



HILLSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

WADE DEACON TRUST

EXCELLENCE IN
THE HEART OF
THE COMMUNITY

Thought for
the Week

Friday 12th September 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope you enjoy reading this week's newsletter. I am delighted to share with you a short 'Hello' from each of our new colleagues. They have all settled in really well and I am very proud of how welcome our school community has made them feel.

Also please find enclosed our 'Extra-Curricular' offer for this half term. It is always wonderful to see our pupils staying behind to participate in these opportunities. As always a big thank you to our staff who so willingly give their time to ensure our pupils get these opportunities.

Amanda Ryan, Principal

**READING
HELPS YOU LIVE
LIVES BEYOND
THE ONE YOU
ARE INSIDE.**



IT TURNS OUR
SINGLE-ROOM
MENTAL SHACK
INTO A
MANSION.

-MATT HAIG

Pupil Safety - Urgent - Restrictions on Car Movement on Site.

From Monday 15th September the barrier which gives access to the front of the school will close from 8.20 to 8.30am each morning.

It will also be closed from 2.45pm to 2.55pm.

This is to prevent pupils mixing with moving cars and the obvious hazards this can cause.

During these times cars that are on the school side of the barrier will not be able to leave until it opens.

I hope you understand how this helps us to keep your children safe.

Mr Edwards



Start Strong: Every Day Matters at Hillside

As the school year kicks off, Hillside is embracing a powerful theme: Start Strong. But what does it really mean to start strong? It begins with one simple but habit—showing up every day.

Attendance: The Foundation of Success

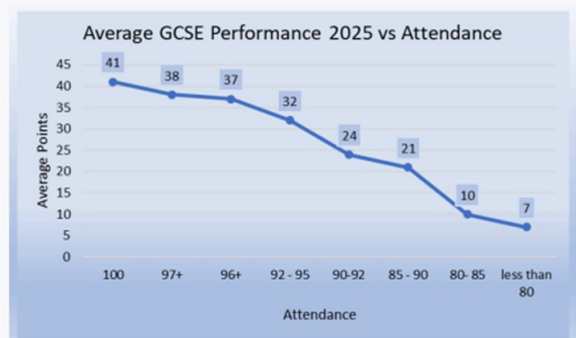
Daily attendance isn't just about being present in class—it's about being present in your future. Research shows that students who attend school regularly are more likely to:

- Achieve higher grades
- Build stronger relationships with teachers and peers
- Develop routines that support lifelong success

Last year's GCSE results show how important it is to attend Hillside every day.

Mr Edwards

ATTENDANCE MATTERS - LOOK AT LAST YEAR'S GCSE RESULTS!



**PUPILS WITH ATTENDANCE OF +96% ACHIEVED A
WHOLE GRADE HIGHER IN EVERY SUBJECT THAN
THOSE WITH ATTENDANCE OF 90 - 92%**

**THE TOP 10 PERFORMERS IN 2025 HAD
AVERAGE ATTENDANCE OVER 99%!**



admin@hillsidehigh.co.uk



0151 525 2630

Hillside High School Shines Nationally in Summer 2025 Census!

We are thrilled to announce that Hillside High School has been nationally recognised for its outstanding performance in the Summer 2025 Census, earning prestigious Recognition Badges for excellence in engagement and impact from The Engagement Platform (TEP).

This honour places Hillside High among the top-tier schools across the country, a testament to the unwavering dedication, passion, and collaborative spirit of our entire school community — from staff and pupils and families.



These badges are more than just symbols — they represent the hard work, commitment, and positive culture cultivated at Hillside High. Achieving above-benchmark scores on key national measures, our school has demonstrated exceptional engagement and leadership in education.

Importantly, Hillside High met the required threshold response rate, ensuring that this recognition truly reflects the voices and experiences of our pupils and staff. This makes the achievement especially meaningful and authentic.

We encourage everyone in the Hillside High community to celebrate this milestone! Whether you're a teacher, student, parent, or alumni, this is a moment to be proud of.

