



# Hillside High School

## Excellence in the Heart of the Community



Friday 20th September 2019

### Wade Deacon Trust

Dear Parents/Guardians

I hope you enjoy reading this week's newsletter which is full of stories about the exciting opportunities our pupils have at Hillside. I know from speaking to pupils, those who attended the Blood Brothers trip last week had a fantastic time.

We are always striving for our pupils to be aspirational and events like next week's College, University and Apprenticeship Fair are crucial in educating our pupils about all of the fantastic opportunities that are out there for them. All pupils in Years 9, 10 and 11 need to be in school to benefit from this event.

A massive well done to the pupils who have won their year group competition for completing the most hours on Hegarty Maths and Timetables Rockstars. I am very proud of your commitment to these excellent online packages. Yet again we have had a brilliant Open Evening and I look forward to sharing more details about the event in next week's newsletter. If you know anyone who missed the evening and would like a tour of our fantastic school please ask them to ring Miss Convey; we will be more than happy to arrange a tour with me.

I am delighted to share with you pictures of our newly refurbished Learning Resource Centre. This will provide an area for pupils to study before and after school and at breaks and lunchtimes. I am sure that you will agree this looks much better and is now a suitably aspirational space for our pupils to study. This is just the start of the work which is planned to upgrade our building to the learning environment that our pupils deserve and I will be delighted to share more details of the planning work in future newsletters. #prideinhillside

It's been yet another excellent week in terms of attendance and I would take this opportunity to say a massive thank you to all pupils who have achieved 100% attendance so far this year, Well Done! Let's keep it up next week.

Mrs Amanda Ryan



### Catering Assistant Vacancy

#### Permanent

We are looking to appoint a Catering Assistant for 11.25hrs per week, (11.45am—2.00pm—Monday to Friday).

Duties include general kitchen duties, serving the pupils and operating the tills.

Please contact Miss Convey on 0151 525 2630 for an application form.

Start date: ASAP

### Year 7 & 8 Homework History

### SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural) Corner

This week's theme: Languages Week

#### SMSC Focus: Cultural

In this week's assembly we are going to be celebrating European Day of Languages which is held every year on 26<sup>th</sup> September. We will explore the many opportunities that knowing another language provides you with. You will also be informed of all the exciting activities which are taking place next week in the Modern Foreign Language Department.

### Career of the week

**Career:** Advertising Copywriter

**Skills:**

- Communicating with people
- Working as part of a team
- Paying attention to detail
- Researching and investigating
- Time management

**Average Salary:** £32,760

**Useful Subjects:**

English, Social studies, Business, Art and Design

For more information please see  
[www.myworldofwork.co.uk](http://www.myworldofwork.co.uk)

*'A Commitment to Excellence'*

Exceptional Values

Exceptional Learning & Teaching

Exceptional Achievement

## Blood Brothers

On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September pupils from Year 9, 10 and 11 travelled to Liverpool's Empire Theatre to watch Bill Kenwright's production of his musical 'Blood Brothers'.

Pupils have studied Willy Russell's play as part of their GCSE English Literature course and the opportunity to see it as a live piece of theatre was invaluable for their understanding of the plot and characters. Many of the pupils commented on how amusing they'd found the play and that they were particularly touched by the scenes exploring the fate of twins 'Mikey' and 'Edward'. Pupils were able to remember key quotations from the text and said that seeing the lines performed in real life was a brilliant opportunity.

We showed the pupils the different parts of the theatre, explaining the history of the Royal Box, and exploring how musicians are arranged in the orchestra pit to maximise sound impact. Discussions also took place about the range of jobs and career opportunities in the theatre; pupils learnt about theatre management, lighting production and stage direction. Our pupils thoroughly enjoyed the live theatre experience. We were absolutely delighted with their conduct and attitude, and how much interest they expressed in learning about the theatre. We were so proud when other members of the audience commented on how excellent their behaviour had been throughout the production. We also want to thank Mrs McCarthy, Year 11 Progress Leader and Mrs McGing, Safeguarding Officer for coming along to support the trip.

### Ms Hinde & Mr Gibaud



Here are the Hegarty Maths names:

Year 7 — Emma Leicester 7RLC & Jessica Harrington 7SE

Year 8 — Fiona Zhen 8SAC & Lillie May Lamb 8SAC

Year 9 — Erin Newall 9MW & Abbie Readle 9DH

Year 10—Jack Corbett 10TH & Jamie Carson 10SW

Year 11—Ahmad Azizi 11TG & Yi Ning Weng Mei 11DC

Here is the TT Rockstars names:

Year 7— Jessica Harrington 7SE, Jodie McDonnell 7RLC  
& Matilda Bardhi 7SE

Year 8— David Dawson 8AMR, Nicole James Jenkinson 8SAC  
& Kelsey Taylor 8GS





## College, University and Apprenticeship Fair

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September year 9, 10 and 11 pupils will be invited to our College, University and Apprenticeship Fair at which they can find out information about further and higher education courses available to them when they leave us after year 11. We have many different providers who will be exhibiting on the day and will provide information about specific course routes available. Pupils will receive a time slot for their session and will be taken to the event by their class teacher.

