

HILLHEAD HIGH SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

WE THRIVE TOGETHER!



Dear Parent/Carer,

In this edition of our newsletter, you will find information on some of the things that have been going on across our school this term as well as information on the work of our Pathways Team. We continue to send out communications on a regular basis via our school app and/or email and if you are not receiving this communication, please contact our school office. Many thanks to our Parent Council for arranging tea, coffee and cakes for staff at interval on Monday 15th December and to all parents and carers who came along and/or who handed in something. We really appreciate your kindness and partnership. A reminder that school closes at 2.30pm on Friday 19th December and re-opens on Monday 5th January 2026. We wish all pupils and families a happy and relaxing break.

PRAISE CARDS

Our new Praise Cards have been launched. These are a fantastic way for teachers to recognise and celebrate the achievements of our young people in all subjects.

Pupils may receive a Praise Card for demonstrating one of our school values (Kindness, Ambition, Integrity, Resilience, and Respect) or for showcasing our Hillhead Habits of Learning and Belonging: Learning Time, Learning Quality, and Part of the Team.

This initiative encourages positive behaviours, strengthens our school community, and highlights the many ways our learners contribute to a supportive and thriving school environment. We look forward to celebrating even more successes as the year continues.



KINDNESS



AMBITION



INTEGRITY



RESILIENCE



RESPECT

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

S4 Duke of Edinburgh girls on their final cycle with the Women on Wheels charity.



This group have spent ten weeks working with the Women on Wheels charity to improve their cycling proficiency as part of their Bronze DofE Award physical section. Pupils completed several sessions of road biking and one-off sessions on BMX bikes and mountain bikes in different locations across the city. Everyone involved greatly increased their levels of confidence, and pupils finished the programme last week by cycling from Govanhill in the south side back to Hillhead which was a fantastic achievement. All of the girls should be incredibly proud of what they have accomplished over the past few months, and we are very grateful for Women on Wheels staff and volunteers for the time and effort they put in to supporting us.

S6 CHARITIES COMMITTEE

The S6 Charities Committee raised an impressive £617.89 for Children in Need in November. They raised the funds through hosting a delicious staff bake sale and Pudsey was on hand to help pupils guess the number of sweets in the jar. The committee would like to thank all staff and pupils for their kind donations.



OPERATION DONATION

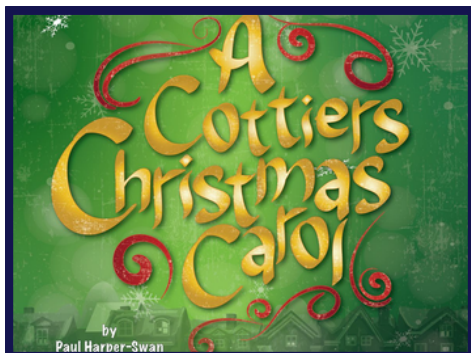
The S6 charities committee gathered donations and raised money for the Glasgow NE Foodbank.

They raised £264.58.



PANTO

On Tuesday two hundred pupils went to see the pantomime A Christmas Carol at Cottiers Theatre. The panto was full of festive fun.... Oh no it wasn't!



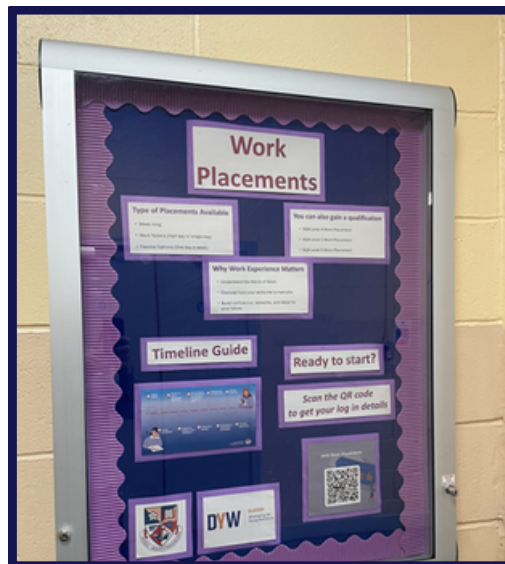
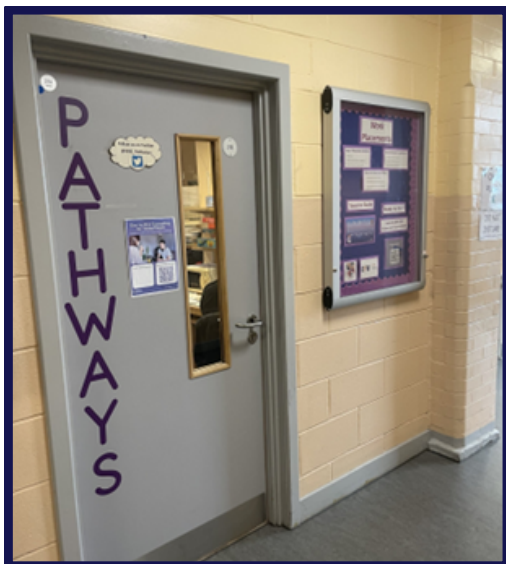
PATHWAYS - WORK EXPERIENCE

