



NEWSLETTER

Friday 6th March 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been amazing to welcome everyone back to school this week and I am delighted to say that this has been a much better week in terms of pupil attendance. We need to keep this momentum up! As I said last week with such a short term no one can afford to miss a day. We now have 15 school days to go until we break up for Easter. We NEED to make each of those count!

I am delighted to welcome three new colleagues who have joined us this week at Hillside, Mr Hale and Ms Mitchell are joining our Pastoral Team to further enhance the amazing support our pupils receive. Miss Mason is a very familiar face to our families, having worked on reception for 4 years has returned to join the Attendance Team, a role I know she is passionate about. Together with our very experienced Pastoral Team I know these colleagues are going to further enhance the support and when needed challenge, our pupils receive to attend well, fulfil their potential and truly achieve 'Excellence in the Heart of the Community'.

1st March is National Offer Day, the day children in Year 6 are notified of their secondary school place. We were delighted to receive over 500 applications for our 175 places! We can't wait to meet our new Year 7's the 'Class of 2031'. We are also acutely aware of the significant number of Year 6's who wanted a place in our school and are obviously very disappointed at this time that they haven't been allocated Hillside.

Well done to our five musicians who attended Hope University to play with the Hope Big Band. What an experience! I am so proud of them all.

Amanda Ryan, Executive Principal



"I'm really looking forward to beginning my new role at Hillside High School. I'm excited to continue to meet pupil's over the next couple of week's and hit the ground running".

Mr Hale - Assistant Progress Leader

"I'm really pleased to be taking on the role of Assistant Progress Leader at Hillside High School. I'm looking forward to working closely with pupils and colleagues, supporting progress, celebrating achievements, and helping to create a positive and encouraging environment where everyone can do their very best".

Miss Mitchell - Assistant Progress Leader

"I'm so excited to be starting my new job as an Attendance Officer at the Hillside! I'm really looking forward to getting to know all the pupils and being a positive friendly face they see each day. I can't wait to celebrate the wins, help pupils stay on track, and be part of a team that supports them every step of the way. It feels good to be in a role where I can make a difference—one school day at a time!" Miss Mason.

Miss Mason - Attendance Officer



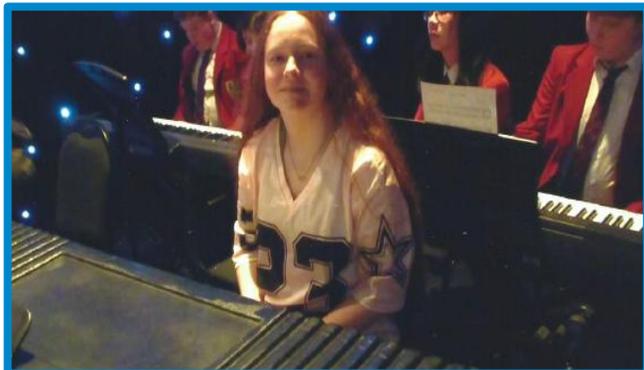
Five young Hillside musicians – Lillie-W, Charlotte McV, Emmi F, Gianna E and Chloe C - took part in a music workshop and gig on Friday 27th February, as part of the 2026 Liverpool International Jazz Festival. This also included pupils from SFX Woolton, Dixons Academy Broadgreen as well as students from Liverpool Hope University, who hosted the event.

After a morning music workshop, a fairly intense rehearsal and lunch break, everyone took part in an hour-long afternoon concert in the Capstone Theatre, directed by Senior Music Lecturer **Dr Tom Sykes**.

The programme included pupils performing two specially arranged/composed pieces, in addition to the Hope Big Band playing jazz standards. Hillside provided piano, trumpet and saxophone players - essential instruments to the ensemble - while the other schools contributed mostly guitars, bass and percussion. The Hillside pupils played brilliantly, in spite of short rehearsal time and the pressure of playing before an audience.

