



Dear Parents/Guardians

It has been lovely to welcome pupils back to school this week. They have come back ready to learn and eager to build on the progress they were making in the weeks before Easter. Year 11 are now completing the assessed work which will count towards their final GCSE grades and I know as a school community we all wish them the best of luck as they complete the work which will determine their final GCSE grades.

Hillside has a strong reputation for the standards our pupils exemplify in terms of their uniform. Only yesterday, as I was driving back to school having visited Bedford, I was struck by how smart our pupils look as they are walking home. As always I would thank all our families for the support you give us in upholding these standards. We fully appreciate it has been challenging due to the shops remaining closed for families to purchase shoes for pupils who have out grown their old ones, but now we have seen the reopening of shops we expect all pupils to be wearing school shoes from Monday. We believe that our high standards in terms of uniform, underpin the high standards we expect in every element of school life.

Please take care and remember Hands, Face, Space and Fresh Air!



Mrs Amanda Ryan, Principal



Top Podders are the pupils who have streamed the most pods
Questions Answered are the pupils who attempted the most questions
Diamond League - are the pupils who have answered with the most accurate knowledge, the more correct responses, the more diamonds.

GCSE Pod For KS4

DIAMOND LEAGUE

1st Harry E, Year 11 - 315

2nd Joseph Z, Year 11 - 203

3rd Kelly L, Year 11 - 133

Excellence in the Heart of the C_{PIC}COLLAGE

GCSE Pod For KS4

TOP PODDERS

1st James W, Year 10 - 33

2nd Sam H, Year 10 - 17

3rd Afia S, Year 10 - 9

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GCSE Pod For KS4

QUESTIONS ANSWERED ?

1st Harry E, Year 11 - 177

2nd Joseph Z, Year 11 - 136

3rd Ewelina G, Year 10 - 102

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Times Tables Rockstars

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

Year 7:

Joshua Williams 7THE, Grace Coffey 7GW and Stevie Owens 7CSY

Year 8:

Jessica Harrington 8NW, Sarah McDonnell 8RLC and Kira Dodd 8RLC





Standards and Expectations – School Uniform

Firstly, a huge thank you to all our parents/guardians and pupils who continue to look smart and wear our school uniform with pride every single day. We don't take this for granted and we still regularly receive compliments from the wider local community about how smart Hillside pupils look.

We understand that upon returning to school on 8th March there were a small number of pupils who were without school shoes due to having grown out of them and the difficulties around getting a new pair of shoes with the closure of non-essential shops. We took a flexible approach to this and have allowed a very small number of pupils to wear trainers. As all shops are now open for business we hope that this has provided a practical solution to shoes being replaced.

From **Monday 19th April** we will expect all pupils in every year group to be wearing school shoes as per our school uniform policy. If this presents a problem for families then please contact your child's Progress Leader to work to find a solution.

Please see below for some other basic reminders regarding school uniform and our expectations.

- Girls should wear white socks or black tights.
- Jewelry is not permitted including any piercings.
- Make-up should be minimal and discreet and false eye lashes, false nails and or nail varnish should not be worn.
- Blazers should be worn at all times on the corridors – pupils may remove blazers when working in classrooms.
- Outdoor coats or hooded jackets are not allowed to be worn in school and they should be removed as pupils enter the school building at any points during the school day e.g after break and lunch.

Our uniform underpins our high expectations of pupils to follow 'The Hillside Way' and pupils should look smart, professional and ready to learn- which so many do every single day.



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Attendance

As you are aware following the full reopening of school's on 8th March the DfE have stated that school attendance is once again mandatory for all school age children. We were delighted as a school by this and with the support of everyone from our whole school community we have safely re-opened and quickly got back to the business of teaching and learning.

As we start the Summer Term we would like to remind parents/guardians and pupils about our school expectations in terms of good school attendance. We are now back to our daily attendance routines of following up pupil absence and offering support and practical help to ensure that all of our pupils are maximising their learning opportunities by being in school every day.

Some facts about school attendance

Government regard 95% as the minimum satisfactory attendance for a secondary school pupil. Remember the only legally accepted reasons for not being in school are illness, self-isolation as a result of the pupil or a household member showing symptoms of COVID-19, self-isolation as a result of the school's track and trace procedures, holiday approved by school, or a day of religious observance.

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. 80% attendance is the same as having a day off school every week. 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 absent.

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.

Practical strategies for helping your child attend school regularly

Top 10 Tips:

- *Make school attendance non-negotiable unless there is a genuine illness – create good habit from the start.*
- *Make sure uniform is ready, especially after the holidays or weekend.*
- *Set the alarm clock early enough to allow plenty of time to get ready.*
- *Talk to your child about school life and if they are unhappy about any aspect, tell us as soon as possible so we can try to resolve the issue.*
- *Ensure medical/dental appointments are made out of school hours. If this is not possible, consider is this enough for your child to miss a whole day of school.*
- *If your child is under the weather, but well enough for school, send them in. If they are too unwell for school, we will contact you for them to go home. Please ensure that in terms of COVID-19 you are following NHS guidance please see our school website for further info.*
- *Talk to your child about how important it is to attend school every day.*
- *If you think your child is trying to avoid school, or certain days, can you find out why?*
- *Encourage after school activities and remember we have a free breakfast for all pupils, available from 8am.*
- *If your family are experiencing any difficulties, talk to your school who may be able to offer help.*



Mrs Cross

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Safeguarding, Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Bulletin

Safeguarding

Welcome back to our weekly Safeguarding Article. We have been so pleased to see pupils back in school. This week we wanted to remind pupils and parents/guardians of the Safeguarding Team at Hillside (see poster opposite).

If one of our Safeguarding Team is informed about a pupil being at risk of harm, or there are concerns over a child's welfare or emotional wellbeing, we will always endeavour to discuss these concerns with parents/guardians first and try to offer support and advice when appropriate. Occasionally, school will need to refer to outside agencies for additional advice or support and we would discuss this with families first, with the rare exception where this may cause further harm to a pupil.

The summer term can be an exciting time of year for pupils but understandably given the current situation we appreciate that this could be a stressful time for a variety of reasons.

May we take this opportunity to remind pupils and parents/guardians that if there are any concerns regarding a pupils' emotional wellbeing or mental health then please contact your child's Progress Leader or one of our Safeguarding Team. We can offer advice, or signpost to relevant support if more appropriate. This is obviously the case throughout the year as well.

Mrs Cross

Designated Persons for Safeguarding





Mrs Cross
Designated Lead for Safeguarding



Miss Sheils
Deputy Designated Person



Mrs McGing
Deputy Designated Person



Mr Smedley
Deputy Designated Person



Mrs Banks
Deputy Designated Person

If you are concerned about your own safety or well-being, or the safety and well-being of somebody else in school it is really important that you talk to one of these members of staff.

[Change of address/phone number](#)

Can we please ask that all parents/guardians inform school of any changes of circumstances e.g. change of address/phone number. It is vital that school have at least two working contact numbers for all pupils and clear instructions on who to contact in the case of illness or an emergency. This is particularly important given our current safety plans around Covid-19.