HILLSIDE HIGH SCHOOL
WADE DEACON TRUST

Ofsted Good Provider

EXCELLENCE IN THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

NEWSLETTER

Friday 6th November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have opened our doors for the Christmas half term and what an exciting term we have ahead of us.

Our Year 11 students completed their first assessment period at the end of last half term, and we are delighted to see that they have already improved on last year's performance at the same point in the academic year. This success is a reflection of their dedication and hard work. Many students are arriving at school from 8:00am to attend revision sessions, staying for Period 6, attending Saturday School, and consistently completing their homework.

Homework is an essential part of learning, and we want all of our young people to develop strong study habits from Year 7 onwards to prepare them for their educational journey. We would greatly appreciate your support in ensuring that students bring a school bag each day so that they can safely transport their homework and equipment to and from school, particularly as we approach the wetter winter months.

One of the most exciting aspects of this half term has been celebrating attendance through our assemblies. It has been fantastic to see the large number of students achieving 100% attendance, as well as those who have recently improved their attendance to reach this milestone. Over the coming weeks, there will be many more opportunities to recognise and reward the achievements of our students, and we look forward to sharing these successes with you.

This week, my assemblies have focused on the theme of kindness and the difference that a simple act of kindness can make to someone else's day. As a school community, we want to continue promoting these values and encouraging our young people to show respect, compassion and consideration for others.

Finally, if you are experiencing any difficulties in getting your child into school, please take advantage of our **Soft Landing** provision. Parents and carers are welcome to join us at 9:00am Monday morning's in the Learning Resource Centre (LRC), where members of staff will be available to offer support and guidance. By working together, we can ensure that all of our young people receive the education they deserve.

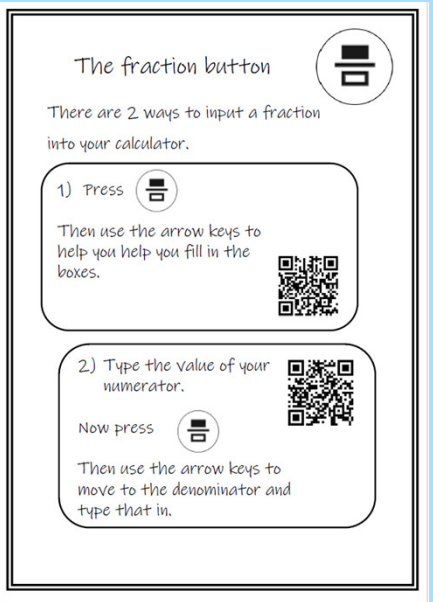
Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

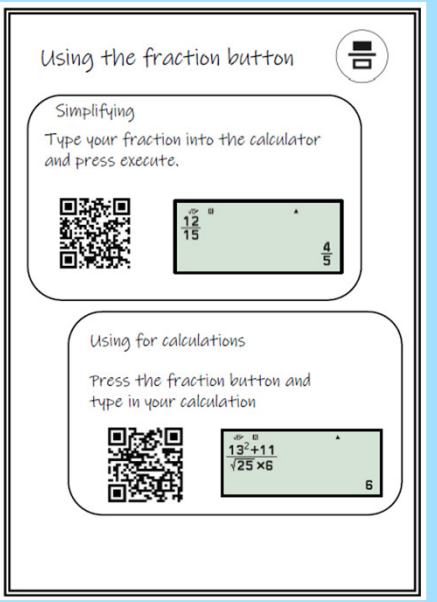
Many thanks

Julia Anderson-Nicholls
Principal

Calculate your way to success: Week 7!

This week's focus is **inputting fractions.**
Follow the steps, practise the skill and make your calculator work for you!









