



HILLSIDE
HIGH SCHOOL
WADE DEACON TRUST



EXCELLENCE IN THE HEART
OF THE COMMUNITY

NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope everyone was able to enjoy a restful and enjoyable half term break. It has been a pleasure to return to school this week. I am already excited for everything we have planned for this half term, as always we will be working hard in our lessons, but as we approach the festive season we have lots of nice things planned for our pupils.

As we start a new half term and a new month I thought it was nice to include the November 'Action for Happiness' calendar. This includes a manageable activity for each day of the month which can improve how we are feeling. Certainly worth a try!

I hope you enjoy reading all about my challenge of running a half marathon on the back page. The purpose of sharing this with our pupils was to inspire them to see that when we put our mind to it, we can achieve anything!

Amanda Ryan
Executive Principal

Celebrating a Strong Start at Hillside High!

We are thrilled to celebrate an incredible achievement from last half term – over 300 pupils achieved 100% attendance! That means they didn't miss a single minute of learning, giving themselves the very best chance for success in the future. A special shout-out goes to our Year 7 pupils, with 90 students hitting perfect attendance – what an amazing way to start your Hillside journey!

Currently, Year 7's overall attendance stands at 94.8%, which is a great start, but we know you can do even better. Let's aim high and push that figure up to 97% this half term. Every day in school counts, and every lesson matters.

This half term is packed with exciting events as we head towards Christmas – so keep an eye out for next week's newsletter for all the details! In the meantime, let's make attendance our top priority. Aim for 100%! Even if you're feeling a little under the weather, try to come in - often you will feel better as the day goes on.

Together, we can make this the best half term yet. Let's keep showing that Hillside spirit!

Mr Edwards



MEMBER OF THE WADE DEACON TRUST

Friday 7th November 2025

Foot Golf Event at Aintree

Before the half term break, a small number of pupils within the Wellbeing Hub cohort took part in a Foot Golf event at Aintree Racecourse. Though the weather wasn't great, the pupils truly enjoyed taking part in the event. Their behaviour was excellent throughout the afternoon. A big well done to all pupils that attended for representing the school so brilliantly.

Miss Ellis



- Dates for your diary
- Flu Vaccine – All Year Groups - 14th November
 - Presentation Evening – 20th November
 - Year 11 Progress Evening 4:15pm-6:45pm– 27th November
 - Christmas Market – 4th December

New Ways November 2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
 3 Get outside and observe the changes in nature around you	 4 Sign up to join a new course, activity or online community	 5 Change your normal routine today and notice how you feel	 6 Try out a new way of being physically active	 7 Be creative. Cook, draw, write, paint, make or inspire	1 Make a list of new things you want to do this month	2 Respond to a difficult situation in a different way
10 Be curious. Learn about a new topic or an inspiring idea	11 Choose a different route and see what you notice on the way	12 Find out something new about someone you care about	13 Do something playful outdoors - walk, run, explore, relax	14 Find a new way to help or support a cause you care about	15 Plan a new activity or idea you want to try out this week	9 When you feel you can't do something, add the word "yet"
17 Try a new way to practice self-care and be kind to yourself	18 Connect with someone from a different generation	19 Broaden your perspective: read a different paper, magazine or site	20 Make a meal using a recipe or ingredient you've not tried before	21 Learn a new skill from a friend or share one of yours with them	22 Build on new ideas by thinking "Yes, and what if..."	16 Look at life through someone else's eyes and see their perspective
24 Share with a friend something helpful you learned recently	25 Use one of your strengths in a new or creative way	26 Try out a different radio station or new TV show	27 Join a friend doing their hobby and find out why they love it	28 Discover your artistic side. Design a friendly greeting card	29 Find a new way to tell someone you appreciate them	23 Set aside a regular time to pursue an activity you love

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together



After School Activities



Netball Club (Year 7/8/9)

Year 7/8/9 Netball Training

Monday's 2:45 – 3:45pm

Sports Hall/Cage

See Ms. Austin



Y7/Y8 Football Club

Year 7/8 Football Training

Monday's 2:45 – 3:45pm

School field/Bootle Stadium (School changing rooms first!)

See Mr. Lawrence or Mr. Clarke



Girls Football Club (All years)

Girl's Football Training

Thursday's 2:45 – 3:45pm

School field

See Ms. Austin



All years Basketball Club

All years Basketball Training

Wednesday's 2:45 – 3:45pm

Sports Hall

See Mr. Clarke



Rugby club (Boys & Girls)

Rugby Club (Boys and Girls in all years)

Tuesday's 2:45 – 3:45pm

Sports field

See Mr. Lawrence



Badminton Club (All years)

Badminton Club – All Years

Friday's 2:45 – 3:45pm

Sports Hall

See Mr. Clarke

Re-Cycle Your Old Uniform

We are 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.

Safeguarding

Please see the poster below to remind you of the Safeguarding Team here at Hillside. All members of staff have a safeguarding responsibility here at Hillside but these members of staff below have specific responsibilities in terms of responding to any safeguarding concerns. Please see our safeguarding information in the Pupil Handbook for further information.

DESIGNATED PERSONS FOR SAFEGUARDING

					
Mrs Jones Strategic Lead / Designated Safeguarding Lead	Miss Sheils Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Mrs McGing Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Mr Campbell Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Mr Smedley Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Mrs Banks Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

If you are concerned about your own safety or well-being, or the safety and well-being of somebody else in school it is really important that you talk to one of these members of staff

Mrs Ryan's 'What's our Why' assembly!

I started the year with assemblies on finding our why! Asking pupils what they want to achieve in the coming year and the time they have at Hillside and this week was an opportunity to revisit this. Based on the work of Simon Sinek I always believe the best way to get people to 'buy in' and invest is to make sure they are clear on their 'why'.

I then went on to share with pupils my personal 'why' of setting myself the challenge of running a half marathon in my 50th year. Before I started training for this on 20th June the longest distance I had ever run was the 5K Santa Dash with Hillside colleagues. So I knew running the 13.1 miles of a half marathon was certainly going to be a challenge for me.

In assembly I spoke to pupils about the importance of following a training plan and how that plan has to include the right level of 'desirable difficulty'. Hard enough to challenge me, but not so hard that I gave up! I compared this to the 'Blue Zone' pupils complete in every lesson, they should feel suitably challenged by this activity, but it shouldn't be so hard they give up.

We also talked about the power of a 'Public Promise' in other words when you tell people about your 'why', your 'goal' this galvanises you not to give up. When I was running the half marathon my public promise, in other words the fact I had told the entire school community I was doing it, certainly kept me going!

The most important message of all, which links to the year ahead in school, is the importance of determination and never giving up. Sometimes when school is hard, just like when I run, we need to keep going, putting one foot in front of the other and remember to breathe!

Reflections for our pupils:

- What is your 'Why' for the year ahead?
- As we start the second half term, how is this going?
- Do you always try your hardest in the 'Blue Zone'?
- Do you recognise that the 'Blue Zone' needs to be hard enough to challenge you, but not so hard you give up?
- Have you made a 'Public Promise' and shared this with anyone?
- Have you shown the determination needed to get the best from every day and every lesson at Hillside? If not, what can you do differently moving forward?

Even though my assembly wasn't about running, it was about determination and achieving our goals, has anyone decided to set themselves a fitness challenge? I was delighted when some Year 7s told me they are going to train for a half marathon after feeling inspired by my assembly. You don't get a much bigger compliment than that!

