



## Key Dates 2024

**8th February— Year7 Progress Evening 4.15pm-6.45pm**

**28th February — Year 11 Form Group Photographs**

**7th March—World Book Day**

**11th March—Year 8 HPV Immunisations**

## Dear Parents/Guardians,

The opportunities available to our pupils here at Hillside are numerous and I am delighted to share just some of them with you in this week's newsletter.

The Trainee Detective initiative which five of our Year 9 pupils got to experience thanks to Everton in the Community and Merseyside Police was fantastic. When Miss Roby and I went to listen to their presentation on the last afternoon, I have to admit I was a little bit jealous! All five pupils did us proud and I can't wait to see how they can be ambassadors in our school, sharing everything they learnt.

Careers is an area we take extremely seriously and all our Year 10 pupils experienced a Mock Interview last week. The pupils were an absolute credit and as the interviewers were leaving, several made the comment "I wish I had been that confident when I was in Year 10". This makes me so proud and I can't wait to see everything these amazing young people are going to go on and achieve.

In assemblies this week we have covered Safer Internet Day. As a parent I know this is an area we all worry about, I would encourage all parents to read the information on the back page of this week's newsletter for some really useful reminders.

**Amanda Ryan, Principal**

## Thought for the Week

Let's commit to changing our online lives for the better, fostering empathy, respect, and digital well-being. Together, we can create a virtual environment where everyone feels safe, supported, and inspired.  
#SaferInternetDay  
#DigitalKindness"



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

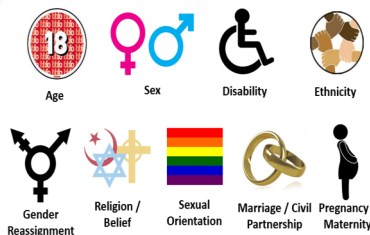
## Personal Development Drop Down Day

Friday 9th February is Hillside's second Personal Development Drop Down Day of the Year. Our theme is 'Proud To Be' which will focus on incredibly important issues such as homophobia and racism and will teach pupils about the Equality Act 2010. The sessions will address the use of discriminatory language and the impact it can have upon its victims. As a diverse, inclusive school community, encouraging our pupils to be 'Proud to Be' is something we take very seriously and we look forward to being part of thoughtful, respectful class discussions with our pupils during our drop down day. There will also be a cultural market place taking place in the drama hall which will be led by our pupils for whom English is a second language. Our pupils will have the opportunity to learn basic phrases in a range of languages from Chinese to Somalian and German to Farsi! We are certain that 'Proud to Be' is sure to be an enjoyable yet thought provoking day!

*Miss Collins*



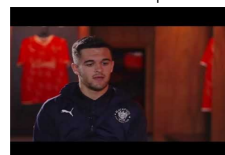
### Protected Characteristics



Equality Act 2010

### In The News

In May this year, Blackpool forward Jake Daniels became UK's first active male professional footballer to come out publicly as gay.  
"Now is the time to do it," he said. "I feel like I am ready to tell people my story. I want people to know the real me."  
Daniels said he has been aware of his sexuality since he was six years old, but kept it secret as he pursued his dream of a career in football.  
Jake's story hit the headlines, and he received a mostly positive reception from the public. However, this story reminds us that whilst we have made a lot of progress with accepting people's sexualities, there is still some stigma about 'coming out' and being gay in certain professions and areas of life.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9YOIKQI3bc>

### What does racism look like?

**Thinking question:**  
What is your response to this news piece?

Investigation launched after black barrister mistaken for defendant three times in a day

England and Wales courts head apologies after Alexandra Wilson describes having to 'constantly justify existence'



Click image to read

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!](#)



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# Mock Interviews

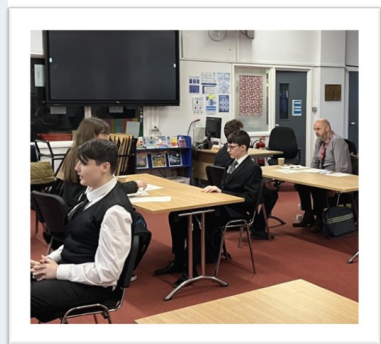
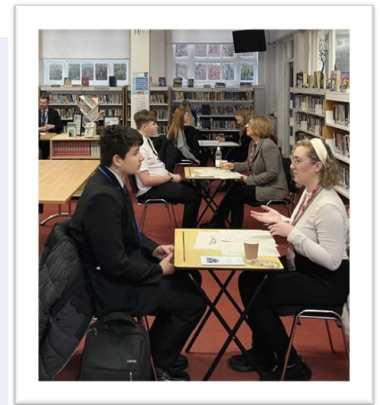
Year 10 recently participated in mock interviews attended by esteemed local employers, including representatives from HMRC, Sci-Tech, and Border Force, as well as colleges and universities in the region.

