



**Dear Parents/Guardians,**

I hope you enjoy reading this week's newsletter. It is my pleasure to share information about our recent visit from Challenge Partners which went extremely well. As it says in the article this is a reflection of everyone in our school community and our ongoing hard work and commitment to achieving excellence in all that we do.

We were delighted to have our Area of Excellence in reading accredited and this validates all our hard work on 'Reading is Power'. We know that being able to read well unlocks the world for our young people and allows them to achieve the success they are capable of.

Can I finish by thanking our families for all your support at the start of the week. It was with a very heavy heart that we had to shut the school, but the burst pipe resulted in no heating in the building. The pipe was repaired and then the process of getting the heating back on and checking the radiators in every classroom and office began! This was an enormous task for the team and it was 7.30pm before we knew that the heating was back on and we could open school again on Tuesday. I know this delay was frustrating for families but I hope by sharing details of the scale of the job on Monday you can have a greater understanding of why the decision wasn't made sooner.

**Amanda Ryan, Principal**

**Thought for the Week**

"LET US REMEMBER: ONE BOOK, ONE PEN, ONE CHILD, AND ONE TEACHER CAN CHANGE THE WORLD."  
- MALALA YOUSAFZAI



*Key Dates 2023*

**13th December—Christmas Dinner Day**

**14th December—Christmas Concert 7pm**

**Bedford Primary School – Year 4 Multi Sports Event**

On Wednesday 29th November Year 4 pupils from Bedford Primary were invited to Hillside for an afternoon of sport that would be run by Hillside's Sports Leaders. The Sports Leaders planned the event and Year 4 pupils had the opportunity to take part in Basketball, Dodgeball, Short Tennis, Football and Blazepods, our Sports Leaders coaching, supporting and delivering high quality sessions. The leaders were fantastic, a true credit to the school! Each and everyone of them were polite, professional and hardworking. The Year 4 pupils thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon especially the Blazepods as this was totally new to them, medals were awarded for pupils who had worked hard in each of the events and the afternoon was finished off with a medal presentation. Well done to all Year 4 pupils and our Sports Leaders, we look forward to our next event!

*Miss Austin*



I am delighted to share our published report from Ofsted with you. This is now live on our website for staff and parents to access. The link is here: [Hillside High School - Hillside is a Good School!](#)



## Challenge Partners Reviewer States Hillside is a 'Vital Hub in the Area'

In a recent review conducted by experienced leaders from schools across the UK, Hillside School has received high praise, solidifying its reputation as a vital hub in the local community. The Challenge Partners Review not only acknowledged Hillside's effectiveness in all areas but also accredited the school with an **Area of Excellence for reading**, marking a significant achievement for the school.



The reviewer expressed admiration for Hillside's leadership, describing the school as being "led by an inspirational principal." This commendation underscores the importance of strong leadership in creating an environment that fosters academic excellence and personal growth among pupils.

One standout feature highlighted in the review is the **embedded curriculum across Key Stages 3 and 4**. The comprehensive curriculum ensures that pupils receive a well-rounded education that prepares them for the challenges of the future. Furthermore, the emphasis on **selecting ambitious texts, aimed at enabling pupils to learn more about other cultures and protected characteristics**, was noted as a commendable approach to promoting diversity and inclusion.

**"Diversity is celebrated in this school"**, the reviewer remarked, recognising Hillside's commitment to creating an inclusive and welcoming environment for all students. The deliberate selection of texts that explore various cultures and characteristics contributes to a rich and vibrant learning experience for pupils.

The review also lauded the school's approach to teaching, stating that **"adaptive teaching is a strong feature of the school"**. This acknowledgment reflects Hillside's dedication to tailoring its teaching methods to meet the diverse needs of its pupils, ensuring that each individual receives the support necessary for their academic success.

**"Vocabulary is a major focus"**, the reviewer noted, underscoring Hillside's commitment to fostering strong language skills among its students. This focus not only enhances academic achievement but also equips students with the communication skills essential for success in life. During classroom visits, the reviewer observed **"positive attitudes to learning"**, affirming that Hillside pupils consistently exhibit enthusiasm and engagement in their studies.

We would like to express our gratitude to the entire school community for their ongoing support in the pursuit of **'Excellence in the Heart of the Community'**. The positive outcome of the Challenge Partners Review is a testament to the collective effort of the dedicated staff, pupils, and parents who contribute to making Hillside special. As we continue to strive for improvement, we look forward to sharing best practice with schools nationwide to further strengthen the provision we have.

## Social Signature

On Friday 1st December, Amelia M and Luke E in Year 7 had the opportunity to join other local primary and secondary schools at the Strand School Council to collaborate on an incredible project. The council convened at English Martyrs Primary School where the pupils were introduced to the concept of Social Signature, which focuses on the very important idea of social action to make an impact on the lives of the people around us, our community and the world. Lucas and Amelia listened to others and contributed their own ideas about what they would like to do to take positive steps in improving our school community. They were amazing representatives of the school and acted as perfect role models for the younger pupils taking part.