Our Work Experience Board is located just outside the Pathways Base. This board is designed to help every young person at Hillhead High access valuable work-related experiences before leaving school. Information is also shared via year group Teams pages.

To get started, simply scan the QR code on the board to receive pupils login for the WorkIt Platform. From there, you can explore a wide range of pre-approved placements or even add pupils own. The board also shows the timeline you'll follow, making the process clear and easy.

Once logged in, you'll find a helpful guide to walk you through the steps. If you need extra support, pupils can book an appointment with Mr McFarlane, who will help you find the right placement for pupils interests and goals.

We're committed to ensuring every young person leaves Hillhead High with a meaningful work-related experience.



PATHWAYS - CAREER READY

Our new S5 Career Ready mentees have had a fantastic start to the year. They recently attended the official Launch Event at Celtic Park, where they met their mentors, professionals who will support and guide them over the next two years. Alongside this mentoring relationship, pupils will take part in six inspiring masterclasses delivered by leading companies throughout the programme.

We have mentors from a diverse range of employers, including the Scottish Government, William Grant & Sons, Maryhill Housing Association, Student Loans Company, and Aviva Insurance. This is an incredible opportunity for our young people to gain real-world insights, build confidence, and develop the skills they need to thrive beyond school.

PATHWAYS - CAREER READY



PATHWAYS - SCQF AMBASSADORS

Our SCQF Ambassadors recently attended St Paul's High School for an exciting networking event with schools from across Glasgow. This was a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to showcase the incredible work they've been doing so far this year and share their personal journeys as ambassadors. They also explored the wide range of qualifications available through the SCQF framework, gaining valuable insights into future learning pathways. Well done to our ambassadors for representing our school so confidently and enthusiastically!



PATHWAYS - DYW

Developing the Young Workforce: Term Update

I am Kimmy Taylor-Bryceland, and I am the DYW Coordinator at Hillhead HS. My aim is simple: to open as many doors as possible for our young people and give them a clearer sense of the opportunities waiting for them beyond school.

One of the standout moments this term was the two-day work experience event with Barclays on 17th and 18th November. The day was busy, moving from pastries and introductions to coding tasks on a mini golf course, financial crime investigations, future-of-banking pitches and a structured legal moot. One of our participating students, Carly, said "It's been really exciting; I've learned how to work with new people and it's been great to learn about all the different departments within Barclays"

During Scottish Careers Week, the Pathways Team ran three virtual work experience sessions through DYW Live and Futures for all which were offered to the young people of S4 to S6, allowing them to explore industries they'd never considered before.

Partnerships have been a big focus too. We've brought on two new employer partners through Hospitality Connect (Dakota IHG Hotels and Kimpton Blythswood Square) and we're also establishing an exciting partnership with Robertson Construction. There are also two further partnerships in the pipeline with Investment 20/20 and Scottish Power which could open up some brilliant pathways for our young people next year.

Looking ahead, our Careers Fair on 27th January is already shaping up to be a great addition to the school calendar with 14 brand new employers secured so far and hopefully more to come.



