



Dear Parents/Guardians

I hope you are finding these newsletters helpful and that they are arriving in time for you to use the guide to home learning. A reminder to Year 10 - you get your guide emailed directly to you by your teachers each week so please make sure that you are checking your emails regularly. I am so proud of how our pupils are trying to keep up with their learning in these most challenging of circumstances.

It seems strange to be giving a staff update when we aren't together but I wanted parents and pupils to know that Ms Evans is pregnant, which is lovely news, and will be leaving us in September to start her maternity leave. We have appointed Mrs Wong, an experienced maths teacher who is relocating from Leeds to Liverpool to cover Ms Evans' maternity leave. I'm sure Mrs Wong will settle in well at Hillside and will be a great success.

Obviously as we aren't together we are texting home more than ever and this is at a significant cost; if we can communicate with families via the 'MyED' school app we can make a financial saving. We haven't used the app recently and understandably many parents have stopped engaging with it. If I could ask for your support in downloading the app and starting to check it regularly we can revert to this as our main means of communication with families. Please ensure we have your most up to date mobile number, if it has changed please ring the school office or email admin@hillsidehigh.co.uk and let us know.

These continue to be uncertain times for us all and following government announcements this week, we know very little more about when secondary age pupils will return to school. Obviously the Prime Minister has mentioned trying to get Year 10 pupils in front of their teachers before the summer holidays and this is something we hope can happen, once we know it is safe and the right time to do so. I know many of our parents will have Year 6 children who are transferring to Hillside in September and again, we are keen to offer them the best transition package we can in these circumstances. I will keep you updated via this newsletter, the website, twitter and the app as we know more.

In the meantime please keep safe and take care.

Mrs Amanda Ryan

Hello Year 10,

It is lovely to have the chance to write to you all. I hope you and your families are all well and keeping safe during this bizarre time. Like I said in my email to you all last week it really is strange to not see you all every day! I know it is difficult at the moment and being asked to work independently at home is strange and a real challenge. I am really proud of how you are dealing with this and the resilience and determination you have shown. There have been some brilliant pieces of Year 10 work posted on the school's Instagram and Twitter pages and you should all be very proud of yourselves. It has been lovely speaking to your parents during this time and hearing about all the fantastic activities you have been getting up to alongside your learning. These are memories that will be cherished by your families forever! Your parents have been telling me how they are so happy with how you have been coping with this situation.

As always if you need anything please feel free to email me, your Form Tutor or your class teacher as we are all happy to help. Until we are all back together please look after yourselves and your families!

Stay safe and be kind!

Miss Roby

Hillside Heroes Calling all staff, pupils and parents to 'Nominate Your Lockdown Hero'

Who is your lockdown hero?

Perhaps someone in your house who has really helped you through the last few months?

A family member who is a keyworker and has worked hard to keep the family going as well?

Maybe a pupil who has produced some great work and been really engaged with their home learning?

Send your nomination and the reason via email to winner@hillsidehigh.co.uk by Monday 18th May



2 winners will be picked from each year group with the chance of winning Amazon Vouchers for the family- Winners announced 22/05



Year 10

Year 10 - Don't forget to check your emails every Monday morning to read through the work set for the week ahead. Your teachers check their emails daily so keep in touch with examples of your work or even just to say hello and let us know how you are getting on!

Reading Extract - Each week we will put a short piece of writing for you to read linked to a book that a member of staff at Hillside is reading. This week Mrs Daly has shared an extract from A Brief History of Time by Stephen Hawking.

OUR PICTURE OF THE UNIVERSE

A WELL-KNOWN SCIENTIST (some say it was Bertrand Russell) once gave a public lecture on astronomy. He described how the earth orbits around the sun and how the sun, in turn, orbits around the center of a vast collection of stars called our galaxy. At the end of the lecture, a little old lady at the back of the room got up and said: 'What you have told us is rubbish. The world is really a flat plate supported on the back of a giant tortoise.' The scientist gave a superior smile before replying, 'What is the tortoise standing on?' 'You're very clever, young man, very clever,' said the old lady. 'But it's turtles all the way down!'

Most people would find the picture of our universe as an infinite tower of tortoises rather ridiculous, but why do we think we know better? What do we know about the universe, and how do we know it? Where did the universe come from, and where is it going? Did the universe have a beginning, and if so, what happened *before* then? What is the nature of time? Will it ever come to an end? Can we go back in time? Recent breakthroughs in physics, made possible in part by fantastic new technologies, suggest answers to some of these longstanding questions. Someday these answers may seem as obvious to us as the earth orbiting the sun - or perhaps as ridiculous as a tower of tortoises. Only time (whatever that may be) will tell.

