



NEWSLETTER

Friday 16th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

The school is alive with the sound of music!

The whole cast and crew are filling the school with song, laughter and enthusiasm. It is a real joy and privilege to see them rehearsing and preparing for our upcoming production.

A special mention must go to *Miss Brown* and her team, who have once again delivered an incredible production experience for our students. So many of our young people benefit from the exceptionally high standard of performing arts opportunities on offer. For some, this inspires future career pathways, while for others it provides invaluable therapeutic support, confidence and a sense of belonging. The impact on our students is truly priceless. A huge thank you to everyone involved.

Another thank you goes to *Mr Henesy* and *Mr Rayson*, who have kindly organised pizza prizes for those students attending on Friday and next Wednesday. These rewards help recognise commitment and encourage positive engagement.

Over the last week, we have also welcomed the School Nurse Team, who have been raising awareness of the support available for mental health and wellbeing. This is an incredibly important message, and we are grateful for their work in helping ensure that students know where to access support when they need it.

Finally, a reminder to all Year 11 parents and carers that our Progress Evening will take place on 12 November. This is an important opportunity to discuss progress, next steps and preparation for the final months before examinations. We look forward to seeing you there.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Many thanks

Julia Anderson-Nicholls
Principal

October Half-term

OCTOBER 2026				
1	2	1	2	
	5	12	19	26
	6	13	20	27
	7	14	21	28
1	8	15	22	29
2	9	16	23	30
3	10	17	24	31
4	11	18	25	

NOVEMBER 2026				
1	2	1	2	1
2	9	16	23	30
3	10	17	24	
4	11	18	25	
5	12	19	26	
6	13	20	27	
7	14	21	28	
1	8	15	22	29

2026-2 Key Dates

Date	Event	Time
12 Nov 2026	Year 11 Progress Evening	4.15pm – 6.45pm
03 Dec 2026	Hillside Awards Evening	Time TBC
13 Jan 2027	Year 11 Success Evening	5.00pm – 7.00pm
11 Feb 2027	Year 9 Progress Evening	4.15pm – 6.45pm
04 Mar 2027	Year 10 Progress Evening	4.15pm – 6.45pm
18 Mar 2027	Year 9 Options Evening	5.00pm – 7.00pm
22 Apr 2027	Year 8 Progress Evening	4.15pm – 6.45pm
20 May 2027	Year 7 Progress Evening	4.15pm – 6.45pm
01 Jul 2027	Year 6 Transition Welcome Evening	5.30pm – 7.30pm
08 Jul 2027	Community Open Evening	5.30pm – 7.30pm

PE STAR PERFORMERS OF LAST WEEK

Lexi K
Ethan B
Joseph W
Ella H
Maizie J
Lola H
Connor M
Mason C
Tallulah A
Kaitlyn Q
Jake W
Isabelle D
Ethan W
Summer S
Harry W
Sofia S

Lucy F
Runor E
Abdul M R
Georgia W
Harry T
Freya C
Calvin B
Sadie K
Darci D
Daniel M
Lilly P
Ruby-L C
Avi M
James McF
Summer D

Calculate your way to success: Week 6!

This week’s focus is even more converting between fractions, decimals and percentages. Follow the steps, practise the skill and make your calculator work for you!

HILLSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

Calculate your way to success week 6:
Even more converting between fractions, decimals and percentages

HILLSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

Converting between Fractions, Decimals and Percentages (3)

Home – calculate – EXE

Percentage to Fraction – Type in number

Press catalogue, Scroll to Probability, Press EXE

Press EXE (%) Press EXE for answer

Percentage to Decimal – Press Format Scroll to Decimal, Press EXE

Write 17% as a fraction

Write 17% as a decimal



Calculator Guide
Fx-991CW

2 ENTRIES = 2 CHANCES TO WIN

Collect Ticket 1- Friday 9th October

Collect Ticket 2- Friday 16th October

The lucky ticket will be drawn:

Wednesday 21st October

If your ticket is selected, you'll enjoy a Costco pizza lunch with x5 friends of your choice.