PATHWAYS - MCR PATHWAYS

The MCR Pathways Mentoring Programme is all about helping young people reach their full potential by providing consistent, one-to-one support from a mentor. Mentors meet with pupils for just one hour a week during school time, offering guidance, encouragement, and a listening ear. This simple but powerful relationship helps build confidence, raise aspirations, and support young people to thrive in school and beyond.

At Hillhead High School, we're proud to have 39 young people currently mentored and 17 more ready to be matched, that's 58 pupils engaged in the mentoring programme!

Here is what pupils have to say about the programme;

"Having a mentor gave me a person to talk to about anything and quite frankly having a mentor has benefited my mental health. Just having him come in once a week has made a positive change to my attitude about school".

"Having my mentor was great. It was good to have someone who had no connections with me and talk to them about whatever I wanted. However, I didn't always feel comfortable with my mentor at the start it was awkward and I wasn't sure about it, but it took a bit of time for me to come round but I kept at it and managed to push past the uncomfortable feeling. My mentor is a good friend now and I still keep in contact with her. They can really help shape you and guide you".

If you'd like to learn more about the programme or how to get involved, please visit:
www.mcrpathways.org

MCR PATHWAYS COFFEE MORNING

We were delighted to welcome the North West MCR Pathways mentors to a coffee morning to thank them for their continued support. Without these amazing mentors we would not be able to mentor our young people across the City.



PATHWAYS

CAREER READY COFFEE MORNING



On Wednesday 10th December we hosted a welcoming coffee morning for our Career Ready mentors, giving them the opportunity to meet their mentees and their families. This allowed mentors to gain a deeper understanding of the young people they'll be supporting and to learn more about the programme's aims. It was also a chance to discuss what to expect during the exciting four-week internship coming up in June. The coffee morning set the tone for strong partnerships and meaningful experiences that will help our pupils thrive beyond school.

TALENT TASTERS

Talent Tasters are short, hands-on sessions that give young people the chance to try out a job, College course, or university experience in a fun and manageable way.

These sessions are all about exploration and inspiration. They let pupils step into real-world environments, meet professionals, and get a feel for what different careers or study paths are really like. By taking part, young people can:

- Discover new interests and passions they might not have considered before.
- Build confidence by trying something new in a supportive setting.
- Develop practical skills through engaging, hands-on activities.
- Raise aspirations for the future by seeing what's possible beyond school.

Talent Tasters are a fantastic way to make informed choices about next steps, while having fun and learning along the way!

So far this year young people have experienced the following Talent Tasters;

Hillhead Primary (Primary teaching)
Scotstoun Leisure Centre (Sports & Leisure industry)
City of Glasgow College (Make-up & Beauty)
Hawkins Brown (Architecture)



PATHWAYS - MCR PATHWAYS PINKSTON

Our MCR Coordinator, Eileen McLeod, has recently led a three-week programme for a small group of pupils at Pinkston Water Sports in Glasgow. Every Tuesday, pupils embraced the great outdoors, building shelters in the local forest, lighting campfires, and finishing with toasted marshmallows around the campfire.

The adventure continued on the water, where pupils had the chance to kayak in the canal and open water. Through these experiences, they developed key skills such as teamwork, communication, and resilience, while earning three awards:

- Glasgow Urban Adventure Award
- Paddle Start Award
- National Outdoor Learning Award

This programme has been a brilliant opportunity for our young people to challenge themselves, learn new skills, and create unforgettable memories!



PUPIL COUNCIL



To celebrate UK Parliament Week, the Pupil Council took part in a debate. The pupils learned about what UK parliament is, how it works, and its relationship to their own parliament.