This is just the beginning! We will continue to strive for excellence and innovation in education. We look forward to more opportunities to celebrate the incredible work happening every day in our classrooms and beyond.

Extra Curricular Clubs



Autumn Term Sports Clubs			
Monday	Netball	All years	This week
Monday	Football	Y7 and Y8	This week
Tuesday	Netball matches	All years	This week
Tuesday	Rugby	All years	This week
Wednesday	Football	Y9 and Y10	This week
Wednesday	Girls football	All years	This week
Thursday	MMA	All years	Start date TBC
Friday	Badminton	All years	This week



Autumn Term Performing Arts Clubs			
Tuesday and Wednesday	Music	All years	This week
Thursday	Choir	All years	This week
Day TBC	Drama	All years	TBC
See music timetable	Music Lessons	Invited pupils	This week



Autumn Term LRC Clubs			
Monday	Craft	All years	This week
Tuesday	Lego	All years	This week
Wednesday	Book	All years	This week
Wednesday	Chess	All years	This week
Friday	Board Games	All years	This week
Last Friday of every month	Movie night	All years	26/09/25

A Warm Welcome to Our New Staff



"Hi everyone. My name is Miss Khalid, and I am really excited to be joining the school as a new ECT Maths teacher. I love showing how maths isn't just something we learn in class, it's a skill we use every day in the real world. I'm passionate about making maths feel more approachable and enjoyable for all students, and I'm really looking forward to getting to know everyone and being part of this amazing school community."

Miss Khalid

"Hi, my name is Mr Lawrence, I'm the new PE teacher here at Hillside High School. I am looking forward to developing the pupils to their highest potential in PE and giving opportunities to try different sports or activities that I can bring to the school"

Mr Lawrence



"Hi everyone my name is Mr Perkins, I'm looking forward to starting here at Hillside, and joining the Maths Department. It'll be great to meet you all and I'm sure we'll thrive here together"

Mr Perkins

"Hi everyone, I'm Miss Doherty! I'm so excited to be joining Hillside this year as your new Art and Design & Technology teacher. I'm really looking forward to helping you explore your creativity, develop new skills, and excel in your work. Together, we'll learn, experiment, and create some amazing projects!"

Miss Doherty



"Hi everyone my name is Miss Hussain and I am really excited to be joining Hillside High School as a new Teaching Assistant. I recently graduated from university studying educational psychology, and I am a huge Liverpool fan! I am looking forward to supporting pupils with their learning and helping out whenever I can!"

Miss Hussain

"Hello everyone! My name is Miss Murphy, and I am so glad to be back at Hillside! I worked here for seven years and left two years ago, so being back truly feels like coming home. I'm excited to see familiar faces and to meet all the new students as well!"

Miss Murphy



"Hello everyone, my name is Miss Clayton and I am the Progress Leader for Year 7. I was previously a Drama and Music teacher on Wirral. I am really looking forward to working closely with our new year 7 pupils."

Miss Clayton

"Hi Everyone! My name is Mr Jones, and I'm delighted to be at Hillside High School to support your learning as a Teaching Assistant. I'm looking forward to meeting you all and helping out however I can."

Mr Jones



"Hi! I'm Mr Bragger and I will be working with SEND. I am very excited to begin my time at Hillside and look forward to helping in education."

Mr Bragger

LRC Ambassadors

It gives me great pleasure to introduce you to our new team of LRC Ambassadors, these pupils excelled during the application process, showing a real passion for the development of the LRC and our new reading garden. On Thursday, Mrs Ryan and myself had the honour of awarding these pupils with their 'LRC Ambassador' badges to be displayed proudly on their blazers. We are very proud of their commitment and can't wait to see what the future of our LRC holds at Hillside. Well done to all of the applicants (we had 35!) it was a very difficult decision.

Congratulations to Gianna E, Xander H, Ruby L C, Chaya T, Harry T, Precious E, Kiara, Grace, Kyra, Olivia McB, Sofia S and Thomas K.



