



**HILLSIDE
HIGH SCHOOL**
WADE DEACON TRUST



Friday 23rd February 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope everyone had a lovely half term break. It is going to be another very busy half term here at Hillside, with lots for our pupils to look forward to.

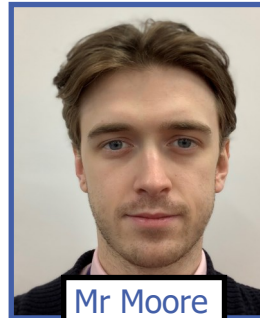
This week has seen the launch of our Attendance League, which sees each form, with its Team Manager (their Form Teacher) playing other forms from across the school to score points by having the best attendance. It would be great if you could support us by talking to your child about this, we need to keep the momentum going with the league. I can't wait to see the first form groups receiving their prizes.

We are honoured that we have been asked to host a Challenge Partners North West Conference at Hillside next Tuesday. This event will see some very high profile guests from the world of education join us at Hillside for a day looking at how we can further improve the education of children in the North West. I hope you share my sense of pride that our school has been asked to host such a prestigious event. On a practical note it could make accessing school by car, parking and being able to see some key staff tricky on Tuesday, so please bear with us.

Amanda Ryan, Principal

'Meet the Team'

Welcome to the first part of a new feature for the newsletter called 'Meet the Team'. Each week we will ask a member of the staff at Hillside some interesting questions chosen by our pupils, and a few silly ones too! First up is Mr Moore. He is a member of the English department and has been teaching at Hillside for two years, he is also a Year 7 form tutor.



Mr Moore



Otis

Previous job(s): Most recently a bartender and before that I worked in Reiss in sales/personal shopping.

Hobbies or interests: Listening to music, reading and playing guitar are my favourite ways to relax at home.

Pets: My dog Otis AKA 'Little Man'

Favourite food: Has to be steak. Medium rare or get out!

Likes: Music, running, dogs, summer, travel, clothes.

Dislikes: Chart music, bad manners & loud eaters! The Unholy Trinity.

Favourite movie: Tough choice as I love films but The Godfather 1 & 2 are hard to argue with.

Favourite destination or last holiday you went on: I've been really lucky to travel a bit. Some highlights are New York, Hanoi and Budapest.

If not a teacher, what job would you do? Maybe something in advertising or journalism as I like to write. Maybe politics. I love a good debate.

Person you'd most like to meet and why? Steve Irwin or Jeremy Corbyn- childhood hero and adult hero.

Favourite subject at school: English (obviously) and I actually really liked maths.

Favourite colour: Purple or navy.

Coca-Cola or Pepsi: Coca-Cola all day long.

McDonalds or KFC: Got to be Maccies for the variety alone.

If you could have a superpower, what would it be? For practical reasons I'd have to pause time. Flying round like superman would be boss though.

Last book read: The Road by Cormac McCarthy

Liverpool or Everton: Liverpool! I value my mental health.

Favourite superhero: Batman- who wouldn't want to be a billionaire?

Would you rather have a personal driver or a personal chef? I love cooking so it would have to be a driver.

Most embarrassing moment: I've had too many, any time I ever play footy is pretty embarrassing though in all honesty.



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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PROUD TO BE

On Friday 9th February, we seized the opportunity to celebrate the diversity within our school by dedicating our second Personal Development drop down day of the year to the theme of 'Proud to Be'. Being 'Proud To Be' is something we feel very passionate about at Hillside as we believe that all members of our community should be treated equally and should feel safe to be who they truly are. Everyone should feel proud to share their identity with others, without fear of prejudice or discrimination from others.



Throughout the day pupils attended a range of workshops which focused on the 9 protected characteristics; age, sex, disability, ethnicity, gender, religion and belief, sexual orientation, marriage/civil partnership and pregnancy/maternity. Pupils learnt about the equality act and looked at case studies where by pupils had to decide whether or not one of the protected characteristics were being infringed. This session was followed up with sessions on racism and sexuality and the correct use of language. Pupils learnt about the correct terminology to use in terms of race and sexuality and also about language that absolutely will not be tolerated at Hillside and the harmful impact this language can have upon others. It was fantastic to see our pupils engaging in class discussions whereby they were sharing their opinions in a sensible and thoughtful manner and also asking insightful questions to further develop their understanding of these incredibly important topics of discussion.



Deaf Active – An Introduction to British Sign Language

During our Personal Development drop down day we were absolutely delighted to welcome British Sign Language tutor Susie Williams and her BSL interpreter Katie Godfrey from Deaf Active Liverpool. Deaf Active is a vibrant young charity that works to promote and enhance the lives of deaf children and young people throughout Merseyside. Susie and Katie delivered an interactive introductory session to British Sign Language to our pupils, teaching our pupils how to introduce themselves and express how they are feeling using BSL. It was wonderful to see our pupils practising their newly acquired skills throughout the day, on the corridors, in the canteen and on the yard! We're also delighted to announce that Katie and Susie will be returning to Hillside to coincide with Deaf Awareness Week in May to deliver a six week British Sign Language course. During Deaf Awareness Week we will be supporting Deaf Active by raising money for this amazing and very local charity!