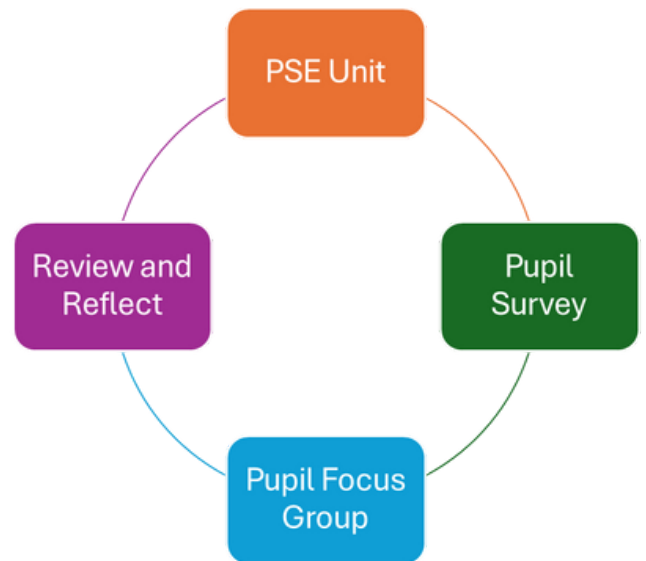
Pupils were tasked with speaking to their registration class about something they would like to change about the school and brought this back to the meeting where they had a parliamentary style debate. Well done to Zoya Ali who was awarded Debater of the Week! Look out for our new debating club that will be starting next term and is open to all pupils.



PUPIL ENGAGEMENT QUALITY ASSURANCE

This term we have launched our new pupil engagement quality assurance process. This allows us to gather feedback from our pupils on their experience in classrooms and in the wider school.

All pupils have had the opportunity to complete a learning and teaching survey. Following this, pupils across the school took part in focus groups focusing on learning and teaching. Key themes from these will contribute towards our whole school evaluation strategy.



S6 PUPIL VOICE COMMITTEE

The S6 Pupil Voice Committee have been gathering feedback from pupils across the school on one of the following themes:

- Our Relationships
- Our Learning & Teaching
- Our Health & Wellbeing
- Our Success & Achievements
- Our School & Community

Pupils are gathering evidence on their chosen theme and are looking to identify areas of strength and where we could improve. The pupils will be continue this work next term and will present their findings and ideas.



TRANSITIONS

P7 Visit and Information Evening

We were delighted to welcome visitors from all four of our associated primary schools on Tuesday 25th November for their first visit to high school. They attended lessons in Numeracy, Literacy, PSE and Science. A huge thank you to our S2 mentors for their amazing support. They showed our school value of kindness by giving up their time to make the primary sevens feel welcomed. The S6 Leadership Team also supported with the information evening, giving parents and carers a tour of the school and answering their questions.

Supporting P7 transition with numeracy

Why it matters

Our primary 7 pupils face the next big transition in their lives – empowering them with the right mindset is at the heart of our numeracy sessions.

Our sessions so far...

- 1) Number riddles leading to exploring the traits and habits of a good mathematician.
- 2) Pattern spotting and cryptography to challenge stereotypes
- 3) Using estimation and logical deduction to build educated guesses and trust your own thinking.

"Every pupil should feel inspired to learn and use the language of mathematics/numeracy – crafted to make sense of our world and essential for shaping its future."

What we do

Through engaging and inclusive activities, we use the pupils existing numeracy skills to tackle new problems in an environment that:

- Celebrates everyone's success
- Acknowledge everyone's contribution and struggles
- Encourage reflection and growth in confidence to become the best mathematician we can be!

TRANSITIONS

Supporting Transition Through Literacy

Pupils from across the BGE and senior phase have been delivering 'The Belonging Project' in all four of our associate primary schools. The programme aims to develop learners' literacy skills as they prepare for their transition to secondary school. Please see over for more details.



What is the Belonging Project?

Week 6
SHOWCASE

The Belonging Project supports primary seven pupils in preparation for secondary school. Learners will develop their reading, writing, talking and listening skills as they make a podcast or vlog marking this important milestone on their learning journey.

1

Talking and Listening

Starting a new school can be an anxious time. In lesson one, you will talk and listen to peers about your worries. You will also hear from S1 pupils reflecting on how they overcame their own fears.

Kindness

2

Reading

With a new school comes a different set of expectations. In lesson two, you will learn about the rights, responsibilities and routines expected of you in your first year.

Respect

3

Writing

The transition from primary to secondary is also a hopeful time of new beginnings. In lesson three, you will learn about the opportunities on offer and set goals for the year ahead.

Ambition

4

Talking & Listening

In lesson four, you will work together to record a podcast or film a vlog documenting your thoughts and feelings throughout the process. You will learn how to work as part of an effective team.

