



Dear Parents

I hope you enjoy reading this week's newsletter. I am delighted to share the School Councillors of 2025-26. These pupils are already making a massive difference to our school. We have discussed the feedback from their first meeting in our Leadership Team meeting, shared it with all staff and used this to inform our plans and training moving forward. I echo what Mr Rayson says, I can't wait to see everything they are going to achieve this year.

Last Thursday was 'Meet the Tutor Evening' and this was a real highlight, the evening was an opportunity for parents to meet their child's Form Tutor and see how they are settling in. Feedback from parents was extremely positive, with one parent saying "We are really impressed and grateful for all the work that's gone in, to our support daughter" and another saying "The friendly staff made my daughter's transition so much easier, she now enjoys lessons she never used to enjoy in primary school because she looks forward to having lessons with the teachers". I am extremely proud of these comments and would say a massive Well Done to all our Year 7s who have settled in really well.



Mrs Ryan and our amazing Year 7 Form Tutors, excited to meet our Year 7s and their parents at Thursday's Meet the Tutor Evening.

A reminder we finish for half term on Tuesday at the normal time and return on Monday 3rd November. I hope everyone can enjoy a restful half term break and some precious time with family and friends.

Amanda Ryan, Principal

Hillside Attendance Champions – A Celebration of Commitment!

We are thrilled to celebrate the **312 pupils** have achieved **100% attendance** so far this academic year! This is a fantastic achievement and a true reflection of the dedication, resilience, and commitment to learning that defines Hillside.

Leading the charge are our **Year 7 pupils**, with an outstanding **97 pupils** maintaining perfect attendance. What a way to begin their Hillside journey! They've truly embraced the '**Start Strong**' message, showing that they understand the importance of being present, engaged, and ready to learn from day one. These pupils are now part of the legendary **Hillside 100** — a group that sets the standard for excellence and consistency. Keep it up, Year 7 — you're making history!

We also want to give a huge shout-out to all pupils who have achieved **96% attendance or higher**. Your commitment means:

- You're **not missing valuable learning time**.
- There's **no need for compulsory catch-up sessions**.
- You're making sure you're **in to win** — academically, socially, and personally.

Every day in school counts, and your efforts are laying the foundation for success. Whether you're part of the Hillside 100 or pushing towards it, your dedication is noticed and celebrated.

Let's keep the momentum going — together, we can make this our strongest year yet!

Mr Edwards



100 HILLSIDE



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Friday 17th October 2025

Celebrating Matilda's Star Quality! ✨

A huge congratulations to Matilda Shaw (9EB), who shone brightly at the Devine Theatre Company awards, taking home the prestigious 'Star Quality Award 2025'! ✨

This award recognises Matilda's exceptional talent, dedication, and passion for the performing arts. Ms Phillips, Progress Leader for Year 9, said she is "absolutely delighted to see Matilda's hard work and creativity recognised – she's a true star!" 🎭 ✨

We're all excited to see what's next for Matilda, and Mrs Ryan and Ms Phillips are especially looking forward to watching her perform in the upcoming production of Our Day Out!

Miss Phillips



Student Council 2025 - 26

We are very proud to introduce our Student Councillors for the academic year 2025-26! These Pupil Leaders were elected by their forms to represent them as the voice of the school. Every form in the school is represented by at least one pupil and we are looking forward to witness the amazing things this group will achieve this year.

During their first meeting, Pupil Leaders were asked to feedback their opinions on some of the changes that have been implemented in school during this first half-term. They felt that the corridors during lesson transition were calm and felt that moving around the school was much easier due to the new 'single file' expectation. Pupil Leaders were also complimentary about the Blue Zone, our new whole school expectation that all pupils should complete at least 10 minutes of independent work per lesson with feedback being given immediately afterwards. Year 11 are enjoying it as an opportunity to develop independence, particularly in practising exam questions in readiness for their GCSEs.

The Student Council were also tasked with their first fundraising initiative of the year! They were able to organise a cake sale in less than a week in support of SWACA and Eva House, a charity which provides safe and welcoming accommodation for women and their children when they are unable to remain in their family home due to domestic abuse.

The cake sale raised an amazing £190 which was doubled due to the Big Give match funding, meaning that the Student Council raised a total of £380 for a wonderful cause. A big well done to them!

