

# Newsletter



## RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



### Childrens' Rights

Having been successful in gaining our Rights Respecting Silver Award in February this year we are delighted that our application to go for the Rights Respecting Gold Award has been approved and we will be assessed in March 2025.



Hillhead High also continues to show our commitment to provide lessons promoting Learning for Sustainability ensuring that we are following the GTC Standards and Glasgow City Council policy that states:



“All children and young people in Scotland have an entitlement to Learning for Sustainability and it is the responsibility of all practitioners to ensure this happens. This is a whole school approach”.

In this Winter Edition of our newsletter, we would like to share with you some of the amazing work happening across the school in relation to Learning for Sustainability. We also hope you enjoy reading about all the work we are doing to promote the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and you feel part our journey to gain the Rights Respecting Schools Gold Award.

### Whole School Rights Respecting

At Hillhead High we committed to embedding the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in our policy, practice and culture.

This year are promoting knowledge and understanding of the Convention throughout our school community at every assembly, in every registration class and within our departments across the school.

## What's Been Happening

### Rights Respecting Assemblies

During our weekly school assemblies since August we have been linking the Articles of the UNCRC with our presentations with a focus on themes and special events. So far this year we have had assemblies with presentations on:

Anti-Bullying

Gender and Sexuality

Black History Month

Languages Week

Disabilities Day

Remembrance Day

Human Rights Day



### Rights Respecting Registration

In all our registration classes each day presentations and thought provoking questions are delivered to our young people linking in with the themes of our Assemblies. Pupils are asked to think individually, work with their peers and give their views on Children's Rights.



### RIGHTS RESPECTING FACULTIES

Throughout the school year faculties across the school will deliver lessons with a focus on the UNCRC Articles and world celebrations. So far this year we have had:

### September – Modern Languages Week of Languages



S1 pupils participated in a Eurovision-style competition where they had to sing (or lip-synch) to their choice of song.

S2 pupils had the first of their 1+2 Spanish taster lessons where they learnt about the various regional languages in Spain and discussed how these were outlawed during General Franco's dictatorship. Pupils took part in a carousel of Spanish language activities. In one activity, pupils identified famous Spanish speakers, researching the impact they had on the rights of children and young people and voting for which was most deserving of a place on their Day of the Dead ofrenda.

S3 pupils examined language and culture from a variety of European countries, applying their new-found knowledge to exit a virtual escape room.

S4 pupils wrote letters in various languages to young people in places of conflict. Our Ukrainian pupils were particularly keen to provide some language input and share their experience of conflict in their country of origin.





## RIGHTS RESPECTING FACULTIES CONT.

These letters were passed on to charitable agencies such as Refuweegee. Senior phase pupils examined the importance of minority languages - a core theme at Higher - as well as discussing the impact of war on children and young people. Throughout this week all the year groups in Modern Languages learned and discussed all the UNCRC Articles related to their learning.

### October – English Black History Month

In order to celebrate Black History Month, the English Department planned lessons researching significant figures in the Anti-Racism movement and presented this information to other classes. They also used film texts including *Selma* and *Harriet* in



classes to spark discussion and listened to the TED talk "A Danger of a Single Story"

by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. The English Department hope to continue to build on this good work throughout the year by diversifying the texts and voices that they use.

### November – PSE Anti-Bullying Lesson

All pupils in all year groups had lessons delivered in PSE on Anti-Bullying in November.

#### LEARNING INTENTIONS AND SUCCESS CRITERIA

We are able to understand the importance of respect.

1. I can describe what respect means to me.
2. I can work effectively with my peers.
3. I understand the affects of bullying.
4. I understand how bullying is dealt with at HHS.

Pupils learned the importance of our school value of respect and created posters that are being displayed around the school.



### December – Humanities Human Rights

To celebrate Human Rights Day all S1 pupils in the Humanities Faculty received a lesson on Human Rights. Pupils gained an awareness of the Rights they have. They researched cases of Human Rights violations and looked at a variety of ways they can defend and advocate for people's rights.