Integrity

5

Editing

If at first, you don't succeed... In lesson five, you and your peers will revise your work, editing the content of your podcast or vlog. You will learn how to delegate as you and your group work to a deadline.

Resilience

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Higher Physical Education One Off Performances, for pupils in the Senior Phase, took place recently. For some of these performances we had visiting assessors from the Scottish Qualifications Authority. The pupils were assessed in volleyball, table tennis, football and badminton. The pupils were a credit to the school—focused, prepared, and a pleasure to watch.



Training Session at Hillhead HS – So many pupils!



Senior Boys Team after victory at Lochgelly High School

PHYSICAL EDUCATION - VOLLEYBALL

It has been a busy start to the season for the Senior Boys and Girls' Volleyball Teams. The Senior Girls have two teams in the Glasgow League and one team in the Scottish Cup, with the boys having one team in the league and one team in the Scottish cup! The numbers at training are consistently high and the hard work and consistency of practicing regularly are really paying off, with some excellent performances and results. All results to date are included below, and upcoming matches:



SENIOR BOYS VOLLEYBALL TEAM

League Matches

- League Match Night 1 – HHS won 3 matches from 3
- League Match Night 2 – HHS won 2 matches from 4
- League Match Night 3 – HHS won 2 matches from 3
- League Match Night 4 – To take place in January, February or March

Friendly Matches

- HHS Defeated The High School of Glasgow 3-1

Scottish Cup

- Round 1 – HHS Defeated Greenwood Academy 2-0
- Round 2 – HHS Defeated Lochgelly High School 2-1
- Quarter Final – HHS to host Queensferry High School or Crieff High School

SENIOR GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TEAM

League Matches

- League Match Night 1 for HHS 1- HHS 1 won 2 matches from 5
- League Match Night 1 for HHS 2- HHS 2 won 3 matches from 5
- League Match Night 2 – To take place at HHS on January 19th
- League Match Night 3 – To take place in February

Friendly Matches

- HHS Lost to Stewarton Academy 2-1
- HHS Defeated Cleveden Secondary 3-0

Scottish Cup

- Round 1 – HHS received a bye into Round 2
- Round 2 - HHS to play Drummond High School on Monday 15th December

PHYSICAL EDUCATION - FIXTURES

Please see below some other results / upcoming fixtures from other teams and clubs offered within the school:

- S2 Boys Football Team – Lost 3-2 to Hillpark in the Crookston Cup
- S3 Boys Football Team – Lost 4-2 to Kings Park in the Glasgow Cup
- S2/S3 Girls Netball Team – Home Match Versus Springburn Academy on Wednesday 10th December
- S2/S3 Girls Netball Team – Away Match Versus All Saints on Wednesday 14th January
- S2/S3 Girls Netball Team – Away Match Versus St Andrews on Thursday 22nd January
- Under 15 Girls Basketball Team – Home Match Versus Hillpark on Thursday 11th December
- Girls Football Team will be travelling to Toryglen for the Amy McDonald Cup on Wednesday 10th December

GYMFEST



Well done to our fantastic group of gymnasts who performed at GymFest on the 4th of December. GymFest is a gymnastics showcase event held at the Emirates Arena, and our pupils took to the floor with an impressive group routine performed in front of hundreds of pupils and teachers from across Glasgow.

All the pupils involved have shown outstanding commitment, training every Tuesday night and even some mornings before school since the start of the school year to perfect their routine. We are incredibly proud of their hard work, dedication, and brilliant performance on the day.

SPORTS CLUBS AND TEAMS

The whole school clubs timetable is now up and running. Clubs provide pupils with the opportunity to develop wider skills, build resilience and be part of a team, to name a few. The school's program is extensive and you will see below what is currently on offer:

