



HILLSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

WADE DEACON TRUST

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

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope you enjoy reading this week's newsletter. I found the article on the back page which summarises Mrs Wardale's assemblies particularly informative. Our understanding of the brain and how we learn underpins our Hillside Core 5 (please see below) these are the principles we expect to see in lessons, to ensure our pupils get the very best experience and make the progress they are capable of.

Last night was our Christmas production of Cinderella the pantomime and wow, it was amazing. To see so many pupils from across the year groups join together to perform and provide such fantastic entertainment to our families was simply joyous. I always feel school is a fantastic place to be in the run up to Christmas and our pantomime is now becoming a highlight of our celebrations.

I should remind families we are still in school until Friday 22nd December, when we will continue our tradition of finishing at an earlier time, see info in this newsletter. In the next week we have a lot of learning still to do, along with some lovely Christmas activities planned for our young people, so maintaining good attendance up to Friday 22nd December is imperative.

We return to school on Monday 8th January at the usual time of 8.20am for a 8.30am start.

Amanda Ryan, Principal

Thought for the Week

Humans are unique by virtue of their large brain.
- Jane Goodall



'Excellence in the Heart of the Community'
PIC•COLLAGE

EXCELLENCE IN THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

HILLSIDE PANTRY

Providing non - perishable food items for families in need.

Opening Times:
EVERY FRIDAY
1PM-4PM
Main Reception



MEMBER OF THE WADE DEACON TRUST

Friday 15th December 2023



EXCELLENCE

Hillside High School

Wade Deacon Trust

At Hillside, my teachers help me to learn by:



Giving effective feedback



Using regular retrieval.



Explaining what I am learning and making links to what I have already learnt.



Providing a word rich environment



Regularly checking my understanding and giving me extra help when I need it.

in the Heart of the Community

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!](#)



admin@hillsidehigh.co.uk



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Year 7 Christmas Homework – Junk Model Number

Pupils are being asked to use the cardboard, paper and wrappings of things they really like to make a junk model of their favourite number.

They are to create a junk model of their favourite number.

Like the models they've been making since they started school i.e. robots, aliens, vehicles made from recycling cardboard boxes and empty clean pop bottles.

Your model can be any size, but remember you have to carry it to school.

It can be made from any items as long as they are clean and safe (no pointy ends or sharp edges).

It can be 1 or 2 digits (just because more would be hard).

It must be submitted by Friday 12th January to your Maths teacher.

There are prizes for the best efforts, with 1 model from each Year 7 class going forward to the final round of judging. From this shortlist there will be an overall winner.

Pupils who may need some help with supplies can see Mrs. Thornton for support.



Fundraising fun!

We have had a very busy few weeks raising money for our Christmas Hamper Appeal! On Thursday 30th November, Hillside held its annual Christmas market! We wanted to do something festive that the whole school and local community could enjoy to kickstart the festive season. We supported local businesses by inviting them to come and sell their Christmas goodies at our school. There was carol singing, mince pies, Santa's grotto and a whole lot of festive fun! The evening was a huge success and we wanted to thank everyone who came and supported us! And best of all we managed to raise over £1400!

This was followed by the Santa Dash on Sunday 3rd December! 18 members of Hillside staff braved the freezing cold to run 5km around Liverpool city centre dressed as Santa! The city centre was a sea of red, with the occasional blue, Santas! There was a fantastic atmosphere and it was a lot of good fun! So far we have raised a further £1150!

Finally, on Friday 9th December Hillside staff and pupils were invited to wear their finest Christmas jumpers to raise more funds for our Christmas Hamper Appeal. Progress leaders and a singing Mr Edwards were on hand with the small change donations box to collect donations as pupils arrived to school. As always we were bowled over by our pupils' generosity! There were some fantastic examples of brightly coloured festive jumpers!

We still have a week to go until Mr Edwards and his elves head out in the minibus to deliver our hampers to families in need in our local community!