The interviewers were notably impressed with the confidence and quality of answers displayed by our Year 10 pupils. Their ability to articulate well-thought-out responses left a lasting impression on those present. Not only did our pupils shine intellectually, but their appearance and smart dress were also commended, reflecting their understanding of the importance of professionalism in a real-world setting.

One interviewer summed up the day by stating, "I wish I was that confident in Year 10." This praise echoes the exceptional display of confidence and readiness from Year 10 pupils.

All pupils participating in the mock interviews received both verbal and written feedback from the interviewers. This constructive feedback will undoubtedly prove invaluable as they navigate future applications and job opportunities.

Hillside applauds the Year 10 pupils for their outstanding performance. These mock interviews serve as a crucial step in preparing our students for the challenges and successes that lie ahead in their academic and professional journeys.



*Mr Haygarth*

## Congratulations Mr Mock!

A big well done and congratulations to Mr Mock who has now successfully completed his course in Developmental Psychology and SEN Master of Arts in University.



## Year 11 Area

Check out our updated Year 11 section on the school website. Here you will find the dates and times of all Summer GCSE examinations and information about upcoming Saturday Revision sessions. There is also a section containing revision materials for specific subject areas. If there is anything else you would like to see on this page - please get in touch.

<https://www.hillsidehigh.co.uk/pupils/year-11/>

**GCSE Timetable 2024**

Date	Start	Len	Board	Subject	Component Title
TBA	TBA	00:00	WJEC/GCSE	Spanish	Spanish Comp 1 Foundation Speaking
TBA	TBA	00:00	WJEC/GCSE	Spanish	Spanish Comp 1 Higher Speaking
Thu 09 May	09:45	01:45	EDEXL/GCSE	RS	Islam
Fri 10 May	08:45	01:15	AGQA	Science - Biology	Combined Sci Trilogy Biology P1H
Fri 10 May	08:45	01:15	AGQA	Science - Biology	Combined Sci Trilogy Biology P1F
Fri 10 May	08:45	01:45		Science - Biology	Biology Paper 1 Tier H
Fri 10 May	08:45	02:45		Science - Biology	Biology Paper 1 Tier F
Mon 13 May	08:45	02:00	WJEC/GCSE	English Lit	English Lit Component 1 Shakespeare
Tue 14 May	13:00	01:45	EDEXL/GCSE	Business	Investigating Small Bus.
Wed 15 May	08:45	00:00	AGQA	History	History Paper 1B Option A
Wed 15 May	13:00	01:30	OCR	Computer Science	Comp Sci: Computer Systems Writ
Thu 16 May	08:45	01:30	EDEXL/GCSE	Maths	Non Calculator (F)
Thu 16 May	08:45	01:30	EDEXL/GCSE	Maths	Non Calculator (H)
Thu 16 May	13:00	01:45	EDEXL/GCSE	RS	Christianity
Fri 17 May	08:45	01:45	AGQA	Science -	Chemistry Paper 1 Tier H

**Upcoming events**

- 08 February** Year 7 Progress Evening 4.15pm - 6.45pm [Read more](#)
- 12 February** Half Term 12/2/24 - 16/2/24 [Read more](#)
- 21 March** Year 9 Progress Evening 4.15pm/6.45pm [Read more](#)

## Trainee Detective

During the week of the 15th January Merseyside Police enlisted 15 young people as Trainee Detectives, 5 of which were pupils from Hillside and the other 10 being from surrounding local schools. This week long programme was run in partnership with Everton in the Community.

Their task was to investigate a fictional case. This was done with the help of real-life detectives from Merseyside Police and staff from EITC. It all began with a telephone call from a local hospital stating that a patient had been admitted with serious stab wounds. First stop was the crime scene. The snow was not stopping our trainee detectives from cracking this case! Vital evidence was collected from the scene with the support of the Police dogs. Next it was time to move to the interview room where both suspects and witnesses were interviewed. The detectives said how Sophie L and Jack D really led the way and interviewed the suspects exactly how they would want. They said they showed great skill and lots of patience when faced with a 'no comment' interview.