Monday	Fitness	S1-S6	Lunch Time	Fitness Suite	Mrs McEwan
	Film Club	S1-S6	Lunch Time	M106	Ms Southern
	Study Skills Support	S5-S6	Lunch Time	Library	Mrs Macdonald
	Book Club	S1-S3	Lunch Time	M112	Mrs Rothery
	Badminton	S1-S6	After school	Gameshall	Mr Gillespie
	Show Choir	S1-S6	After school	Assembly Hall	Ms Ross
	Foreign Language Social Club	S1-S6	After school	M208	Mr Singh
Tuesday	Gender and Sexuality Alliance	S1-S6	Lunch Time	M106	Miss Thomson
	Film Club	S1-S6	Lunch Time	M112	Ms Southern
	Volleyball Team	Seniors	Lunch Time	Gameshall	Mr Gemmill & Mrs Mc
	Foreign Language Social Club	S1-S6	Lunch Time	M208	Mr Singh
	Eco Club (alternate Tuesdays)	S1-S6	Lunch Time	T32	Ms Caldwell
	Brass Ensemble	S1-S6	Lunch Time	Music Departme	Ms Ross
	Table Tennis	S4-S6	Lunch Time	Gameshall	Mr McFarlane
	Volleyball Team	Seniors	After school	Gameshall	Mr Gemmill & Mrs Mc
	Gymnastics	S1-S6	After school	Gym 1	Mrs Trobe and Miss F
Wednesd	Netball	S1-S6	After school	Gameshall & G1	Mrs Houston & Miss
	Well-Being Wednesday TBC	S1-S6	Lunch Time	T08	Mrs Milligan
	Film Club	S1-S6	Lunch Time	M112	Ms Southern
	Fitness	S1-S6	Lunch Time	Fitness Suite	Mr Gemmill
	Girls Football	S1-S6	Lunch Time	Gameshall	Mrs McEwan
	Anti Racist Alliance	S1-S6	Lunch Time	M106	Ms Southern
	String Orchestra	Instrument relate	After school	Music Departme	Ms Ross
Thursday	Gymnastics	S1-S6	Before School	Gym 1	Miss Riddell
	Fitness	S1-S6	Lunch Time	Fitness Suite	Miss Riddell
	Tranquil Thursdays	S1-S2	Lunch Time	Library	Mrs Macdonald
	Film Club	S1-S6	Lunch Time	M106	Ms Southern
	Board Games Club	S1-S6	Lunch Time	T31	Mr Creaney & Mr Turr
	Volleyball	S4-S6	Lunch Time	Gameshall	Mr Gemmill
	School Show	S1-S6	Lunch Time	Drama Studio	Ms Williams
	Chinese Mahjong	S1-S6	Lunch Time	M217	Ms Wang
	Girls Basketball	S1-S6	After school	Gameshall	Miss Riddell / Mrs Mc
	Wind Band	Instrument relate	After school	Music Departme	Ms Ross
Friday	Gymnastics & Fitness	S1-S6	Before School	Gym 1	Mrs Trobe
	Boys Football	S1-S3	Before School	Gameshall	Mrs McEwan & Miss I
	Volleyball	S4-S6	Lunch Time	Gameshall	Mr Gemmill
	Feminism Society	S1-S6	Lunch Time	T31	Ms Thomson
	Film Club	S1-S6	Lunch Time	M106	Ms Southern
	School Show	S1-SS6	After school	Drama Studio	Ms Williams
Teams	Under 15's Basketball Girls	Age related	Various	Various	Mr McFarlane
	Under 18's Basketball Girls	Age related	Various	Various	Mr McFarlane
	Boys Football Team (S3 and below)	Age related	Various	Various	Mrs McEwan & Miss I
	Volleyball Team (Senior Boys)	Age related	Various	Various	Mr Gemmill
	Volleyball Team (Senior Girls)	Age related	Various	Various	Mr Gemmill & Mrs Mc
	Junior Netball Girls	Age related	Various	Various	Mrs Houston & Miss
Other	Hillwalking	S1-S6	Various	Various	Mr Gillespie

ENGLISH

Book Club had a very merry Christmas party to celebrate all of their hard work this term. From promoting writing competitions to speaking on tannoys for Book Week Scotland - these Literacy Leaders have been truly remarkable! Each member was rewarded with a copy of "Anne of Green Gables" and a Literacy Leader badge. We have also enjoyed reading two novels this term and are looking forward to exploring new genres in 2026.