PE STAR PERFORMERS FROM THE WEEK OF 12th -16th October

PE Star Performers of last week



Daisy A
Reece T
Lithuli W
Jessica D
Haides B-R
Jamie C
Valentina K
Poppy K
Athalia O
James M
Adaeze O
Summer S
Ryan C
Shakiya P
Eliza-Mae R
Daisy A
Kelsie B
Leighton M
Axl Hook W
Daisy M
Summer S
Khadija A
Sophie D

PE STAR PERFORMERS FROM THE WEEK OF 19th – 21st October

PE Star Performers of the last week of half term



Daisy M
Leighton M
Axl Hook W
Summer S
Khadija A
Sophie D
Nico S
Lewis A
David O
Ben C
Katie P
Zach A
Penelope H
Feranmi A
Matt N
Artiom Z
Jarda A
Poppy H
Isla O'C
Sumaya S
Madison M
Esmay-Rose McG
Jackson T
Summer S
Dalya A
David O
Abigail M

Word of the Week

Gluttony
[GLUT-uh-nee]
(n). excessive or uncontrolled indulgence in food or drink (Helen's fried chicken tastes so divine that I don't know how anyone can call gluttony a sin).
Morphology: glutt- - meaning 'to swallow greedily' + suffix: -ony - forming a noun describing a state or condition.

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Book Corner

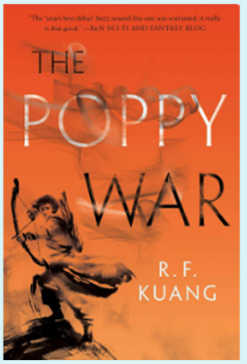
The Poppy War – R.F Kuang

Rin is an orphan in dynasty China, fending off rats and disease just to survive. But she is not just any orphan. There is a power within her, a hidden magic that hasn't surfaced, outside of the rich elites, in generations. Will Rin prove herself, fulfil her potential and overcome the subjugation of China's dark emperor?

If you love rooting for an underdog, watching people rise above the odds and have a taste for fantasy, you will love this novel. Kuang's writing is wonderful.

This book is recommended for anyone 13+ as darkness and peril are key features.

Mr Bowler



Hillside High School Tops the Seneca League in Sefton

We are delighted to announce that Hillside High School is **number one in the Sefton region on the Seneca School League**, with an incredible **816,720 XP**. We are also the top school within the Wade Deacon Trust.

This success is down to our KS3 students. Their outstanding Geography homework completion this half term has made the difference. Every quiz, every task and every bit of independent learning has added to our total, and we are extremely proud of the effort they have shown.

Why homework matters
Homework gives students the chance to revisit what they have learnt in lessons, practise key knowledge and build the habit of independent study. Regular, short bursts of practice help information stick in the long term, which is exactly what students need for success in their GCSEs. Just as importantly, it builds resilience, organisation and responsibility, skills that will serve them well beyond school.

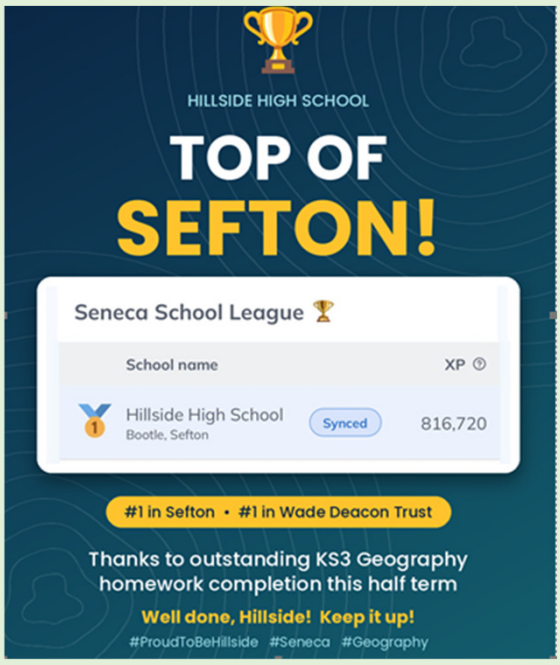
Why Seneca?
Seneca is a free online learning platform that makes homework engaging and effective. Its courses cover the content students study in Geography, and the short, interactive tasks give instant feedback so students know straight away what they have understood and what needs more work. Seneca also revisits earlier topics over time, which strengthens memory, and students earn XP as they go, which makes learning rewarding. Teachers can set work and track progress, so we can quickly see who needs support.

How to log in
1. Go to **senecalearning.com** or download the Seneca app.
2. Choose to log in, and sign in using **[insert your school's login method, e.g. school Microsoft/Google account]**.
3. Open your class and complete the assignments set by your Geography teacher.

