



NEWSLETTER

Friday 24th April 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and Learners,

As always, I would like to begin by reinforcing the vital importance of attendance. Every day in school truly matters—every missed day is a day of learning missed, and consistent attendance is key to progress, confidence and success. Thank you to families who continue to support this so strongly.

Last week, it was a real privilege to welcome Sharon Ament, now Director of the London Museum, into our school. Sharon grew up locally in Bootle, and hearing her journey was both powerful and inspiring. Her story is a reminder to our young people that ambition, hard work and belief can open doors—no matter where you start. We were incredibly proud of how well our pupils listened, engaged and represented our community during her visit.

I also want to say a huge well done to 9KBH, who are currently top for both behaviour and attendance. An excellent achievement and one to be proud of—but the challenge is now set to the other forms to knock them off that winning position!

Last week we also welcomed five school leaders into our school to conduct a Challenge Partners Review. While fuller feedback will be shared once the report is finalised, I wanted to celebrate some of their immediate impressions of our pupils and staff. Two quotes that truly reflect how special our learners are stood out: *"Students are positive and articulate."*

"Reading is well embedded across the school."

"In the lessons I visited, the climate for learning was exceptional."

"There is an energy from leaders to strive for improvement."

These comments capture what we see every day—young people who are respectful, confident, and proud of their school. There were many areas identified to celebrate, and we look forward to sharing more details with our community very soon.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Mrs Wardale, Vice Principal

PE Star Performers

William	9 KBH	Zach	7 JMu
Kyleena	8 SKe	Izzy	9 TH
Tamim	10 THe	Lennon	9 OM
Madison	8 SO	Ryan	7 JMe
Albie	9 TH	Matilda	9 KBH
Victor	8 HT	Harry	9 TH
Reece	7 JMe	Matthew	8 SKe
Kyle	8 HT	Oliver	7 RS
Jake	8 SKe	Ian	7 JMe
		Vivian	7 HP

WELL DONE!



Congratulations

Winner of Year
11,
Period 6
Attendance raffle
is Maisie H- 11B



A big congratulations to Mr Campbell and 9 KBH on an outstanding achievement! They have earned awards for best behaviour and best attendance in their year group, as well as being recognised for the best behaviour across the whole school last term.



FRIDAY FINISH LINE

HOMEWORK
ON TIME



Every homework task helps you move ahead. Pupils who complete homework make 5-8 months of extra progress

EEF

Sparx Learning

We would like to remind pupils and families of the importance of **completing and returning homework on time**. Homework plays a vital role in reinforcing learning, building independence and supporting progress in the classroom. Our **Friday Finish Line** has been introduced to simplify expectations: **all homework is set with a Friday deadline**, giving pupils a full week to plan, complete and submit their work. With this clear system in place, there are very few reasons for homework not to be completed on time. Thank you to families for your continued support in helping pupils develop strong learning habits.

Absence

If your child is unable to attend school you will need to ring the school office on 0151 525 2630 between 7.30am-8.30am. The call will be received by one of our admin team who will discuss the reason for your child's absence. Please help us by letting us know if your child has an appointment or will be absent for any reason.

LFC VISIT



Just before our half term holiday, we were invited to **LFC** by Liverpool poet **Joseph Roberts** who in partnership with Knifesavers, KnowNoknifecrime, Ariel Trust, Merseyside Youth Association, LFC Foundation and Everton in the Community where we were involved in a full day of workshops focussing on creative learning and personal development. Myself and Mr Atkinson were very proud of our pupils! They were exemplary all day, they were engaged in every task and gave everything 100%. They were polite and a joy to be with.

We had several comments from the event organisers, LFC staff, staff from other schools and **Jospeh Roberts** himself saying how amazing our pupils were. They produced some wonderful, heartfelt and thoughtful poems in the last workshop and most of them have put their entries forward to be included in the judging for possible publication. Watch this space... we may have some future poets in our midst.

The pupils who attended the event were Luna B, Ruben C, Miley C, Grace F, Ethan J, Elizabeth L, James Mc, Callum C, Kourtney O, David O, Poppy P, Harry T, Charlotte Mc and Emmi F. Well Done to our fabulous pupils for representing Hillside in such a positive way!

Mrs Marquez



Inspiring Futures: A Visit from a Very Special Guest Speaker

Our Year 9 and 10 GCSE History pupils were treated to a truly inspiring experience last Friday, as we welcomed Sharon Ament, Director of the London Museum, as part of the *Speakers for Schools* programme.

From the moment she began speaking, Sharon captivated pupils with the story of her journey—from growing up and attending school here in Bootle, to building an exciting and varied career in London. Her message was clear: your starting point does not limit your destination.

Sharon spoke honestly about the different roles she has taken on throughout her career, showing pupils that success is rarely a straight path. Along the way, she has embraced incredible opportunities, including travelling to remarkable places such as Antarctica and Sumatra, curating major exhibitions, and even meeting well-known public figures such as King Charles III and David Beckham. These experiences brought her stories to life and highlighted the wide range of possibilities that can come from studying subjects like History.

One of the most fascinating parts of the talk was hearing about the challenges she has faced. Sharon shared the responsibility of leading the multi-million-pound opening of the new London Museum—a huge undertaking that required resilience, teamwork and confidence. Her honesty about overcoming obstacles made her achievements all the more impressive and relatable for our pupils.

Importantly, Sharon emphasised how studying GCSE History helps to develop vital skills such as critical thinking, communication and problem-solving—skills that open doors to a wide range of careers, far beyond the classroom. Sharon reminded us all that museum work isn't all archaeology - it's art, public speaking, events management and a lot of science too! The session concluded with a lively and thoughtful Q&A, where pupils asked insightful questions about Sharon's career, her inspirations and the lessons she has learned along the way. It was wonderful to see their curiosity and confidence shine through.

Feedback from pupils has been overwhelmingly positive, with many describing Sharon as an "incredible" and "inspiring" speaker. Above all, pupils left the session with a powerful message: believe in yourself, be open to opportunities, and have the confidence to pursue your ambitions.

We are incredibly grateful to Sharon for giving her time to speak with our students, and we look forward to the exciting possibility of visiting the London Museum when it opens in the future!

Mr Rayson