Safeguarding, Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health

Reading is Power 25-26

This week in assemblies we launched Reading is Power 25–26. Reading is Power has been our framework for reading at Hillside High School for several years, and it continues to be at the heart of our work. We know from research and from experience that reading brings huge benefits for our pupils—not only helping them to achieve more highly across their subjects at GCSE and beyond, but also supporting their emotional well-being, imagination, and confidence. That's why we are committed to developing how we teach and promote reading, and to reminding everyone that reading really is a source of power for life.

Why?

GCSEs are not just tests in English—they're cumulative assessments across disciplines that **depend heavily on literacy**.

With **longer, more complex exam questions** since 2017, students with weak reading skills face significant disadvantage.



Why?

A GL Assessment study of over **370,000 secondary students (2018–19)** found a **significant correlation** between reading ability and GCSE performance across *all* subjects—not just English.

For example, the correlation with **maths** (0.63) was actually **stronger** than with **English literature** (0.60) or **history** (0.61).



READING LESSONS

NEW INITIATIVE TO HILLSIDE FROM 25-26

Reading is a discrete subject for KS3.

The focus is reading for purpose; teaching pupils to become strategic readers and broadening vocabulary.

Year 7—Reading lesson once a week.

Year 8—Reading lesson once a week.

Year 9—Reading lesson once a fortnight.

This is a Trust wide curriculum and developed by a working party all schools are part of.

ALL staff will be taught the strategies for the reading curriculum to ensure transfer of skills across the curriculum.



Why?

The term "**word gap**" originally referred to a separate concept: the "**30 million word gap**" from research by Hart & Risley in the 1990s, which focused on spoken words across socioeconomic backgrounds.

30 million word gap



REGISTER & READ

Implementation Non-Negotiables

- ✓ Delivered on the designated registration day and activities linked to the novel to be delivered in any other time available during registration.
- ✓ Teachers to read fluently from a stood position at the front of class.
- ✓ Use the guided reading strategies and the Teacher guide to ensure high quality questions and dialogue is a key feature of the sessions.
- ✓ Pupils use reading rulers to follow along as the teacher reads.
- ✓ Pupils use the bookmarks to mark the page they read up to.



REGISTER & READ

Sometimes your teacher might use the following:

- ✓ Choral response.
- ✓ Repeated reading.
- ✓ Additional recall practice using 'before reading, during reading and after reading' prompts in Teacher Guide.
- ✓ Use visuals to support understanding or teaching of a keyword.
- ✓ Provide sentence starters for discussion e.g. "I think the character felt ...because..."



Here are the reflection questions for form time discussion: Reading & Identity

- To what extent do the books we read shape who we are?
- How far can reading help us understand people who are different from us?

Reading & Learning

- To what extent is reading the most important skill for success at school?
- How far does reading in your free time influence how well you do in other subjects?
- To what extent is reading a habit, a skill, or both?

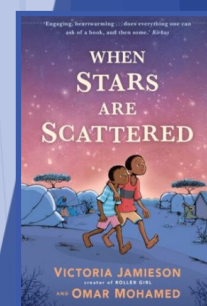
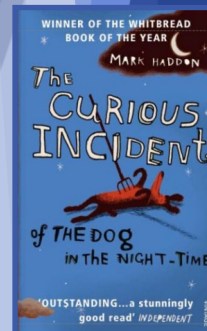
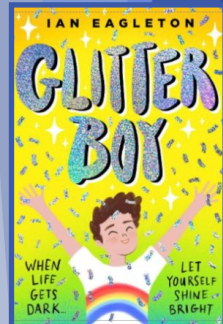
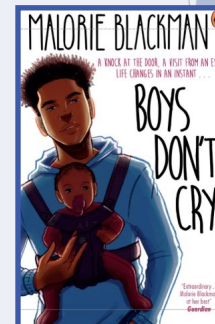
Reading & Enjoyment

- To what extent is reading more enjoyable than watching a film or scrolling on your phone?

- How far can a single book change the way you think about something?
- To what extent does the kind of book you choose matter?

Reading & the Future

- To what extent will reading remain important in a digital age?
- How far can reading help prepare you for life beyond school?
- To what extent is reading power?



Mrs Wardale