At Hillside we are committed to providing careers guidance and support right from year 7 to enable pupils to make suitable choices at key points in their education. We have a similar event taking place for Year 7 and 8 pupils on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020.



**Mrs Jones**

## Learning Resource Centre

We are pleased to share with you pictures of the recently refurbished Learning Resource Centre (LRC). The LRC has been newly decorated and we have replaced the old furniture to create an open and welcoming space for pupils to study. The LRC will be open before and after school and also at breaks and lunch times for pupils to revise, complete homework and borrow from the extensive library of fiction, non-fiction and reference books. We are fortunate to have a suite of computers available for pupils to use at these times too.

The vision for the LRC is that it will be a flexible study space that can be used for independent study, small group work, and intervention or revision sessions for larger groups. The LRC at Hillside has always been a popular resource and we hope that pupils will continue to use the facilities to enable them to achieve their potential. The LRC will prove to be an invaluable resource for Year 11 this year as many staff are already planning how the large space can be used for lectures, revision and intervention sessions.

Year 7 English classes have already used the space this week, before the official opening and have borrowed fiction books to support them with developing their love of reading for pleasure. The English department are scheduling fortnightly LRC sessions for Year 7 to develop their reading and research skills. Last year at Hillside we worked hard to promote reading across the curriculum and the redevelopment of the LRC will give all pupils the opportunity to borrow books to build on the work they have already done.



**Mrs Miller**



## Attendance

As we come to the end of our third week of the term we would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents/guardians and pupils who have made a real effort in terms of school attendance with 464 pupils achieving 100% so far this term. We cannot emphasise enough the importance of excellent attendance to school. Analysis of our GCSE results from Summer 2019 once again provides strong evidence of the link between regular school attendance and pupil progress. As a school we are determined to raise our whole school attendance and there has already been an improvement in whole school attendance when compared to this point last year. The only way to improve whole school attendance is by every pupil striving to attend school every day. Below are some basic reminders in terms of attendance.

Did you know?

- The Government regard 95% as the minimum satisfactory attendance for a secondary school pupil. Our school attendance target is 96%.
- The only legally accepted reasons for not being in school are illness, holiday approved by school, or a day of religious observance. Keeping children away from school for no good reason is a criminal offence.
- Some parents have been given a prison sentence for continually failing to send their child/children to school.
- It is the school, and not parents, who decide whether or not to authorise absences; the parent's note is necessary because the reasons given need to be considered by the school.
- Looking after other children, or shopping for new clothes, are not good enough reasons to keep your child off school. The schools will not authorise absences without a good reason for your child being off.
- Most children should routinely have attendance rates of 97% or more. This is the equivalent of 6 days absence a year. But 100% is achieved by many pupils every year in both primary and secondary schools.

As outlined above, we expect pupils to be in school every day however if your child is unavoidably unable to attend school, you will need to ring the school office on **0151 525 2630** between **8.00-8.30am**. Your call will be received by one of our admin team who will discuss with you the reason for your child's absence.

\*Please be aware that dependent on the reason, and your child's current and historic attendance, there will be some challenge as to why your child is not able to come to school. Each day at 9.30 a.m. the pastoral team will meet and establish who is absent and the reason why. Dependent again on the individual's attendance pattern, and the reason for absence, the most likely outcome will be a member of the pastoral team visiting the home of pupils who are absent to discuss how we can get the young person back into school with as limited time absent as possible. To further support our attendance drive this half term we will be inviting some parents to attend a meeting in Bootle Town Hall in conjunction with the LA Education Welfare service. The purpose of this will be to offer any additional support to pupils whose attendance falls below the National Average and who are categorised as Persistently Absent e.g below 90%.

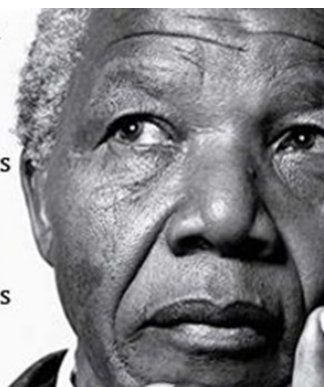
If you require any support in terms of school attendance please contact your child's Progress Leader, Mrs Tattersall Attendance Officer Ms Lawton, Attendance Officer, Joe Farrell who is the Education Welfare Officer from Sefton LA who works on behalf of Hillside or Mrs Cross Assistant Vice Principal.

**Mrs Cross**

### Thought for the week

If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart.

*Nelson Mandela*



### Key Dates 2019

<b>Year 11 Success in English &amp; Maths:</b>	Thursday 26th September at 5.45pm
<b>Year 9—11 College and University Fair:</b>	Friday 27th September
<b>Year 11 Success in EBacc:</b>	Thursday 3rd October at 5.45pm
<b>WSW Community Event:</b>	Thursday 10th October 6.00pm
<b>Year 7 Parent Event:</b>	Thursday 10th October 10.30am & 5.00pm