Miss Collins





Trip to the Theatre

Last week our cast and crew of this years Hillside Pantomime journeyed into town to see Cinderella at the Everyman Theatre. Miss Brown, Mrs McPoland, Miss Austin and Mr Richardson navigated our cast of 45 pupils on foot to Kirkdale station, as we boarded the train to Liverpool central taking over a whole carriage with Hillside pupils. The excitement brewed as we headed up to the theatre, by the time we arrived our pupils were ready to be wowed by their cast of actors and musicians, and they certainly did not disappoint! We spent two and a half hours laughing, cheering, booing, singing and dancing our socks off. The cast of Cinderella certainly showed our cast how it's done and we left so inspired and ready to rock our own pantomime! We even got a shout out on stage as "Our Graham" give Hillside pupils an extra thank you for helping the theatre bounce! We headed home full of Christmas spirit and couldn't help but share it with commuters on the station platform as we spontaneously burst into a rendition of Last Christmas whilst waiting for our train. One passenger commented, "what lovely kids you have in your school" as she left the train. Once again, our pupils did team Hillside proud. We couldn't wait to rock our own Cinderella pantomime last night and round off a wonderful year in our performing arts department with a bang. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did, Merry Christmas everybody!

Miss Brown



EXCELLENCE IN THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

December Kindness 2023

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
 4 Support a charity, cause or campaign you really care about	 5 Give a gift to someone who is homeless or feeling lonely	 6 Leave a positive message for someone else to find	 7 Give kind comments to as many people as possible today	1 Spread kindness and share the December calendar with others	2 Contact someone you can't be with to see how they are	3 Offer to help someone who is facing difficulties at the moment
11 Buy an extra item and donate it to a local food bank	12 Be generous. Feed someone with food, love or kindness today	13 See how many different people you can smile at today	14 Share a happy memory or inspiring thought with a loved one	8 Do something helpful for a friend or family member	9 Notice when you're hard on yourself or others and be kind instead	10 Listen wholeheartedly to others without judging them
18 Ask for help and let someone else discover the joy of giving	19 Contact someone who may be alone or feeling isolated	20 Help others by giving away something that you don't need	21 Appreciate kindness and thank people who do things for you	15 Say hello to your neighbour and brighten up their day	16 Look for something positive to say to everyone you speak to	17 Give thanks. List the kind things others have done for you
25 Treat everyone with kindness today, including yourself!	26 Get outside. Pick up litter or do something kind for nature	27 Call a relative who is far away to say hello and have a chat	28 Be kind to the planet. Eat less meat and use less energy	22 Congratulate someone for an achievement that may go unnoticed	23 Choose to give or receive the gift of forgiveness	24 Bring joy to others. Share something which made you laugh
 29 Turn off digital devices and really listen to people	30 Let someone know how much you appreciate them and why	31 Plan some new acts of kindness to do in 2024				

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together



Safeguarding, Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health

A Journey into the Remarkable World of the Brain



All pupils took part in an assembly this week to learn about the most remarkable organ in our bodies! This incredible organ is not only responsible for managing our daily tasks but also holds the key to unlocking unlimited potential and learning. Here are some fascinating facts about the brain.

The Wonders of the Brain:

Powerful Connections: Did you know that the brain has over 86 billion neurons? These neurons form intricate connections that allow us to think, feel, and learn. Every time we learn something new, these connections become stronger, creating a vast network that is the foundation of our intelligence.

Adaptable and Flexible: The brain is incredibly adaptable, a quality known as neuroplasticity. This means it can reorganise itself based on new experiences and learning. Embracing new challenges and learning opportunities can help shape and strengthen your brain, allowing you to navigate a variety of situations with ease.

Limitless Potential: The brain's capacity for learning is virtually limitless. It's like a supercomputer capable of processing information at incredible speeds. This means that as parents and pupils, you have the power to explore and absorb knowledge in various fields, from science and mathematics to arts and languages.

Learning Links:

We have been learning about the brain in order to develop our knowledge of learning. The following are some ideas for how to maximise learning linked to the science of the brain. There are several well researched links between learning and positive mental health.

Embrace Curiosity: Encourage curiosity. The brain loves novelty and challenges. Whether it's exploring a new hobby, reading a different genre, or trying out a new skill, curiosity keeps the brain engaged and excited about learning.

Prioritise Sleep and Exercise: A well-rested and healthy brain is more receptive to learning. Ensure an adequate amount of sleep and regular exercise, as both contribute to learning.

Set Goals and Challenges: Establishing realistic goals and challenges is crucial for stimulating the brain. Break down larger objectives into smaller, achievable tasks. Celebrate success along the way, as these moments of success help to promote positive wellbeing.

The brain is an incredible organ with unlimited potential for learning. It is essential to recognise this potential and take advantage of every opportunity to learn. By embracing curiosity, setting goals, and prioritising health, ***we can unlock the full power of our brains and pave the way for future success.***

So, let's embark on this exciting journey of discovery, where the possibilities for learning are as vast as the neural connections in our remarkable brains!

Mrs Wardale

