



Welcome to our new staff



I am Mr Smith, and I am very much enjoying being a member Hillside High community. I teach both Geography and English and I am looking forward to supporting pupils to achieve their very best in each subject.

Hi, my name is Mr Tallant I teach both drama and media and I'm looking forward to sharing my love for creative arts with the pupils at Hillside High School whilst getting to know the pupils better.

Hi, I'm Mrs Symes and I am delighted to be joining Hillside High School as an English teacher. I look forward to working alongside the pupils, helping them achieve their full potential and experiencing all the great opportunities Hillside High has to offer.

Hi, I'm Mr Spruce and I am excited to be joining Hillside High School in the Maths department. I look forward to getting to know all the staff and pupils, and helping the pupils to achieve their full potential.

Dear Parents/Guardians

I am delighted to share with you a brief introduction from the newest colleagues to join 'Team Hillside'. Our pupils have made them feel extremely welcome and I know they are going to be an asset to the school.

This has been an extremely important and busy week for Year 11, who collected their predictor results on Tuesday morning. This included some outstanding personal successes and it was lovely to celebrate these with our pupils. Some pupils didn't fair so well, and the most important thing is that they do something about this now! Every pupil will have an interview with their senior mentor to discuss their results and come up with an action plan to move forward. I was also delighted to award all of the pupils who have made progress from the end of primary / starting Hillside to the results they achieved in their predictors. The foyer was full of pupils receiving certificates and hopefully you saw the photos on Twitter. Last night was Year 11 Parents' Evening; the year group's final one at Hillside! The evening exemplified how important it is for us to work closely with our families to support, and when needed challenge, our pupils to achieve their very best. As a school we are really excited about what Year 11 are capable of achieving in their final GCSEs and I look forward to sharing their achievements with you.

The excellent start we have made in terms of attendance has continued this week and I would once again say a massive well done and thank you to all of our pupils who have been in school every day. We know that with good school attendance our pupils can make the progress of which they are capable. This has once again been proven in the predictor results achieved by the Year 11 pupils who have good attendance. Just a reminder that next Wednesday is our Arts Showcase Evening; a particular highlight of the school year. The evening starts at 5.45pm and last admission is 7.15pm, it is fine to attend at any point during this time, so please don't worry if you can't make the start of the event. I look forward to welcoming lots of pupils and their families to this fabulous evening.

Mrs Amanda Ryan

SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural) Corner

This week's theme: Holocaust Memorial

SMSC Focus:

Why do we remember the atrocities that occurred during the Holocaust? What impact does the Holocaust have on our lives now? What can we do to ensure that it does not happen again? We all have a role to play. This week's assembly will give us time to remember those who were killed and to reflect on these questions.

Career of the week

Career: Health Psychologist

Skills:

- Communicating with people
- Being tactical
- Working with numbers
- Finding solutions to problems
- Paying attention to detail

Average Salary: £42,120

Useful Subjects:

Maths, English, Science, Computer Science
Geography, Psychology

For more information please see
www.myworldofwork.co.uk

Word of the Week

'describe'

Give a detailed account in words of something



Teaching and Learning at Hillside – ‘All staff and Pupils are engaged in learning’

This term we are continuing with our drive to develop and improve Teaching and Learning to make sure that our pupils have engaging lessons that help them understand more and remember more. Teachers are continuing to focus on using the Hillside Core 5 principles of learning within their lesson planning. These principles are based on current research and cognitive science, which explains how our brains learn effectively. Last week I visited a number of lessons and it was a delight to see our pupils so engaged in their learning and such high quality lessons being provided for them; I even happened upon one of our Year 7 classes acting out a scene from A Midsummer Night’s Dream; their developing grasp of Shakespearean language was just amazing! You can follow the highlights of our developments in Teaching and Learning on our Twitter feed @hhs4tl.

We think that acknowledging and rewarding the hard work of our staff team is as important as rewarding our pupils and each term, the teachers nominate colleagues for an award, based on the excellent Teaching and Learning seen around school. In this week’s newsletter, I am pleased to share with you our ‘Hillside Teacher Oscar Awards’ for last term. Pupils please congratulate your teachers if you spot that they have received an award!



This year we have just over a third of our teaching team enrolled on professional development programmes including: Outstanding Teacher Programme and National Leadership Qualifications. These courses are in addition to our own in-house training programme and it is a real commitment of time from teachers, outside of the school day, to engage in continuing professional development. This allows them to further develop their thinking and ensures that the Teaching and Learning at Hillside continually moves forwards and improves. On the last day of term Mrs. Ryan, Mr Edwards, Mrs. Wardale and Mrs. Daly visited colleagues to thank them for role modelling excellent learning to our pupils. Pictured are just a few examples.



Excellence in the Heart of the Community





While we summarise and celebrate Teaching and Learning, I have collated some feedback from two recent external visits to our school and what they had to say last term about learning at Hillside.

“Raising awareness of exactly how pupils learn has sharpened the implementation of the curriculum.”

“Developing teachers’ pedagogy (the method and practice of teaching) and subject knowledge through bespoke CPD has impacted positively on the school’s knowledge-rich curriculum.”

“The Hillside Core 5 principles strengthen the planning, practice and delivery across the curriculum.”

“Improvements in the quality of teaching and learning are paying dividends. Strong practice was evident in many classrooms, leading to improved outcomes. The CPD teachers have received has resulted in improving subject and pedagogical knowledge, enabling them to teach more engaging, informed lessons.”