Cultural Market Place

Throughout the PD drop down day, every class in Year 7-11 had the opportunity to visit our cultural market place in the Drama Hall. Our pupils for whom English is an additional language (EAL) wanted to do something to showcase their countries. There were stalls representing each country including traditional foods, basic phrases in each language and many of our EAL pupils wore traditional dress from their countries. There was also music from around the world playing and even some live performances from our music department! Our EAL pupils were bursting with pride as they talked to their peers and staff about their countries. A big thank you to Miss Taranowska, Miss Sreekumar, Mr Harrison and of course our EAL pupils for making such a fantastic event possible.



Year 7 Pupil Voice

Daniel H y7 – sign language was great because we was learning something new I can sign my name and favourite colour I can still remember it now.

Joseph— learning about different countries was great, I learnt lots of new language

Jaxon W – I learnt number in Chinese it was so fun because you got to hear how people talk in that language.

Mason – we celebrated all the different cultures no one was left out.

Elliott P – it was good because we got to talk and have discussions and learn sign language not just lots of writing.

Logan—getting to try food from different cultures was amazing. I tried some Brazilian food which was amazing

Miss Collins

Safeguarding, Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Proud to Be

It is my pleasure to share with you in this week's newsletter information and photos from our first ever 'Proud to Be' day which took place on Friday 9th February.

This is going to be a particular highlight of the school year and was such a celebration of the diversity in our school. All pupils had the opportunity to visit the market place in the Hall, which allowed pupils to learn key vocabulary from some of the languages our pupils speak and visit stalls and try food from lots of different countries. It was fantastic to see many pupils choosing to wear their traditional dress.

Throughout the day pupils also experienced a range of workshops which focused on the 9 protected characteristics; age, sex, disability, ethnicity, gender, religion and belief, sexual orientation, marriage/civil partnership and pregnancy/maternity.

In this week's assemblies I revisited the messages from the Proud to Be day and covered the theme of 'Diversity' and the need for everyone to feel included and accepted in our school community.

I shared the tragic story of Brianna Ghey, not to scare pupils, but to ensure we celebrate her life and share the messages her mum has spoken so passionately about. We have thought about her mum's quote "We have to make society full of empathy and not hate."

We entered assembly to Harry Styles' Treat Everyone with Kindness and reflected on some of the key lines in the song, particularly "I don't need all the answers, feeling good in my skin." What a message this is for us all.

I then shared with pupils the opening lines from our Ofsted Report (September 2023) which clearly state 'Hillside is an accepting community. Pupils feel welcome and diversity is celebrated'. We talked about our collective responsibility to uphold these values every day and how this can't just be some lines Ofsted wrote about us! This needs to be how life is, in our school, every minute of every day.

I finished with a lovely quote from Charles F. Kettering 'A student once said to me that the future was very important to him because it was where he intended to spend the rest of his life. Then, looking me in the eye, he asked "is the future safe in your hands, Sir."' I challenged pupils to reflect on how safe the future is in their hands! Knowing what I know about our pupils and the acceptance and inclusive way they chose to live their life's I think the future is very safe!

Points to reflect on...

- How can we "make society full of empathy and not hate"?
- Thinking about the line in Harry Styles' song Treat People with Kindness - 'I don't need all the answers, feeling good in my skin' what does this actually mean? What do we want it to mean in our school community?
- Thinking about our Ofsted quote, what can we do every single day to ensure this remains the case?
- What did we take from the 'Proud to Be' day and what difference will this make to us moving forward?
- Is the future safe in your hands?

Mrs Ryan



Thought for the Week

"Diversity is not about how we differ. Diversity is about embracing one another's uniqueness."
Ola Joseph

EXCELLENCE IN THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

Competition Time!



In honour of World Book Day on the 7th March the English Department are running two competitions for our students to get involved in!



Get Caught Reading Competition:

We want you to get caught reading in the weirdest and wackiest places you can think of, take a selfie reading in that place and email the picture in to Mrs Rice using the below email address (don't forget to add your name and form to the email)

Bookweek@hillsidehigh.co.uk

The top 5 weirdest places will win an awesome prize!

Bookmark Competition:

We want you to design your own bookmark! Maybe with a picture of your favourite character or a quote from your favourite author! Templates are available from Miss Wright and the top 3 will win a wonderful prize!

We can't wait to see your submissions!
Miss Wright and Mrs Rice

Key Dates 2024

28th February — Year 11 Form Group Photographs

7th March—World Book Day

11th March—Year 8 HPV Immunisations