupil opinions following the TEP survey. This year we want to do even more!

When and how often does the Student Council meet?

I am proposing to meet with the Student Council at least twice a half term which will be on a Wednesday between 2.50 – 3.45pm in the LRC with light refreshments provided.

What does a Student Council Leader need to be like?

Anyone can join the Student Council but the following characteristics would be fantastic:

- Leaders who can present and be confident at speaking in public
- Leaders who have lots of ideas
- Leaders who are passionate about change taking place for the better
- Leaders who want to make a difference to our school
- Leaders with good, realistic ideas to make our school better
- Leaders who want to use this opportunity to grow as a person and gain confidence
- Leaders who want to share ideas, interests and concerns with teachers and the Senior Leadership Team – they will be taken seriously!
- Leaders who will help raise funds for projects and ideas that you want to be involved in!
- Help run school events

How are Student Council Leaders elected?

We are looking for one to two pupils per form to be the voice for their year group. Next week (08/09 – 12/09) each form will host a Student Council Election. If pupils are interested in taking part, they should write out a short speech for their form including:

"I would like to be elected as our form's Student Council leader because..." with a focus on at least one idea they have to improve the school and why they think they would be a good leader.

Any questions, please contact Mr Rayson!

Excellence in Teaching and

Blue Zone: A carefully crafted piece of independent work which has the desirable difficulty to challenge thinking and improve learning.

- Minimum of 15 minutes in total length.
- First 10 minutes – no feedback from the teacher, teacher to circulate and monitor only.
- Post 10 minutes, independent work to continue (for however long is necessary for the task set), teacher to provide effective and efficient feedback.

BLUE ZONE

HILLSIDE HIGH SCHOOL



This week as we return to school we have launched the next phase of our teaching and learning developments. We are passionate about continuing to refine our approaches to ensure we are up to date with current evidence and that we are consistently planning effective lessons for our pupils. Learning is hard and we need to do everything we can to support our pupils to be effective learners.

This year we are excited to launch the Blue Zone. Full details can be found on our T&L updates newsletter which has been sent to all parents/carers on Class Charts. Pupils will also have brought home a printed version for you to look at together.

We have had a great first week of learning, thank you to our pupils and staff for making this happen and also to all families for your constant support and encouragement.

Mrs Wardale

A Round of Applause for the Oliver Cast Please!

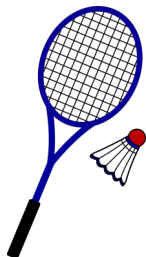
What a fantastic end to the term the Performing Arts team had as we completed our run of Oliver the musical performances. Our cast and crew worked so hard to pull together three simply brilliant shows that brought each audience to their feet with standing ovations. It was wonderful to deliver a matinee to our local primary schools who were a fabulous audience, they certainly let Bill Sykes know what they thought of him with their boos! Our Nancy moved the audience close to tears with her rendition of "As Long As He Needs Me", whilst our Dodger managed to put a smile on the face of everyone in the drama hall with his charm. By the end of the show everyone wanted to be a part of Fagin's gang, they had so much fun on stage! Whilst our Oliver stole the hearts of us all, making his Hillside stage debut and singing so beautifully. The whole cast and crew delivered a truly outstanding performance and finished the year on a massive high. You should all be so proud of what you achieved, we certainly are!

Another production done, another set of memoires made that will last us forever. Well done everyone!

Miss Brown



Extra-Curricular Sports Clubs—Starting Monday



Monday	Netball—All Years Football—Y7 & Y8
Tuesday	Netball Matches—All Years Rugby—All Years
Wednesday	Football—Y9 & Y10 *Year 10 wont start until 17th September Girls Football—All Years
Friday	Badminton—All Years

September 2025		October 2025	
8th September	Success in Year 11 Evening— 5:00pm	9th October	Meet the Tutors Event
10th September	Photographers — Whole school individual photographs	21st October	End of term — Last Day of School
22nd September	Year 10 Welcome to GCSE —5:00pm		
25th September	Opening Evening 5:30pm		
November 2025		December 2025	
3rd November	Start of Term — Back to School	1st — 19th December	Year 11 Predictor Exams
11th November	Careers Fair	4th December	Christmas Market — 5pm-7.30pm
17th & 19th November	Year 11 Mock Spanish Speaking Exams Presentation Evening	TBC	Christmas Dinner Day
20th November	Year 11 Progress Evening — 4:15pm - 6:45pm	16th December	Mock Interviews Year 10
27th November		19th December	End of Term— Last Day of School
January 2026		February 2026	
5th January	Start of Term — Back to School	5th February	Year 9 Progress Evening - 4:15pm - 6:45pm
13th January	HPV Year 8 and Catch Up Vaccines for Year 10 &11	13th February	End of Term — Last Day of School
15th January	Year 10 Progress Evening - 4:15pm — 6:45pm	23rd February	INSET Day (School Closed to Pupils)
19th January	Year 11 Predictor Results Day	24th February	Start of Term — Back to School
22nd January	Year 11 English and Maths Progress Evening		
March 2026		April 2026	
5th March	World Book Day	13th April	Start of Term — Back to School
10th March	MENACWY Vaccines—Year 9 pupils. Year 9 Options Interviews	23rd April	Year 8 Progress Evening 4.15pm-6.45pm
9th-13th March	Year 11 English & Maths Exams	20th — 22nd April	Year 11 Spanish Speaking Exams
19th March	Year 9 Progress Evening & Options Event 4.15pm-6.45pm		
16th March — 27th March	Year 10 Work Experience		
27th March	End of Term—Last Day of School		
May 2026		June 2026	
4th May	Bank Holiday — School Closed	1st June	Start of Term — Back to School
5th May	The start of Year 11 GCSE Exams	23rd June	Year 8 HPV Vaccine—Immunisations
	Year 7 Progress Evening	24th June	End of Year 11 GCSE Exams
21st May	End of Term — Last Day of School	25th June	Year 11 PROM & Year 6 Transition Day
22nd May		26th June	INSET Day (School closed to pupils)
July 2026		August 2026	
2nd July	Year 7 Welcoming Evening 6pm	20th August	GCSE Results Day
3rd July	Festival of Sport Day		
9th July	Summer Community Evening		
15th-16th July	Summer Productions 7pm		
17th July	End of term — Last day of term		