TECHNOLOGIES

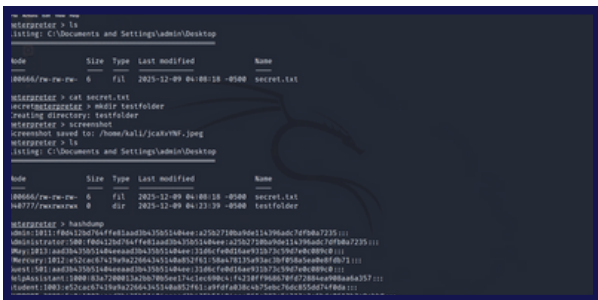
BEBRAS CHALLENGE

The Bebras Challenge introduces computational thinking to students worldwide. This exciting challenge takes place in schools, under the supervision of teachers, over a two-week period every November. Last year, over 3 million students from more than 80 countries participated!

At Hillhead we had two S4 pupils and eight S2 pupils in the top 10% of the country.



S6 NPA CYBER SECURITY ETHICAL HACKING

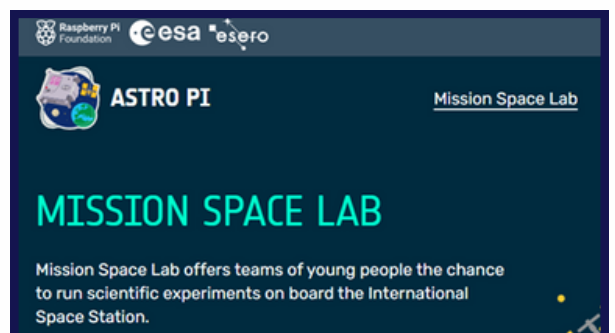


S6 pupils have been taking part in an Ethical Hacking course designed to introduce them to the fundamentals of cybersecurity. Through hands-on challenges and guided exercises, they've developed key skills such as identifying system vulnerabilities, understanding digital security protocols, practising responsible penetration testing, and analysing real-world cyber threats. The course highlights not only the technical abilities required in the field, but also the importance of legal awareness, digital responsibility, and ethical decision-making in today's connected world.

S4 - ASTRO PI - MISSION SPACE LAB

Two S4 pupils are preparing an entry for the annual European Space Agency Astro-pi Mission Space Lab.

This year's challenge is to use sensors to calculate the current exact speed of the International Space Station.



TECHNOLOGIES

S5 GRAPHICS

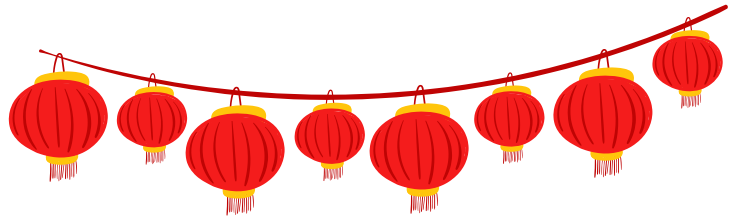
On Thursday 11th December we were lucky to have Keli Mitchell, one of the partners from local graphic design company O-Street, come in and deliver a presentation to our S5 students. Keli talked about the secrets of good design and gave our young people an insight into the life of a graphic designer. This was a fantastic opportunity for our students to connect their learning, seeing real world relevance to the topics being studied in class through the lens of a successful woman working at the very top of her industry. Keli stuck around after the presentation to have an extended chat with some of our young people who have showed interest in similar pathways, even offering opportunities to come in and visit her at O-Street to see the daily life in a professional studio.



