



## Dear Parents/Guardians

I hope you find this newsletter informative and beneficial. I know some families are experiencing difficulties with their post and sometimes aren't receiving the newsletter until mid-week. We will make sure it is saved on our website every Friday so if you don't receive your copy, you can access it there and check your child's Home Learning for the following week.

Last Friday was a very emotional day saying goodbye to our Year 11s. Even though they couldn't be in school for their Leavers' Breakfast we delivered breakfast to each of them at home. I was so proud of the team for doing this and I know that Year 11 really appreciated the fact that we still celebrated their last day at Hillside; even though they couldn't be in school. As I said last week, I know that all of our pupils and their families will join me in wishing the Class of 2020 good luck and every happiness as they leave us and start their next chapter.

I am delighted to let you know that following a rigorous recruitment process Mrs. Wardale has been promoted to Vice-Principal. She will work alongside me, and Mr Edwards, to lead our school in all of the new and exciting challenges which lay ahead for us. I am sure everyone will join me in wishing Mrs. Wardale good luck in this new and exciting role.

We have also appointed Mr Henesy to join our Computer Science and Business Studies department, to replace Mrs Rimmer who left us at Easter. Mr Henesy has bags of enthusiasm and can't wait to get started and I know our pupils will love him.

Keep up the good work with the Home Learning and we are really looking forward to next week when we can at last welcome some of our pupils back to school, with the return of Year 10s. I just wish it was everyone!

## Mrs Amanda Ryan

### Hello Year 10

I hope you are all doing well! It only seems like yesterday since I was writing to you all in the newsletter, but here we are again, another week has passed by. I really can't believe how quickly time is going.

This week should've been the first week of your Work Experience. I know so many of you will be disappointed that this is not happening, as will many of the employers. Do not worry; you will have plenty of chances to gain experiences and some of you have put this time in lockdown to good use and have learnt lots of valuable life skills.

Last week was the week that Hillside said goodbye to our Year 11 pupils. I'm sure that you have seen some of the goodbye messages on social media. I know that you will welcome the new pupils joining us in September and set the best example to them. I'm sure you can remember your first few weeks at Hillside and how new and scary it can feel. You are now the oldest pupils in the school and with that, all I ask is for your kindness and support to give them the best start to life at Hillside.

Many of you will have had conversations with your Form Tutors this week. I know they were all looking forward to catching up with you. I have enjoyed hearing from some of you over the last few weeks so please keep in touch and let me know what you have been up to. I look forward to seeing some of you return to school next week. If you are not returning to school just yet please do not worry, everybody's circumstances are different and when the time is right we will all be back together in school, as I have said before the Home Learning will continue and we are all here to support you if you need it.

I'm missing seeing you all everyday. Take care and keep smiling! - Miss Roby

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

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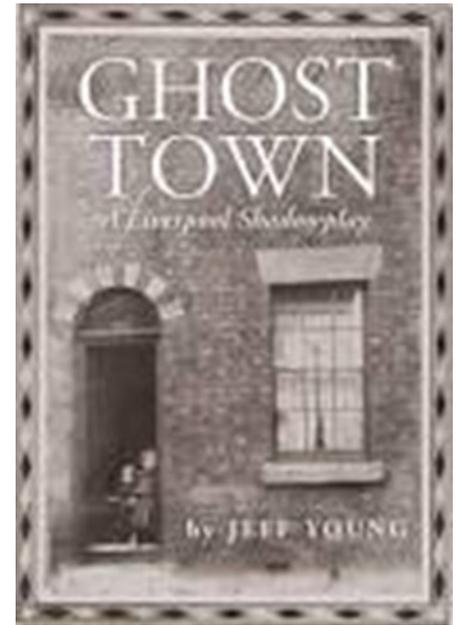
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**Mrs Daly is reading 'Ghost Town – a Liverpool Shadowplay'. It is written by Jeff Young who grew up in North Liverpool and is a selection of his essays.**

*Ghost Town* is a deeply personal book of remembering and forgetting, yet when we cross its threshold we also discover the labyrinth of a master storyteller, whose unforgettable characters gather in our thoughts like moths around lamplight.



I go walking down Stanley Road in Kirkdale where my dad used to have two junk shops selling house-clearance wardrobes, dressing tables, clutter. Ships from Southeast Asia would dock on the Mersey and Malaysian seamen would come and barter for Singer sewing machines. They'd walk back down the hill, a single-file crocodile of sailors with treadle sewing machines balanced on their heads. Old women would come in and talk about their superstitions. They would leave the shop if there was a bird ornament or painting. Once a woman crossed herself because we were selling a picture of a sparrow.

In the 1970s and 1980s, after the demolitions, there were vast empty wastes here, what we called The Debris or The Hollow – the 'oller'. At weekends illegal flea markets sprang up, hunting grounds for bargain scroungers and collectors and a place to top up the dole. We sold books, pots and pans, half-full cans of paint, hub caps, dolls houses, busted radios, records, accordions, cutlery, anything to make a quid. I once saw five fairground dodgem cars for sale, ten quid a piece. Scavengers from Bidston tip across the river would dump their gleanings on the dirt. Old men came with prams full of suitcases and the cases were full of treasure.