If any student is having trouble logging in, please ask them to speak to their Geography teacher, who will be happy to help.

A huge well done to all our KS3 students, and thank you to parents and carers for supporting learning at home. Let's keep climbing the league table!

Mr Campbell,
Subject Leader for Geography



KS3 Geography Homework: Race to the Top!

This half term, all KS3 geography pupils have a homework task waiting for them on **Seneca Learning**. The deadline is **Friday 11th December 2026**.

Much of the content will feel familiar from last half term. That's deliberate, as it gives pupils the chance to build on what they know and sharpen their geographical skills even further.

There are prizes to be won:

- **First 10:** the first 10 pupils to complete the homework win a prize.
- **Top 10:** the 10 pupils with the highest scores also win a prize.
- **The 100% Challenge:** any pupil who reaches a 100% success rate score wins a major prize.

How to log into Seneca with Microsoft

Pupils don't need to create a new password. They can use their school Microsoft account:

1. Go to **senecalearning.com** (or open the Seneca app).
2. Click **Log in**.
3. Choose **Continue with Microsoft**.
4. Enter their **school email address** and the **same password they use to log into school computers**.
5. Once logged in, the homework appears on their homepage under their assignments.

Top tips for pupils and parents:

- Pupils should always use the **Continue with Microsoft** button rather than typing details into the standard login boxes.
- The first time they sign in with Microsoft, pupils may be asked to enter their Seneca password as a one-off.
- If quizzes only show the first question or won't submit, the pupil may be logged into a parent account. They should log out, clear the cache and log back in with their school account.
- If a pupil can't log in, they should speak to their geography teacher.

Good luck, everyone. **Log in. Learn. Win.**

Hillside High School Geography Department



A New Hillside Tradition – Celebrating Attendance!

A new and exciting tradition has begun at Hillside this half-term, with the introduction of our **Pizza Party Attendance Raffle!**

Once every half-term, we will bring the whole school together through a live raffle on Microsoft Teams to select one lucky pupil to win an exclusive pizza party at lunchtime with five friends. To be entered into the draw, pupils simply need to have attended school on a Friday.

Our very first live raffle created a fantastic atmosphere of excitement and anticipation, as pupils and staff across the school joined together to find out who would be our inaugural winner. A huge congratulations to **Ruby**, who was our lucky winner! Ruby enjoyed her prize with five friends at an exclusive table in the centre of the dining hall – a special lunchtime treat and a great way to celebrate!

We will be hosting another Pizza Party at the end of this half-term with 7 Fridays and therefore 7 potential entries. **Could you be our next winner?** Remember, you've got to be in to win!

We hope this new initiative will provide pupils with another exciting incentive to maintain excellent attendance and punctuality, while recognising and rewarding those who make the effort to be in school regularly.













Celebrating Black History Month at Hillside – Diversity is Strength!

Over 60 staff and pupils came together in the school's Learning Resource Centre (LRC) after school to celebrate Black History Month in a fantastic event organised by our **Culture Pupil Leadership Committee**.

Taking place at the end of a long half-term, the event provided a wonderful opportunity for our school community to come together, celebrate different cultures and recognise the contribution, history and achievements of Black communities across the world.

There was something for everyone to enjoy, with pupils sampling a variety of delicious food from Central America, the United States of America and Africa. The afternoon also included a series of inspiring poetry readings, alongside a heartfelt speech dedicated to our departing Progress Lead, **Ms Yusuf**, recognising her contribution to the Hillside community.

One of the highlights was a dramatic performance of *Mami Wata*, bringing an important cultural story to life through drama and performance. The celebrations culminated in a vibrant fashion show, showcasing Black culture, fashion and traditions from a variety of different locations around the world.

A huge thank you goes to our Culture Pupil Leadership Committee for their hard work in organising such a memorable event, as well as to all the staff and pupils who contributed and stayed behind to make the afternoon such a success.

At Hillside, we are proud of the diversity within our school community and the opportunities we create for pupils to learn from, appreciate and celebrate one another. As the famous quote reminds us, **"Diversity is strength."**

Events like this demonstrate the importance of bringing our community together and celebrating the different cultures and experiences that make Hillside such a special place to be.