## RIGHTS RESPECTING GROUPS AT HILLHEAD

Being a Rights Respecting School has grown organically at Hillhead High. Over the years Equalities groups across the school have been established, flourished and continuously advocated for equal rights for all pupils in our school. Groups include:

- Anti-Racism Alliance
- Gender & Sexuality Alliance
- Anti- Bullying Alliance
- Feminism Club

In addition, we also provide a wide range of opportunities for our young people to promote pupil voice. Some of these include:

- Pupil Council
- Leaders of Learning
- Eco Group
- Glasgow Schools' Forum
- Youth and Philanthropy Initiative
- Mentors in Violence Protection
- S6 Leadership Team

Hillhead High also has a strong commitment to ensuring equity through our Cost of the School Day priorities.

To ensure we are all working cohesively our Rights Respecting Teacher Group, consisting of members of staff leading a pupil group, meet several times a term to share good ideas and practice.

Our Rights Respecting Pupil Group also meet on a regular basis to share their experiences and ideas. This group are currently working through UNICEF's Youth Advocacy Toolkit, a resource that supports young people to learn how they can speak up and take an active part in decisions that affect them.



## Hillhead High Equalities Groups

### Anti Racism Alliance

So far this session, the Anti-Racism Alliance have been working on several activities to celebrate Black History Month. The group presented assemblies to all year groups about BHM, and the theme for 2024 which was Reclaiming Narratives. The group also shared information and stories over the Tannoy about important anti racism campaigners and made several lesson inserts to support the Reclaiming Narratives theme. The group are continuing their work on embedding the GCC Anti-Racism Charter which they helped to launch last session. Next on the agenda for the Anti-Racism Alliance is planning Culture Day. This was started by S6 pupils last session and we really hope to build on this success in 2025.



## Gender & Sexuality Alliance

The Gender and Sexuality Alliance meet every Tuesday lunchtime in M106 (English). It is a pupil led group, which is supported by staff, and provides peer support to LGBTQ+ pupils and allies. This year the group have given awareness raising presentations at all year group assemblies. They also addressed assemblies for Bisexual Awareness Week, providing tannoys throughout the week.



The group regularly hold events during lunch, creating Blooket quizzes and keeping the lunch group fun and interactive. At the moment they are busy organising events for LGBT History month. Next term will see them roll out training sessions for staff and undertake activities which specifically address the needs of transgender and non-binary young people.

### LGBT Youth Scotland Gold Charter

Many pupils within the Gender and Sexuality Alliance are also leading our whole school journey towards LGBTQ+ Inclusion. We are currently working towards the LGBT Youth Scotland Gold Education Charter. Our charter work includes development of leadership, training, policies, practice, visibility and monitoring and evaluation. In October all staff were given the opportunity to complete the two hour LGBTQ+ Awareness Training, using an interactive learning module. This training was designed to build the confidence of staff, improve their knowledge of issues affecting LGBTQ+ young people, and enable them to challenge discrimination. In November, a number of staff took part in an online live interactive workshop with staff from LGBT Youth Scotland's Education Team. At this session, we looked over the main strengths that came out of the Moodle and the main challenges that staff feel that they face in terms of implementing LGBTQ+ Inclusion. This session was solution orientated and contributed towards our charter action planning.



## Pupil Voice Groups

### Anti-Bullying Alliance

The Anti-bullying group have been working on hosting an anti-bullying competition for all pupils to get involved in surrounding the school value of respect. The pupils have also had their say in what should be included in the revamped Anti-bullying policy. They have worked on some bullying scenarios and how they would stand up to bullies in each situation and shared their views on how bullying ties in with our Hillhead Habits.



Staff and pupils participated in Odd Sock day in November for Anti-bullying and 2 pupils presented at our year group assemblies

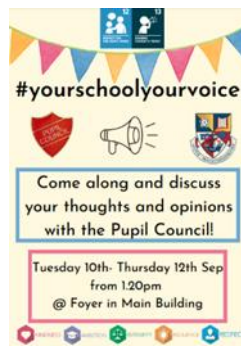
### Feminism Club

The Feminist Society meet every Friday. The aim of the Feminist Society is to provide a safe space for pupils to discuss issues related to feminism and gender. Pupils set the agenda and make requests for what they learn about and discuss. Since August pupils have explored the idea of the patriarchy, reviewed the recent report on femicide, learned about key feminists such as Gloria Steinem and Gina Martin and looked at the Suffrage movement and First Wave of Feminism. Pupils enjoyed quizzes, booklets and bingo at our annual International Men's Day party. Pupils have also enjoyed looking through the Protests and Suffragettes education pack, especially the Suffragette Trumps game! Most recently pupils reviewed a "year in feminism" and discussed highlights of the year and what they look forward to in 2025.



