



# NEWSLETTER

Friday 1st May 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and Learners,

As we move into the heart of the summer term, this week's newsletter showcases the ambition, effort and pride evident across our school community.

You can read about the excellent focus shown by **Year 11 during the Humanities Drop Down Morning** (*page 2*), where pupils took part in targeted GCSE preparation activities designed to build confidence and refine exam technique. We also celebrate pupil success beyond the classroom, including **Charlotte's Steve Morgan Foundation Award at the Blue Heart Awards 2026** (*page 2*), recognising outstanding volunteering and community involvement. Further highlights include the **Debate Mate UK workshop** (*page 3*), where pupils from Years 8–10 developed their oracy and debating skills, and our whole-school assembly focus on **"Creating Your Own Luck Through Learning"** (*page 4*), exploring how attendance, effort and curiosity shape future opportunities.

There is a real sense of purpose as we prepare for end-of-year assessments. In particular, we wish our **Year 11 pupils every success as they embark on their final GCSE examinations**, beginning this week. This is an important milestone, and we are immensely proud of the maturity and determination they continue to show.

Strong attendance remains essential throughout the summer term. Being in school every day ensures learning is secure, revision is effective and pupils are fully supported as they prepare for examinations and assessments across all year groups.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to a focused, positive and successful term ahead.

Mrs Anderson-Nicholls



**"Creating Your Own Luck Through Learning"**

## PE Star Performers

|         |       |          |       |
|---------|-------|----------|-------|
| James   | 8 HT  | Owen     | 7 JMe |
| Billie  | 7 RS  | Zachary  | 9 OM  |
| Farhan  | 9 EB  | Jamie    | 8 SKe |
| Curtis  | 10 RA | Callum   | 9 KBH |
| David   | 7 CSY | Isabelle | 8 CR  |
| Daniel  | 9 TH  | Oliver   | 8 RLC |
| Tianna  | 8 SKe | Blake    | 9 SAC |
| Matilda | 8 SKe | Caiden   | 7 RS  |
| Jackson | 7 RS  | Erin     | 9 SAC |
| Kyle    | 8 HT  | Zack     | 9 KBH |
| Lithuli | 7 JMu | Albie    | 7 JMe |
|         |       | Daniel   | 9 TH  |

WELL DONE!



### Congratulations

Winner of Year 11,  
Period 6 Attendance raffle  
is Sophia H – 11GMW

## Humanities Drop Down Morning

There was a real sense of focus and determination in school this week as our Year 11 pupils took part in a dedicated Humanities drop down morning, designed to give them an extra boost ahead of their GCSE examinations.

History pupils spent the morning in the Drama Hall, where they participated in a highly productive Walking Talking Mock for their GCSE Paper One. This interactive approach allowed students to work through exam questions step by step, with teachers modelling how to interpret questions, plan responses, and structure high-quality answers. Pupils engaged brilliantly throughout the session, asking thoughtful questions and showing increasing confidence as they developed their exam technique while consolidating their knowledge of key topics.

Meanwhile, Geography pupils focused their efforts on preparing for Paper Three. They carefully reviewed the prerelease booklet material, ensuring they were familiar with the themes and data they will encounter in the exam. Following this, pupils completed an assessment to test their understanding, giving them valuable practice in applying their knowledge under exam conditions.

Across both subjects, pupils approached the morning with maturity and enthusiasm. Many commented on how useful they found the sessions, particularly in helping them feel more prepared and confident for the challenges ahead.

We are very proud of the positive attitude shown by Year 11 and look forward to seeing them build on this strong start to the exam season as they continue their GCSE preparations.

*Mr. Rayson*



Charlotte McV won the "**Steve Morgan Foundation Award**" at last night's "**Blue Heart Awards 2026**" for her volunteering and community involvement through her work with Everton. She's extremely proud of this as are the rest of RLC.

*Ms Dow*

### 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.

## Debate Mate UK workshop



Y8-10 Hillside pupils were selected to take part in a highly anticipated **Debate Mate UK** workshop. Pupils were taught a range of debating strategies including opening statements, rebuttals and summaries. Those involved were a credit to the school with impeccable behaviour and attitude. A special congratulations to **Charlotte McV** for winning Debater of the Day. If you would like to participate in the Debate Club please contact Mr Bowler for the application details. Debate club takes place on Tuesday afternoons with Mr Bowler in Room 4.

*Mr Bowler*



**Sparx Learning**

# FRIDAY FINISH LINE!

**KS3**

ENGLISH HOMEWORK  
DUE ON  
**FRIDAY**  
ON Sparx Learning

HILLSIDE HIGH SCHOOL  
EXCELLENCE IN THE HEART  
OF THE COMMUNITY

SENECA

# FRIDAY FINISH LINE!

**KS4**

ENGLISH HOMEWORK  
DUE ON FRIDAY  
ON SENECA.

HILLSIDE HIGH SCHOOL  
EXCELLENCE IN THE HEART  
OF THE COMMUNITY

### KEY DATES IN MAY 2026

4<sup>th</sup> May - Bank Holiday – School Closed

5<sup>th</sup> May - Start Of Year 11 GCSE Exams

21<sup>st</sup> May – Year 7 Progress Evening

22<sup>nd</sup> May - End of Term

## Creating Your Own Luck Through Learning

This week in assembly, pupils explored a powerful idea from **Tina Seelig**, a researcher at Stanford University, who argues that *luck is not something that simply happens to us — it is something we help to create*. Seelig reminds us that people who appear “lucky” are often those who are **curious, prepared, and open to learning**. By building knowledge and skills over time, they are ready to take advantage of opportunities when they arise.

### Learning, Attendance, and Opportunity

In school, learning is not just about passing exams — it is about **building a foundation for future choices**. The science of learning shows that understanding grows through:

- **Regular exposure** to ideas
- **Repetition and practice**
- **Connections between new learning and prior knowledge**

When pupils attend school consistently, their brains have more opportunities to strengthen these connections. Missing lessons means missing building blocks that are hard to fully replace later. Attendance, therefore, is not simply about being present — it is about **being prepared for opportunities that may not be visible yet**.

### Education as a Privilege

In the UK, education is a right that is available from an early age. Around the world, many young people face serious risks just to access learning. This reminds us that showing up to lessons is also a way of **valuing a privilege that not everyone has**.

### Creating Your Own Luck

Seelig’s message is simple but powerful:

- **Turning up matters**
- **Effort matters**
- **Learning today shapes opportunities tomorrow**

By choosing to engage with learning every day, pupils are not just completing schoolwork — they are **actively creating their own luck**.

### Reflection & Discussion Points

- What does “luck” really mean — is it chance, or preparation?
- How can learning today help you in ways you might not yet realise?
- What habits help create opportunity?
- How does attendance affect confidence, understanding, and future choices?
- When have you seen hard work or learning lead to an unexpected opportunity?

#### *Excellence in the Heart of the Community*

**“The key to creating your own luck is to be open to new experiences and to keep learning.”**

— *Tina Seelig, Stanford University*



HILLSIDE  
HIGH SCHOOL



EXCELLENCE IN THE HEART  
OF THE COMMUNITY