Mr Rayson



Essential 8

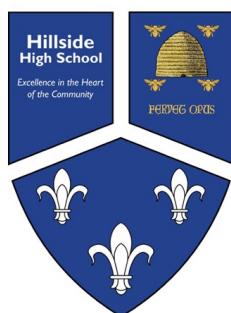
All pupils must bring their Essential 8 into school every day. This will be checked in form classes every morning. Without a properly stocked pencil case and bag, a pupil is putting up their first hurdle to making excellent progress – for themselves and their peers.

If your child arrives to school after 8:30am and/or fails to bring in their basic Essential 8 equipment (pen, pencil, ruler, purple pen, timetable and bag). They will receive a break time detention that day.

If they fail to attend this detention then they will receive an hour's detention on Friday with a member of the Leadership Team. Parents will be informed about this detention from a notification on their Class Charts parent App.



Would you like to be a Parent Governor?



Would you like to be a Parent Governor?

This is a crucial role which needs to be filled by parents of current Hillside pupils. Please note, Grandparents can also stand as Parent Governor if they are involved in the education of their grandchildren.

Joining the Governing Body as a Parent Governor offers you the opportunity to make a real contribution to the life and work of your child's school. There has never been a more exciting time to join our Governing Body. Ofsted stated 'the governing body is made up of people who have the relevant skills and expertise to provide leaders with the necessary support and challenge'. If you would like to be a part of this, we would love to hear from you.

Governors play a key role in the leadership of the school and raising of standards including appointment of key staff, overseeing the budget and monitoring progress in curriculum, attendance and behaviour. Being a governor can be very rewarding and will provide you with the opportunity to work as part of a team and gain new skills. Don't worry if you have no experience, as full training and support is available from the Wade Deacon Trust, and your colleagues on the Governing Body.

If any parents/grandparents are interested you can contact me at admin@hillsidehigh.co.uk and we could meet informally to discuss the role.

Mrs A Ryan, Principal



Key Dates 2025-2026

21st October - Last Day of Term

3rd November - Pupils Back to School at the Normal Time of 8:20am

14th November - Flu Vaccine All Year Groups

20th November - Presentation Evening

27th November - Year 11 Progress Evening

4th December - Christmas Market

RE-CYCLE YOUR OLD UNIFORM

We are always grateful for donations of good quality uniform including PE and Drama kits.

Also, if you have any no longer required text books, we can re-cycle those too.



Pride In Hillside

PIC-COLLAGE

Photographs: If your child has misplaced their slip for you to view their photograph, please ask them to go to the main office and Miss Mason will print them off a new slip.

Thank you



Safeguarding, Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health

Black History Month 2024: Reclaiming the Narrative

October is Black History Month, a time to celebrate the contributions of black people and highlight those unsung heroes who have made the world a better place. It was first introduced in Britain in 1987 by Akyaaba Addai who had visited America in the 1970s and observed the success of the occasion.

This year, the theme for Black History Month in the UK is 'Standing Firm in Power and Proud'. By focusing on this theme, we can give a powerful tribute to the resilience, strength and unwavering commitment to progress that defines the black community across the globe. It's about taking control of narratives, honouring heroes, and challenging the stories that have often overlooked the contributions and achievements of Black individuals in the UK and globally.

We have been celebrating in assemblies, discussing significant individuals from throughout history during form, and through the History Department's annual Black History Month competition – produce a poster, article or other creative piece linked to the theme in general or on a particular individual to be in with a chance to win some Black History Month related stationary and other goodies!! To enter the competition please submit your entry to a member of the History Department before half-term. Winners will be announced and prizes awarded during the first week back!

Reflection Questions

- What was the most powerful thing you learned during Black History Month this year?
- Did you discover a historical figure, event, or story that surprised or inspired you? Why?
- How has what you learned changed or deepened your understanding of Black British history?
- What stereotypes or assumptions did you challenge or rethink this month?