### Pupil Council

The first event of the term for the Pupil Council was 'Your School, Your Voice'. This event was for members of the school community to share their thoughts and ideas for the year. Afterwards, the pupil council met together to discuss the responses and made a plan of action. This included working with the S6, speaking to SLT about the lunch hall queues and toilets and many other things such as different events for International Days.



For Halloween, the Pupil Council hosted an event for pupils to have fun, play games and win prizes. Over 50 S1 and S2 pupils showed up to take part and a great time was had by all!



To help understand our rights better, the Pupil Council hosted a UK Parliament week event. Pupils were invited to find out about rights they have, how these have developed, and how they are protected, all while whilst taking part in a variety of activities.



For International Men's Day, some of our senior Pupil Council members hosted a stall in the foyer of the Main Building in order to hand out helpful mental health tips. They also asked pupils to share their top mental health tips!



On International Day of Persons with Disabilities, the pupil council carried out a quiz to help pupils understand more about the facts and fictions of disabilities



### Glasgow Schools' Forum

This year 4 of our S2 pupils have been participating in the BGE Glasgow Schools' Forum. These events take place at Glasgow City Chambers once a month and brings together young people from across Glasgow to allow them to share their views on matters relating to the UNCRC articles. Since August the forum have had visiting speakers from Strathclyde University to share the opportunities that are available for our young people in their future years. Springburn Academy then delivered a presentation on their school's Anti-Racism approaches to share good practice. In the November Forum the focus was on the issue of vaping and the health risks it is bringing to young people.



### Youth Philanthropy Initiative (YPI)

This year during Friday 5 all S1 pupils will be participating in the Youth Philanthropy Initiative (YPI). YPI is the biggest independent initiative being delivered in Scottish education.

Each school is responsible for directing a grant of £3,000 to a local charity championed by its students through a unique programme of teamwork, research, and competition. YPI helps students develop skills and confidence through a contextualised learning experience. The programme raises awareness of social issues and local charities and is a vital means of devolved, locally driven grant-making.



Here are some of our YPI groups chatting to guests from their chosen Charities. Ellie, Oliver and Milo welcoming in representatives from the Children's Wood and chatting about what they could do with an additional £3000 and supporting children in Glasgow.





## YPI cont.

Matilda, Maya Rosa, Sophie and Beau chatting to representatives from their chosen charity Eastpark on the phone. This helped them with their presentations to the class.



This team are planning and researching their chosen charity The Glasgow City Mission.

Half of S1 have been involved in this initiative since August and the remaining classes will start choosing their charities in January 2025. The finale will take place in May next year with one group winning £3000 for their chosen charity. Well done all S1 pupils your hard work will help support one of our local charities.

## Mentors in Violence Protection

The Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) programme explores a series of ‘scenarios’ involving a range of behaviours, such as name-calling, sexting, controlling behaviour and harassment. Using a ‘bystander’ approach individuals are not considered potential victims or perpetrators; instead, they are empowered and active bystanders with the ability to support and challenge their peers in a safe way.

MVP is based on [five core components](#):

- Exploring violence through a gendered lens;
- Developing leadership;
- Adopting a bystander approach;
- Recognising the scope of violent behaviour; and
- Challenge victim-blaming.

At Hillhead High we took our S5 volunteer mentors through an intense two day (off campus) training programme and supported them to deliver to every S1 class during PSE.



This year we are building on this by training a new group of S5 mentors who will (like last year) deliver to S1. Last years mentors (now S6) will help lead the new mentor session and will also deliver new lessons to S3 PSE classes. With this being complete the whole BGE phase at Hillhead will be familiar with the practice MVP and how to incorporate it into a Rights Respecting School that is Hillhead.

## S6 Leadership Team

Elliot Boue, S6 Prefect Liaison, shared the amazing work the S6 Leadership Team have been doing to support other pupils across the school.

*"The S6 Leadership Team have been carrying out some important research to obtain feedback from across all year groups, particularly from the BGE pupils.*

*This invaluable research has taken the form of asking pupils to complete surveys to ascertain their views and thoughts on how they think the school could be improved for all. This is resulting in the beginning of implementation of their suggestions and wishes where appropriate.*

*Additionally, we've been running focus groups to encourage further ownership and engagement from younger pupils to make the school experience the best it can be for all*

*Younger pupils themselves have also featured highly on the S6LT agenda, most notably in terms of coaching Senior Phase pupils in preparation for their SQA exams."*



## Learning for Sustainability

Education Scotland states that Learning for Sustainability (LfS) is about exploring local and global issues. It's about children, young people and communities taking action for a better future.