“Teachers systematically demand that pupils utilise subject-specific language in their written work and in discussion.”

“Senior leaders have prioritised the professional development of subject leaders. This has improved the way that subject leaders plan what pupils will learn and in what order.”

We are looking to engage more with parents as part of our vision for Hillside being a learning community. If you are interested in finding out more about how we are developing lessons at Hillside then please get in touch with Mrs Wardale. S.wardale@hillsidehigh.co.uk. Perhaps you just want to know more about how we are using cognitive science to plan lessons, or you would like to visit lessons and help us celebrate good practice, or please send me an email and nominate a teacher you know has really helped your child learn. We look forward to involving more parents in the teaching and learning process at Hillside.

Hillside’s Teaching and Learning Pupil Committee

We have recently launched Hillside’s first Teaching and Learning Committee! Pupils from Years 7-10 met before Christmas to discuss Hillside’s Core 5 Principles, which underpin Teaching and Learning in our school, and how it looks in their lessons. Pupils talked confidently about retrieval strategies that are used in a range of subjects, whether it was a quiz, 54321, retrieval roulette or even a knowledge vomit! Feedback caused a debate! Some pupils prefer written feedback; others, whole class feedback sheets and some 1:1 feedback. Either way it was good to hear about all of the different methods that are being effectively used by staff to help our pupils improve the quality of their work. Some excellent examples were given to describe our pupils’ understanding of ‘word rich’. Banned words were discussed. When questioned further, the words are banned because our pupils need to find better ways of saying the same thing. In our next meeting, pupils will be bringing examples of their work to demonstrate good examples of the Hillside Core 5 in action!

“Retrieval is the most important of them all, it helps me to remember things that I did last year that I would have forgotten”

“I like how in practical subject like drama and P.E they might stop half way through a lesson to model a certain position or move”

“I like WWW and EBI because it is clear to me what I need to do to improve and what I’ve done well”

“Our teacher moves around the room and gives us 1:1 feedback and support. It gives me a chance to ask questions that I might not want to ask in front of the class”

Mrs Wardale

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TIKTOK—Part 2



Safety Tips For Parents

TALK ABOUT ONLINE DANGERS

Assuming your child is above the age limit to use the app, make sure you also take the time to talk to them about what they are seeing on the app. Have a dialogue, get them to give you their opinion on what is appropriate and model the correct behaviour for them. Go over why they shouldn't give out private information or identifiable photos and be positive and understanding of them. In the long run, getting them to think critically about what they're seeing goes a long way to keeping them social media savvy.



USE PRIVACY SETTINGS

Undoubtedly, the easiest way to safeguard your child on TikTok is to make sure their account is set to private. This means only those users your child approves can view, like, and follow their content. Setting the account to private may clash with your child's goal of social media superstardom, but it will keep their account secure from strangers. This setting can be enabled under the privacy and safety menu by pressing the ellipsis in the 'me' tab of the app. To be extra safe, there are additional controls available to toggle such as who can send comments and messages, among other options.



ENABLE RESTRICTED MODE

In the digital wellbeing section there's the ability to turn on restricted mode using a PIN. Restricted mode filters out content that is not age appropriate although it should be noted that this isn't always 100% fool proof. When enabling restricted mode, parents should still be vigilant to what their child is watching and take note that the algorithm moderating content is not infallible.



EXPLORE AND LEARN YOURSELF

Understanding and learning the app yourself is a great way to get to grips with TikTok. You could then even use the app with your child and watch some videos with them. If you are the parent of a teen, even if it does not make you popular, keep a close eye on what they're viewing and sharing. That said, it's a brilliant chance to turn it into a bonding opportunity with your child also. You could even unleash your inner performer and make videos with them while (more importantly) keeping them safe online.



LEARN HOW TO REPORT AND BLOCK INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

With the proper privacy settings in place, TikTok can be a safe space for your child to express themselves. However, just in case something does manage to slip through, make sure your child knows how to recognise and report content that isn't appropriate and get them to come to you about what they have seen. TikTok allows users to report offenders and comments within the app. You can also block individual users by going on their profile.



MODERATE SCREEN TIME

As entertaining as TikTok is, you can help your child moderate their time on the app by making use of the digital wellbeing section. Under the screen time management option, you can limit the daily allotted time allowed on the app in increments ranging from 40 to 120 minutes. You can also lock this preference behind a PIN number which has to be inputted in order to then exceed the daily time limit. This way your child can get their daily dose of memes without wasting away the day.



Meet our expert

Pete Badh is a writer with over 10+ years in research and analysis. Working within a specialist area for West Yorkshire Police, Pete has contributed work which has been pivotal in successfully winning high profile cases in court as well as writing as a subject matter expert for industry handbooks.



SOURCES:

www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter - @natonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety

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Mrs Cross

Thought for the week



Don't be content in your life just to do no wrong, be prepared every day to try and do some good.

— Nicholas Winton —

AZ QUOTES

Key Dates 2019

- ARTS Showcase Evening: Wednesday 29th January 2020
Year 7 & 8 Careers Fair: Tuesday 4th February 2020
End of term: Friday 14th February 2020
Inset Day: Monday 24th February 2020
Start of term: Tuesday 25th February 2020
Year 11 Form Group Photographs: Wednesday 26th February 2020
World Book Day: Thursday 5th March 2020

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