Our pupils are all working on ABRSM jazz exam pieces, had fun, gaining considerable insights into the performance and conventions of jazz music, in an informal learning environment. They are eager to repeat the experience next year!

Mr Harrison



Reducing Our Environmental Footprint!

Just to let everyone know we are reducing our single use plastic waste by removing the flavoured water in plastic bottles and replacing them with 250ml cartons of flavoured water.

There will still be bottles of plain still water available to purchase at break and lunchtime, also there is the water fountain available in the dining room accessible to all. At present we provide disposable plastic cups for this and hopefully we will be replacing with paper cups by the end of the school year.

We highly recommend that all pupils bring in their own refillable water bottle from home if they have one.



Many Thanks from Mrs Hankinson and The Catering Team.

PE Star Performers

Charlotte 9 EB
Daisi-Mae 9 TH
Jack 7 JMu
Aasef 9 TH
Victoria 7 JMe
Michael 9 EB
Olivia 9 EB
Amelia 9 TH
Oliver 8 HT
Matilda 9 EB
Kyle 8 HT



Congratulations
Winner of Year 11,
Period 6 Attendance
raffle is Stacey B -
11LG

Compassionate Parenting Course

We are excited to share that **Hillside High** will be hosting a **6-week Compassionate Parenting Course**, delivered by **Sefton Team Around the School**.

This course will support parents and carers with:

- Understanding child development
- Learning about rupture and repair
- An introduction to approaches such as **PACE**
- Building stronger, more connected relationships with young people

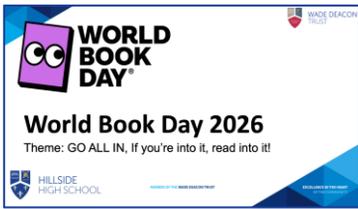
Every Thursday, 9am–11am

16th April – 21st May

Hillside High School

If you would like to reserve a place, please complete the form below.

[Compassionate Parenting Course – Fill in form](#)



World Book Day

This year's World Book Day theme, **"Go All In,"** encourages every young person to immerse themselves fully in reading — not because they have to, but because once they *step inside* a story, reading becomes something powerful, enjoyable and deeply personal. The theme highlights that reading is not about perfection or pressure, but about the joy of discovering worlds, ideas and characters that spark curiosity and imagination.

Reading for pleasure brings enormous benefits. It strengthens vocabulary, builds focus and develops deeper thinking skills, all of which support academic progress across subjects. It also nurtures empathy, helping young people understand perspectives beyond their own. Just as importantly, reading supports emotional wellbeing — stories can comfort, inspire, entertain and help pupils make sense of their own feelings. Research linked to World Book Day emphasises that reading for fun "seriously improves children's lives" and plays a key role in long-term literacy confidence. At a time when many teenagers feel too busy or too tired to read, it's important to challenge a common misconception: **"I don't have time."**

We all get **168 hours a week**, and even **10 minutes a night** can make a real difference. A small daily reading habit builds stamina, reduces stress and boosts academic outcomes over time. Often, the biggest barrier isn't time — it's distraction. So this World Book Day, we're encouraging everyone (adults and pupils!): **Put the phone down, switch off the scroll, and pick up a book instead.** World Book Day is about giving young people choice, freedom and excitement in what they read. Whether it's fantasy, graphic novels, poetry, biography, sport writing, or something that connects with their hobbies, what matters is finding a book that feels engaging and enjoyable.

As we celebrate this year, let's all *Go All In* — parents, carers and pupils together — by making reading part of everyday life, even in small moments. Those 10 minutes a day might just be the start of a lifelong habit that supports both learning and wellbeing.

Reflection question:

What will your public promise be to become a better reader?



Office on the web Frame **5 WAYS READING BOOSTS YOUR MENTAL HEALTH**

1. Reduces stress & eases daily worries.
2. Strengthens focus & supports clearer thinking.
3. Builds empathy & deepens connection with others.
4. Uplifts mood & offers comfort.
5. Keeps your mind curious, active & sharp.