Word of the week:

1. Fluctuation

[fluk-choo-AY-shuhn]

(n). *a change or variation in level, amount, or strength (The fluctuation in temperature made it difficult to decide what to wear).*

Root: fluctuate - meaning 'to flow or wave' + suffix: -ation - meaning 'the process or result of'

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Book Corner:

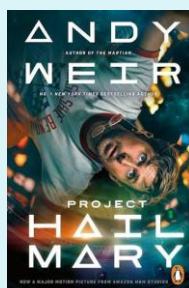
Project Hail Mary by Anthony Weir.

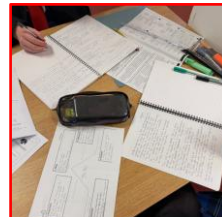
The book follows Ryland Grace when he wakes up alone on a space ship with no memory of how or why he got there. During the book he slowly pieces his memories back together while he learns to navigate surviving on the ship. The story combines science, problem-solving and mystery all while being incredibly funny from start to finish.

This was the first book I was excited to buy in a long time! After watching the movie I also knew I wanted to read the book, and searched in three shops until I found it - I then spent a whole weekend reading it and finished it in two days. The book is funny, heartwarming and ties in aspects of science that keep's the book engaging from start to finish.

I would recommend this book to Year 9–11 pupils, particularly confident readers who enjoy science fiction, problem-solving or learning about space.

Miss Kelly





For Year 11 Who Are Going the Extra Mile

As we move ever closer to the summer examination season, we would like to take a moment to recognise the outstanding commitment being shown by many of our Year 11 students.

A significant number of students have demonstrated exceptional dedication to their studies by attending **Period 6 intervention sessions consistently** and making excellent use of the **Learning Resource Centre (LRC) morning study sessions** before school each day.

Their determination, resilience and willingness to go above and beyond are exactly the qualities that will help them achieve success in their GCSE examinations.

We know that preparing for exams requires hard work, perseverance and sacrifice, and we are incredibly proud of the positive attitudes being displayed by so many students. Every extra revision session attended, every question asked and every morning spent studying is an investment in future success.

To recognise and reward this commitment, a range of incentives continue to be available for Year 11 students:

- **Prom Half-Term Goal** rewards
- **Period 6 attendance tokens**
- **Saturday School tokens**
- **Attendance prize draws**

In response to the fantastic attitude and engagement shown by Year 11 over recent weeks, we have also introduced some additional rewards:

Token Frenzy in the LRC each morning, giving students even more opportunities to collect rewards for their commitment to independent study.

100% Attendance Prize Draw for the final two weeks, where students who achieve full attendance will be entered into a draw to win a **Just Eat voucher**.

Our token exchange happens every Friday morning in the LRC at 8am - 8.20am.

These rewards are designed to celebrate the dedication and effort that our students are showing each day. While rewards are a great incentive, the greatest reward will be opening that results envelope in August knowing that every possible opportunity was taken to succeed. Thank you to all Year 11 students, families and staff for your continued support. Let's keep the momentum going and finish this important chapter with the determination and excellence that make our school community so proud.

Year 11 - your future starts with the effort you make today. Keep going, you've got this!



Important Changes to Free School Meal Holiday Voucher Provision

We are writing to share important information that we have received from the Local Authority (LA), which is to inform you that the FSM vouchers have **now ended**. The LA do have alternative support in place for families that require it.

What is changing?

As part of the transition from the Government's Household Support Fund (HSF) to the new Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF), local authorities have been asked to review how holiday food support is provided to families.

The new fund places a greater emphasis on building long-term resilience and helping residents access wider support services, rather than relying solely on direct crisis payments. The guidance for the fund does not permit its use for the provision of holiday food vouchers.

To ensure that families were supported during the transition, Free School Meal holiday vouchers were provided for the May 2026 half-term and Summer 2026 holiday periods. This was the final holiday period funded through voucher support, as funding is now being redirected towards interventions that strengthen long-term financial resilience.

