



NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you enjoy reading this week's newsletter. It has been another busy week at Hillside and I was delighted that so many of our Year 9 pupils attended our guest lecture on Tuesday to hear Mr Canter speak. Mr Canter is the son of a Holocaust Survivor Anita, who in her lifetime spoke to Hillside pupils many times. This has now become an annual event in our school and listening to Jan is incredibly moving. As always our pupils were exceptional in their compassion and thoughtfulness, asking some very thought provoking questions. A true once in a life time experience for our pupils.

Please encourage your child to be in school every day, as we have our 'We Love Your Attendance' awards launching on Monday. Pupils will get a raffle ticket each day and need to post it in their year group box in the Foyer. There will be prizes each day and then a roll over with all the raffle tickets for the year group going into a prize drawer on Friday 13th February for our BIG prizes! As we always say 'You have got to be in it, to win it!'



WE LOVE YOUR ATTENDANCE

EVERYDAY RAFFLE TICKET:

Be in school every day and receive a raffle ticket, then simply place your raffle ticket into your year group box in the foyer and be in with a chance of winning a fantastic prize.

LAST DAY OF TERM (FRIDAY 13TH FEBRUARY):

There will be a winner in each year group & an overall winner for the BIG PRIZE



Congratulations
Winner of Year 11, Period 6
Attendance raffle is John Mc –
11GM



Mrs Ryan, Mr Cunliffe Chair of Governor's and Governor Dr Sapple, were delighted to attend the Wade Deacon Governor Conference on Saturday. This was a very informative training session and it was lovely to meet Governors from across the Trust.



YEAR 11 VERY IMPORTANT

Saturday School - tomorrow
10-1pm

ALL Year 11 invited

The first Science session back in September was a huge success. Mrs Ryan and Mr Wardale are looking forward to seeing you all.

Last Weeks PE Star Performers



Blossom	8 HT
Lennon	9 OM
Luna-Rose	7 HP
Chloe	8 SKe
Peggie	9 EB
Samuel	8 SKe
Gianna	8 SKe
Konstantinos	11 LB
Vena	7 RS
Francis	9 TH
Amelie	9 SAC
Poppy	8 SA
Jason	7 JMe
Wisdom	8 SA
Maisy	9 SAC
Nadia	10 MC
Karen	7 JMu
Alexa	7 JMe
Kenneth	7 CL
Roman	9 JR
Dylan	11 GMW
Riley	7 RS
Alexandra	8 SA
Nell	7 JMu
Remi	10 DH
Mya-Rose	8 RLC
Hallie	9 TH
Maja	7 CL

February 2026

5th February	Year 9 Progress Evening - 4:15pm - 6:45pm
13th February	End of Term — Last Day of School
23rd February	INSET Day (School Closed to Pupils)
24th February	Start of Term — Back to School at 8.30am

March 2026

5th March	World Book Day
10th March	MENACWY Vaccines—Year 9 pupils.
9th-13th March	Year 9 Options Interviews
19th March	Year 11 English & Maths Exams
16th March — 27th March	Year 9 Progress Evening & Options Event 4.15pm-6.45pm Year 10 Work Experience
27th March	End of Term—Last Day of School



Holocaust Memorial Day – Holocaust Speaker

As part of Hillside's events to mark Holocaust Memorial Day, 22 Year 9 and 10 pupils stayed behind after school to listen to a guest speaker, Mr. Canter, deliver a fascinating and emotional story about his mother's survival of the Holocaust.

Many past pupils may find the name to be familiar as Mr. Canter's mother, Anita Canter, used to regularly attend Hillside and speak to pupils about her experiences as a young girl during those terrible events. When Anita passed away, Mr. Canter's belief in the importance of education as well as a desire to continue his mother's legacy led to him recounting her story once more at Hillside.

The pupils were captivated as Mr. Canter spoke of his mother's childhood in Denmark and what happened when it was occupied by the Nazis in the 1940s. The Danish resistance movement managed to evacuate 7,220 of Denmark's 7,800 Jews by sea to Sweden, Anita Canter being among those who fortunately made it out by boat, but not before being held captive in a prison where she and other Jewish prisoners was forced into humiliating acts to amuse the Nazi guards.

At the end of the talk pupils were given the opportunity to ask questions and Mr. Canter was so impressed by the respectful and insightful questions that the pupils came up with as a result of what they'd learned about.

It really was a fantastic and emotional way to mark Holocaust Memorial Day and really brings home the power of education. The pupils were extremely grateful to Mr. Canter for giving up his time to give them the talk. One year 9 pupil, Sophie, said it was "an unforgettable experience that every school should get! It was very interesting and the photos and personal stories gave me a better insight." Another pupil, Amelia, said "I thought it was very interesting and inspiring to hear the story about his mother, especially because it was a personal story."

Mr. Canter also kindly donated a copy of his mother's book about her experiences, 'Tailors on Both Sides', to the school for pupils to read.

Anita Canter died in 2016, survived by her husband, two children and six grandchildren. Her life and work remain an inspiration.

Mr Rayson.



LGBT+ History Month 2026

At Hillside we are celebrating LGBT+ History Month. LGBT History Month in the UK is an annual event that takes place in February. It is a time to celebrate and recognise the achievements, contributions and history of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT+) community.

The month-long event aims to raise awareness of the history, struggles, and successes of the LGBT+ community, and it provides an opportunity to promote equality and diversity.

The focus of LGBT+ History Month is not only on historical milestones but also on contemporary issues and the ongoing fight for equal rights.

From BC to AD LGBT+ people have existed. Over the past 20 years, since the first UK LGBT+ History Month in 2005, this movement has tried to highlight the incredible things LGBT+ people have achieved throughout history in all areas of life.

The 2026 theme for LGBT+ History Month is **Science and Innovation**

Science and innovation impact our daily lives, from the technology we use to developments in healthcare, as well as helping us to address global challenges such as climate change and access to clean energy.

Diverse teams are essential for the development of solutions which benefit everyone, yet we might often struggle to name LGBT+ scientists and innovators.

The 2026 theme for LGBT+ History Month aims to highlight the contributions of LGBT+ people historically and today, and to raise awareness of the people behind them.

Here are some LGBT+ historical figures who have worked in Science and Innovation.

Barbara Burford: A medical researcher who established NHS equality and diversity guidelines

Charles Beyer: A locomotive engineer and a founding member of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers.

Elke Mackenzie: A botanist who researched lichens in Antarctica.

Jemma Redmond: A biotechnologist who developed 3D bioprinters to create tissues and organs.

Robert Boyle: A founder of modern chemistry and of the modern scientific method.

Reflective Questions

What barriers still exist for LGBTQ+ communities today?

What can we do as a school this month to show our solidarity for the LGBTQ+ community?

What does respect look like in conversations about gender identity?

What does it look like to be an ally to the LGBTQ+ community in real life?