



Dear Parents/Guardians

I am delighted to share with you this week's newsletter and am particularly proud of the feature about Holly Brown who is now the Head Student at Birkenhead Head Sixth Form College. Holly was an absolute credit to Hillside and some of you may still remember with great fondness, as I do, Holly singing and signing in our Choir at Presentation Evening. I know she fought off tough competition to become the Head Student at College, a role she will excel in.

In other news, if you have young children or know anyone who is currently making choices about which secondary school to apply for, please pass on this newsletter to them. We have tours available outside of school hours and are very excited that our first ever 'Virtual Open Evening' will be going live next week. We have much to be proud of at Hillside and can't wait to give the Year 6 pupils a taste of everything that is on offer.

Mrs Amanda Ryan, Principal

SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural) Corner

Theme: World Space Week
SMSC Focus: Social

This week's assembly:
Science Department to deliver
space assembly

Thought for the Week:

"There are billions of places out there that we know nothing about. The fact that we know nothing about them excites me, and I want to go and find out about them. And that is what science is." Brian Cox



Book a Tour



Tours are taking place each Thursday evening and Saturday and Sunday mornings between now and Thursday 22nd October.
*Subject to change in line with Government guidance.

Follow the link, complete the form and choose a date that suits you



Former Hillside pupil named Head Student at leading sixth form college

A former pupil at the school has been chosen to represent one of the country's leading sixth form colleges as its Head Student for the 2020-21 academic year.

Holly Brown, who completed her GCSEs at Hillside in 2019, was chosen to be Birkenhead Sixth Form College's Head Student out of a year group of more than 800 at the Wirral institution.

She now leads a team of 30 Student Ambassadors at the College who work alongside staff on such things as student engagement, wellbeing and events, often being the first smiling faces that new students and their parents will meet in their journeys to becoming part of the College community.



Holly, who is taking A Levels in Law, English Literature and Spanish, made herself known in her first year in sixth form, winning the leading role as Sandy in the College's production of Grease despite never having acted before. Sadly, audiences were never able to hear her stunning singing voice on stage as the March show had to be cancelled due to the pandemic.

Holly said: "It's a big honour to be named Head Student at Birkenhead Sixth Form College and I'm excited for the year to come. Things are obviously a bit different this year to the way things normally are, but we've got lots of things going on virtually already, and we've got loads more ideas for how to run clubs and activities for students to get involved with." She continued: "I loved my time at Hillside, and I'll always have lovely memories from high school. I decided to come over to this college because it has the best options of subjects I wanted to take, and it's obviously has a really good reputation for education in the area."

"I wanted a new experience, and it still feels fresh and exciting coming over here to the Wirral every day even though it's really quick and easy to get to."

Holly is planning to spend a year working in Spain after she completes her A Levels before returning to the UK to study French and Spanish at university.

Times Tables Rockstars

A massive well done to our TT Rockstars this week, they are:

Year 7:

Ethan Richardson 7SMC, Holly Boughey 7TG and Fearne Barrett 7SMC

Year 8:

Kira Dodd 8RLC, Jessica Harrington 8SE and Virginia Horvath 8SDo





What are we reading...

Reading regularly, and accessing a range of different writing styles, is a brilliant way to develop pupils' vocabulary; research has shown that the more often children read, the better they perform in exams in all subjects.

For Year 11 pupils in particular, reading challenging texts is one of the ways we continue to develop vital exam skills.

Mr Wardale's form, 11SW, are reading 'The Secret Diary of a Barrister' during Register And Read. This brilliant non-fiction text explores knotty legal issues and is full of real-world examples of how the law works. The book also gives pupils an insight into the fascinating career of a barrister.

Mr Wardale said: "This is just a great book. When I read it myself this summer, I knew it was a book that would inspire my form.

"We have loved our Wednesday and Thursday reading sessions, we've learnt so much about the world of law."

Mrs Hinde



WHAT TO DO IF...

Guidance for parents and carers

if your child or another household member has COVID-19 symptoms or their child has been in contact with a confirmed case.

Government guidance is subject to change at short notice - if in doubt refer to official websites shown below.



YOUR CHILD HAS SYMPTOMS OF CORONAVIRUS

If your child has coronavirus symptoms:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste

DO NOT send your child to school

Inform School ASAP

Get a test now

www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or phone NHS 119

Tell school what the test result is as soon as you know.

Follow 'stay at home' guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus infection' www.bit.ly/stayathomeguidance

www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test

SOMEONE ELSE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAS SYMPTOMS

If someone in your household develops symptoms, they get a test. Other members of their household self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms.