Lucas and Amelia have excitedly accepted the challenge and can't wait to share some of the ideas discussed with our Pupil Leadership Team and staff to make a real lasting impact for our school!

**Mr Rayson**





HILLSIDE HIGH SCHOOL



# READING IS POWER AT HILLSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

After recently becoming award winners for Innovative and Creative Literacy and receiving positive Ofsted feedback for a commitment to reading, Hillside is accredited as an Area of Excellence for Reading through the National organisation Challenge Partners.



*'Teachers are obsessed with reading'* is a somewhat tongue-in-cheek statement from a pupil when discussing the impact that the Reading is Power strategy is having across the school. It only serves to highlight just how embedded this initiative has become since its launch three years ago and it only belies the fact that pupils do actually love the emphasis on reading."  
**Challenge Partners**

Hillside High School is proud to announce its recent accreditation as an Area of Excellence in Reading by Challenge Partners, a prestigious recognition that underscores the school's commitment to fostering a culture of literacy and a love for reading among its pupils.

This accolade positions Hillside High as the sole secondary school within the Aspire North West Hub to be accredited with an area of excellence, highlighting the dedication and success of the schools Reading is Power Framework.

The accreditation comes on the heels of both a glowing report from Ofsted and winning an Educate Award for Innovative and Creative Literacy. Ofsted praised Hillside with the statement: **"This is a school where, across the curriculum, reading is a priority. Staff and pupils share the belief that reading is power."** Whilst Educate recognised the work that has been put in to ensure 'Bootle is a community that reads'. The Challenge Partners accreditation reflects the school's ongoing efforts to create an environment where pupils not only acquire essential reading skills but also develop a lifelong passion for literature. By achieving this recognition, Hillside has demonstrated its commitment to delivering high-quality education that extends beyond academic excellence, fostering a lifelong love of reading.

Mrs Ryan, Principal, expressed gratitude for the collective efforts of the school community in achieving this significant milestone. **"We are thrilled to be recognised as an Area of Excellence in Reading by Challenge Partners. This accreditation is a testament to the dedication of our staff, the enthusiasm of our pupils, and the support of our parents and the wider community. Reading is a powerful tool, and we are committed to empowering our students through literature"**

The school looks forward to building on this achievement and continuing to provide an exceptional educational experience that prepares students for success both academically and personally.

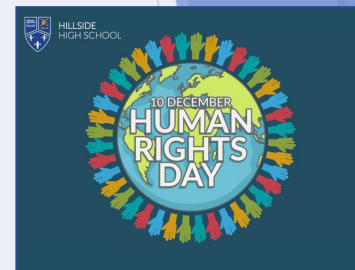


# Safeguarding, Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health



## 'The 2023 Human Rights Day theme: "Consolidating and Sustaining Human Rights Culture into the Future"'

In this week's assemblies we have been celebrating our human rights. Firstly, we have been understanding what human rights are and how they came to be, as well as thinking about why they are important and must be upheld in the current world.



This year's Human Rights Day theme is: "Consolidating and Sustaining Human Rights Culture into the Future". At Hillside we have our own set of values and rights, every pupil has to live by. The Hillside Way encourages our pupils to 'be kind' and 'be positive' with one another, so that everyone can enjoy each school day free from discrimination, bullying and learn in a safe and happy educational environment.

Human rights are the things that everybody is entitled to regardless of their ethnicity, race, nationality, religion or gender. These rules are there to make sure that everybody in all nations is treated fairly and lives to an equal standard. Everyone needs access to medicine, food and water, clothes, and shelter. By including these in a person's basic human rights, everyone has a baseline level of dignity.

Thought for the week:

"Let us remember: one book, one pen, one child, and one teacher can change the world."

- Malala Yousafzai (human rights activist and advocate for female education)

*Mr Campbell*

EXCELLENCE IN THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

## Enhanced Transition Wellbeing Workshop

On Wednesday 29th November Miss Rourke and Mrs Miller hosted the first Parental Wellbeing Workshop in the Wellbeing Hub. The Wellbeing Hub opened in September 2022 to support pupils with their emotional wellbeing, attendance and engagement with school. As the Hub has grown, we are now able to offer support to families who need help with school-based anxieties, attendance and engagement. Miss Rourke delivered session of Emotional Literacy and shared practical techniques to help pupils when they become anxious or overwhelmed. Mrs Miller then delivered a session on facing our fears as parents and how we support our children to build resilience. The final session as a mental health marketplace with coffee and cake. Professionals from CAMHS, MHST and Kooth met parents informally to share external support services with parents. The event was a huge success! One Year 7 parent said "I feel more relaxed now I know all that you do to help my daughter." We look forward to running more parental workshops in the new year. If you would be interested in attending future Wellbeing Workshops, please contact Mrs Miller, via the school office.

*Mrs Miller*



**Reminder—Finishing times**  
**Friday 22nd December**

**Year 11—11:40am**  
**Year 10—11:55am**  
**Year 9—11:45am**  
**Year 8—11:50am**  
**Year 7—12:00 noon**