What is the offer now?

From Autumn 2026, the Council will no longer provide voucher-based support to all eligible families during school holidays. However, a range of alternative support is still available.

Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme is available to children who receive benefits-related (targeted) Free School Meals during the Christmas, Easter and Summer holidays. In addition, some smaller-scale targeted activities may be available during half-term breaks.

Children eligible for benefits-related Free School Meals can access the HAF programme. A limited number of places may also be available for families who do not receive benefits-related Free School Meals. Parents and carers are encouraged to contact the HAF team directly for further information. The programme combines healthy food provision with enrichment activities, social opportunities, and wider wellbeing support for children and young people.

More information is available online by visiting [Holiday, Activities and Food Programme \(HAF\)](#) and for more information and enquiries, parents can contact the HAF team by email holidayactivity.andfoodprogramme@sefton.gov.uk

Financial Support

Families experiencing financial hardship are encouraged to visit www.sefton.gov.uk/costofliving for information about the support available to them.



The poster is for the Sefton PCF Local Offer Live event. It features the Sefton Council logo and a heart icon with 'SEND' inside. The text 'Local Offer Live' is prominently displayed. Below this, it says 'Join us for our SEND services marketplace to find out about support here in Sefton.' A list of services includes 'Children's Social Care', 'Education Services', 'SEND Charities', and 'NHS Services'. The event is scheduled for 'Monday 9th November 2026' at 'Bootle Town Hall, Oriol Road, Bootle, Merseyside, L20 7AE' from '10am until 1pm and 2pm until 5pm'. A QR code is provided for more information, and a small note says 'For more information, please visit our website via QR code'.

It's a SEND services marketplace, where families can find out about support available in Sefton, including Children's Social Care, Education Services, SEND charities and NHS services.

A useful opportunity for families to find out what support is available locally

Monday 9th November
Bootle Town Hall, Oriol Road, Bootle, L20 7AE
10am-1pm and 2pm -5pm



Black History Month Celebration!



Different Cultures, One Community!

Get ready for an exciting celebration of culture, community and creativity as Hillside High School celebrates Black History Month on Wednesday 21st October!

Taking place **after school in the library**, this special event promises an afternoon packed with delicious food, fabulous fashion, inspiring stories and plenty of opportunities to celebrate the rich diversity of our school community.

A Taste of Africa!

Come along and sample a selection of delicious African snacks, including meat pies, chicken pies, puff puff, peanuts and plantain chips. There will be plenty to tempt your taste buds!

Fashion, Culture and Pride!

Prepare to be dazzled by our fashion parade, showcasing the colourful styles, heritage and creativity of African, Caribbean and Latin American cultures. Expect vibrant outfits, cultural pride and plenty of inspiration!

Poetry with a Powerful Message

Discover the power of words through our poetry reading. Hear powerful voices, real stories and inspiring messages that celebrate identity, heritage and the experiences of different communities.

African Folktales: Stories That Inspire

Step into a world of wisdom, tradition and imagination as we bring African folktales to life through storytelling, drama and culture. Discover timeless lessons and stories passed down through generations.

We want your contributions!

Design a poster, write a piece of literature (story, poem... anything!) celebrating Black History Month and we will put it up for display during our event. Pass to Mr. Rayson, Ms. Collins or one of the prefects to ensure your work is part of the event.

How to Get Your Ticket:

Want to be part of the celebration? It's easy!

- **When:** Wednesday 21st October
- **Where:** School library
- **Time:** After school
- **Ticket price:** Just **£1** - bring to Mr. Rayson or Ms. Collins to purchase your ticket in advance!

Spaces may be limited, so don't leave it until the last minute!

This is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate different cultures, learn something new, enjoy some tasty treats and come together as one Hillside community.

Bring your friends, bring your enthusiasm and be part of something special!

Organised by the Culture Pupil Leadership Committee.