Mr Rayson

Black History Month							
The theme for Black History Month UK 2024 is "Standing Firm in Power and Pride," a powerful tribute to the resilience, strength, and unwavering commitment to progress that defines the Black community across the globe. This year, the theme highlights the profound contributions made by Black people while also looking towards a future of continued unity.							
1. 'Been Here from the Start' Horrible Histories Song https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6M-qvS8zeU	2. Joe Clough, the first Black bus driver https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/article/section/bhm-firsts/joe-clough-the-first-black-bus-driver/	3. Walter Tull, professional footballer and WW1 soldier https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/article/section/first-world-war-service-and-sacrifice/walter-tull-1888-1918/	4. Benjamin Zephaniah, Black poet and actor https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VtvmXjIMAK	5. Michelle Obama, first black woman to be First Lady of the United States https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gCYL9qdOvk&t=12s	6. Stormzy, Black musician https://kids.kiddle.co/Stormzy	7. Black Britons in Tudor England https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z8d4cmnztv477vc	
8. The Windrush Generation https://windrushmonumentlevellingup.gov.uk/celebrating-the-windrush-generation/	9. Ida B. Wells, Journalist and Anti-Lynching activist https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wYjGtH2fSCQ&feature=shared	10. Olaudah Equiano, abolitionist and writer https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ac6GMdIMKew	11. Harriet Tubman, leader of the Underground railroad. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkAo4odl8si-S2lv0Hqavb3RxeLj	12. John Edmonstone, mentor to Charles Darwin https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/article/section/science-and-medicine/john-edmonstone-the-unseen-mentor-who-shaped-scientific-thought/	13. Frank Bailey, London's first Black firefighter https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/article/section/bhm-firsts/frank-bailey-remembering-londons-first-black-firefighter/	14. Lillian Bader, first Black pilot in the RAF https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ThEKqQwzII	
15. Paul Stephenson and the Bristol Bus Boycott https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/oct/01/paul-stephenson-the-hero-who-refused-to-leave-a-pub-and-helped-desegregate-britain	16. Katherine Johnson, NASA mathematician https://www.agescrofthall.org.uk/article/malorie-blackman/604884	17. Ignatius Sancho, first Black Briton with the vote https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FLFtpDvD7A	18. Bill Richmond, 19th century boxer and celebrity https://www.npg.org.uk/collections/search/person/mp16937/bill-richmond	19. Jessika Inaba: UK's first blind, black, female barrister. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WPvdrWgCM&si=BJO9KBUIAHCBjKNa	20. Harold Moody, doctor and UK civil rights activist https://www.blackheroesfoundation.org/people/harold-moody/	21. Winifred Atwell, musician and singer https://www.goldradio.com/news/music/winifred-atwell-pianist-songs-death/	
22. Malorie Blackman https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/Malorie-Blackman/604884	23. Jacques Francis, Black Tudor salvage diver for Henry VIII https://www.agescrofthall.org.uk/article/jacques-francis-salvage-diver-diving-for-the-king	24. Lennox Lewis, world champion boxer https://greatestbritons.com/lennox-claudius-lewis-biography	25. Windrush Pioneer: Dame Jocelyn Barrow https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/article/section/bhm-firsts/windrush-pioneer-dame-jocelyn-barrow/	26. Learie Constantine, cricket player and the first Black person to sit in the House of Lords https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/blue-plaques/learie-constantine/	27. Phillis Wheatley, African-American poet https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/Phillis-Wheatley/399996	28. Seaman William Brown, first Black woman to sail with the Royal Navy https://theodyssey.co.uk/news/hidden-heroine-the-first-black-woman-to-serve-in-the-royal-navy/?srsltid=AfmBOoQKDMCmERVu5j19EMAYdvmjPILXaQd5nDhbKm1Zd5kgDI2m7L	
29. Mary Seacole, hotel owner and nurse https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bs32UDEvUDQ	30. Ira Aldridge, Black actor and playwright https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/blue-plaques/aldrige-ira/	31. Yvonne Conolly: Britain's first black Headteacher https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WBeZge1L4g&si=U47oK0KfKp88CB	• Hamilton, theatre by an all black cast: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D5CKDpAGHC • Black History Month website: https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/ • Black and British, A Short Essential History by David Olusoga • Black and British - BBC: https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0499smg • National Archives, Black British History on Record, https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/black-history				

Thought for the Week

"SUCCESS IS TO BE MEASURED NOT SO MUCH BY THE POSITION THAT ONE HAS REACHED IN LIFE AS BY THE OBSTACLES WHICH [ONE] HAS OVERCOME WHILE TRYING TO SUCCEED."

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON
UP FROM SLAVERY: AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY BY BOOKER T. WASHINGTON

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/12376/12376-h/12376-h.htm>

COMPETITION

You could win BHM stationary and other goodies – simply design a poster, article or piece of art celebrating BHM generally or a particular key individual to be in with a chance to win!

2025

'standing firm in power and pride'.

Bhm uk SAID THEY CHOSE THIS THEME as a 'powerful tribute to the resilience, strength, and unwavering commitment to