At Hillhead High we are committed to providing Learning for Sustainability opportunities.

## Junk Kouture

Some exciting news that we wanted to share with you. One of our former pupils, Ella Sharp is taking part in the Junk Kouture World Finals in March. Ella entered the competition last year and was one of the 10 UK winners which have been selected to go into the World Finals.

For those of you who don't know, Junk Kouture is a worldwide competition which challenges young people to design, upcycle and create high end Kouture from recycled Junk.



This event takes place on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March at The Helix in Dublin. We will be sharing more of Ella's journey in the lead up to the event which is showcasing the best 60 designs from across the world.

We wish Ella all the best in the event next year.

## Wild West End

This year all S1 pupils are involved in our new Wild West End Project. Half the S1 pupils have been out in the community since August with the other half of the year group beginning in January. Pupils have been spending their Friday 5 learning about our local wild spaces, the urban wildlife that live there and how they can better take care it. Pupils have been rotating between four different groups and taking part a variety of different activities.

## Botanical Gardens

The Botanical Garden group have been on the hunt for different types of Autumn seeds, completing a garden tree trail and recording different pollinators that they can find around the gardens.



## Children's Wood



The Children's Wood group have been learning about bee keeping, making camp fires, planting bulbs for the Spring and helping to maintain the

wood and play areas.

## Park Life

The Park Life Group have been on a wildlife scavenger hunt in Kelvingrove, making pledges to help improve our environment and helping to clean up our local area through litter picking



## RSPB

The RSPB group have been travelling to Kelvingrove Park to take part in some bug hunting, bird watching, pond pipping and taking part in some local biological recording.



## Cost of the School Day

This year our Cost of the School Day team have been working hard to ensure that pupils in Hillhead High have the same opportunity to achieve their full potential as WE THRIVE TOGETHER. We as a school are aware of the challenges many of our parents/carers face in the current economic environment and we try to provide as much support as possible. The following are examples of the support we are providing for our pupils and their families.

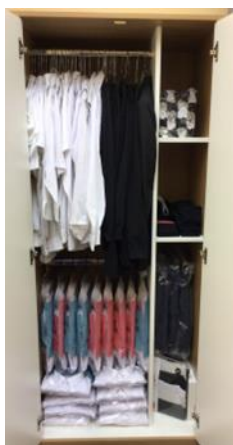
Period products are available in Pastoral Care for all pupils to access and if anyone needs any for over the school holiday's they can take what they need. This is restocked daily.



Toiletries available in Pastoral Care - if any pupils need shower gel, deodorant, toothpaste etc. they can come and take what they need. This is restocked regularly.



Clothing and uniforms items are available for any pupils/families who need them. We are currently sorting and decorating our new uniform/clothing cupboard, and we will share more information on this soon. If you need any uniform or clothing



items, please contact your child's Pastoral Care teacher who will help with this.



## Cost of the School Day

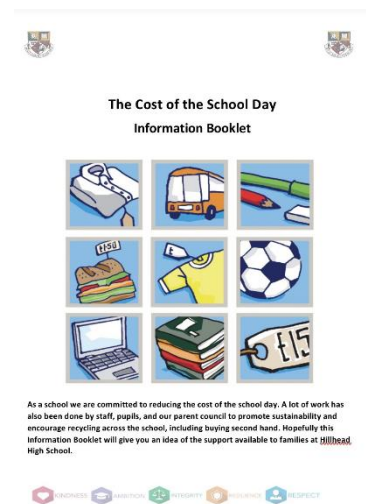
We have been busy working with Santa and the elves to get the Christmas gifts ready for some of our pupils in our school. We have been able to do this for 5 years with the help of some very kind and generations donations that have been made to our hardship fund.



Pastoral Care continue to work closely with our FISO (Financial Inclusion Support Officer) to support our families with financial matters.



All the support we provide for families can be found in our Cost of the School Day Information Booklet



We are very lucky at Hillhead High and extremely grateful to our school community donated to our hardship fund. We work closely with Pastoral Care to support families that may need help. Please contact Pastoral Care to access this support.





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