After all the evidence had been collected and interviews had taken place, the trainee detectives headed off to Liverpool Crown Court. Alongside cracking this case pupils heard from families affected directly by knife crime. They also heard from leading Trauma Nurse Rob Jackson who gave a hard-hitting presentation about the injuries that can be caused by carrying a knife and using a knife as a weapon.

This week-long programme is designed to help young people make the right decisions in the future, the hope being to educate them to recognise signs of criminal exploitation. At the end of this amazing week, parents, school staff and representatives from Merseyside Police and EFC were invited to attend a Celebration Event at Goodison. Pupils gave a presentation about their week and what they had learnt from this. Mrs Ryan and Miss Roby were immensely proud to watch our Year 9 pupils address a room full of people with such confidence. All pupils were recognised for their contribution and participation in the programme. Some special awards were also given out by Merseyside Police and EITC. David H, Sophie L and Ellie L all received one of these.

Following on from this we would like these pupils to now become ambassadors and it is hoped they will share their knowledge with their peers. We are hoping to work further with EITC to implement this. Finally, a huge well done to Ellie L, Sophie L, Jasmine I, David H and Jack D who took part and were an absolute credit to us as a school, their families and most importantly themselves!

More information about this programme can be found on the Merseyside Police website.

*Miss Roby*



# Safeguarding, Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Safer Internet Day



This week, we came together for a special assembly to mark Safer Internet Day, an annual event that encourages a collective effort to create a safer and more positive online environment. The theme for this year revolves around making positive changes to our online lives, and it couldn't be more relevant than in today's digital age.

Young people nowadays face a myriad of challenges online, and as a school community, it's crucial that we address these issues head-on. During our assembly,

we delved into the five biggest concerns voiced by young people: pressure to always be online, exposure to harmful beliefs, cyberbullying, the promotion of unhealthy lifestyles and habits, and the unrealistic portrayal of lives on social media.

To combat these challenges, our students explored practical and empowering ways to navigate the digital realm responsibly. Here are some key takeaways:

**Balancing Screen Time:** The pressure to always be online can take a toll on mental health and well-being. We discussed the importance of setting boundaries and managing screen time.

**Reporting Harmful Content and Cyberbullying:** One of the most powerful tools at our disposal is reporting. Students were reminded to speak up against harmful beliefs, cyberbullying, or any form of online harassment.

**Being Authentic Online:** In a world where manipulated images and idealised lifestyles flood social media, it's crucial for students to be themselves online.

**Mindful Spending:** The online world often entices us with various products and services. We discussed the importance of thinking critically about online purchases and encouraged students to find better ways to spend their money.

As we continue our journey through the digital landscape, let's remember that positive change begins with each one of us. By adopting these strategies and fostering a supportive online community, we contribute to a safer and more enriching digital experience for ourselves and those around us.



*Mr Haygarth*

## Sefton Parent Carers and Families

Sefton Parent Carers and Families is a support group set up by parents and carers to support families of children with special educational needs. They have asked us to share the following information with our parents.

### SPCF SEND Awards 2024

SPCF are holding their first awards for inspirational professionals, volunteers and family members who work in our community to support young people with SEND. Please use the QR code if you would like to nominate anyone who has supported your child with their SEND needs this year.

### Children's Mental Health Week 2024

SPCF are holding a number of workshops to support young people's mental health throughout Mental Health week. All events will take place in the SPCF Shared Space at Cambridge Road nursery.

*Mrs Miller*

 A poster for Children's Mental Health Week 2024. It features a red heart icon at the top right, a Kooth logo, and colorful circles with faces. The text includes:
 

- Children's Mental Health Week 2024**
- SPCF Shared Space, Cambridge Family Wellbeing Hub, Cambridge Road, Bootle, L20 9LQ
- Join Us For Children's Mental Health Week 2024**
- Monday 5th February**: We will be joined by CAMHS. Camille Hayward, Mental Health Practitioner & Janine Chan, Assistant Clinical Lead. Come along and chat to them about any concerns you may have, and hear about any updates within the service.
- Friday 9th February**: We will be joined by Kooth. Holly Jackson, Engagement Lead. Delivering training on Supporting people to manage anxiety with self-care (booking required events@seftonpcf.org)