DO NOT send your child to school

Inform School ASAP

If the test is negative;

Negative Test Result

- the person with symptoms can stop self-isolating, but may have another illness
- other members of the household can stop self-isolating, so your child can return to school.

If the test is positive;

Positive Test Result

- the person with symptoms self-isolates for at least 10 days from symptom onset and follows 'stay at home guidance'
- other members of the household continue self-isolating for the full 14 days

DO NOT send your child to school

www.bit.ly/stayathomeguidance

YOUR CHILD HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH A CONFIRMED CASE OUTSIDE SCHOOL

Contacts who need to self-isolate will be notified and advised by the NHS Test and Trace service. Children under 18 will be contacted by phone wherever possible and asked for their parent or guardian's permission to continue the call. If you or your child have not been notified, your child does not need to self-isolate. If your child's contact is waiting for a test result, you do not need to self-isolate.

If your child has been informed that they are a contact of a person who has had a positive test result for COVID-19;

DO NOT send your child to school

- **Inform School ASAP**
- your child must self-isolate at home for 14 days from the date of their last contact with the person who tested positive.
- follow the 'stay at home' guidance
- Your child is at risk of developing COVID-19 for the next 14 days.
- Even if your child never develop symptoms, they can still be infected and pass the virus on without knowing it.
- You should not arrange a test for your child unless they develop symptoms of COVID-19.
- If your child does not have symptoms of COVID-19, other people in your household do not need to self-isolate.

www.bit.ly/guidanceforcontacts

WOT What to do if... [PARENT] v1.3 11/09/2020





Schools Liaison Officer

To strengthen our links in the community, and in conjunction with Merseyside police we are pleased to say that we will have a police schools liaison officer who will now visit school regularly. The police officer will be in school every Friday morning and will be a friendly face around school for pupils to talk to you and get to know. The officer will also offer support on pastoral and safeguarding matters where appropriate and will play a role in educating pupils about the law and how to be a positive member of the wider community. This is support that has worked successfully in the past and we are pleased to have been offered this provision again from Merseyside Police. If any parents/guardians would like to discuss this further, or if they would ever like advice or support from our schools officer please don't hesitate to contact me or your child's Progress Leader.



Brighter Horizons4u Counselling Service



We are so proud and amazed at the resilience and courage that our pupils have shown in their return to school and the positive attitude that they are displaying in such uncertain times for us all. We do understand that the current situation can cause additional anxiety and stress on emotional wellbeing and we want to take this opportunity to remind parents/guardians that as a school we commission a professional counselling service who are currently in school 2 days per week. If you feel your child would benefit from this service please contact your child's Progress Leader, Carla Sheils (Home Liaison/Safeguarding Officer) or me.

Mrs Cross

ACTION CALENDAR: OPTIMISTIC OCTOBER 2020

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| "Choose to be optimistic. It feels better" - Dalai Lama | | | 1 Write down your most important goals for this month | 2 Look for reasons to be hopeful even in difficult times | 3 Take the first step towards a goal that really matters to you | 4 Be a realistic optimist. See life as it is, but focus on what's good |
| 5 Start your day with the most important thing on your list | 6 Do something constructive to improve a difficult situation | 7 Remember that things can change for the better | 8 Make progress on a project or task you have been avoiding | 9 Avoid blaming yourself or others. Just find the best way forward | 10 Take time to reflect on what you have achieved this week | 11 Focus on a positive change that you want to see in society |
| 12 Look for the good intentions in people around you today | 13 Put down your To-Do list and let yourself be spontaneous | 14 Do something to overcome an obstacle you are facing | 15 Look out for positive news and reasons to be cheerful today | 16 Thank yourself for achieving the things you often take for granted | 17 Share your most important goals with people you trust | 18 Make a list of things that you are looking forward to |
| 19 Set hopeful but realistic goals for the week ahead | 20 Find the joy in completing a task you've put off for some time | 21 Let go of the expectations of others and focus on what matters | 22 Share an inspiring idea with a loved one or colleague | 23 Write down 3 specific things that have gone well recently | 24 Recognise that you have a choice about what to prioritise | 25 Plan a fun or exciting activity to look forward to |
| 26 Start the week by writing down your top priorities & plans | 27 Be kind to yourself today. Remember, progress takes time | 28 Ask yourself, will this still matter a year from now? | 29 Find a new perspective on a problem you face | 30 Set a goal that links to your sense of purpose in life | 31 Think of 3 things that give you hope for the future | |

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS



www.actionforhappiness.org

Keep Calm · Stay Wise · Be Kind

Learn more about this month's theme at www.actionforhappiness.org/optimistic-october