O STREET

LANGUAGES

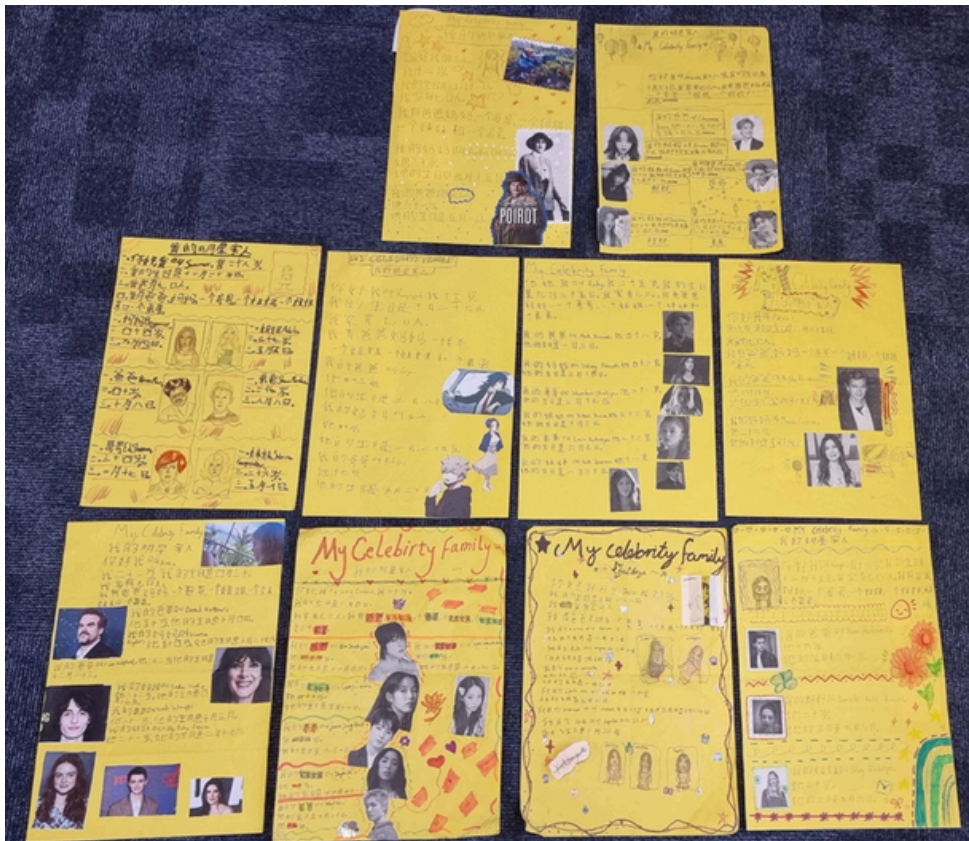
CHINESE SPEAKING COMPETITION



Congratulations to S2 Jack for winning Second Prize in the Chinese Speaking Competition! This was his first time participating, and he incredibly well. Well done, Jack!



S1 MANDARIN CLASS



Our S1 pupils designed fantastic "My Celebrity Family" posters in Mandarin class. A great way to practise vocabulary and have fun!

EXPRESSIVE ARTS

WINTER CONCERT

On Wednesday 11th December we held our annual Winter Concert to a packed-out hall. Thanks to everyone who managed to make it along on this cold evening. As always, the pupils were fantastic! We were treated to the Bagpipes on arrival, The String Orchestra, The Wind Band, The Senior String Group, The Guitar Group, The Brass Group, The Choir, The Jazz Band, The S6 Band, The Folk Rock Band (Juniors) and then finally The Folk Rock Band (Seniors). Over the coming months, these groups will now be thinking about what they are going to do in the Summer Concert. This will also be another magnificent event. Make sure you get along to this event; it should be a wee bit warmer outside.



EXPRESSIVE ARTS

S3 BANDS



At the start of December, we held our S3 Bands Night. Also in attendance were a couple of bands from the S4 Wider Achievement group. This event is in its second year. What we love about this event is that it gives everyone in S3 the chance to perform on stage. This is the first time some of our pupils have ever been on a stage with an audience. The pupils form the bands themselves, select a name for the band, their roles within the band and also their song choice. Well done everyone. The performances were great, and it was lovely to hear your song choices. Thanks to everyone who came along to support this event.

EXPRESSIVE ARTS

HAMILTON

In November, the Drama and Music department selected a group of pupils to attend the Hamilton performance. Our pupils really enjoyed this event. .

Many of the pupils selected had never seen this performance before and for some, it gave them an opportunity to see their first live show.



ART DEPARTMENT

It has been a productive time in the Art department recently. Pupils are working hard on their folios in the Senior Phase. Last year's SQA submissions have just been returned. It is great for current students to

look at these again with their own folio ideas in mind. Here is an image of one AH folio being looked at by the current AH class. The other 2 images show some of our S4 pupils working hard on their Junk Kouture outfits. We are looking forward to seeing how these develop in the coming months. Check out our INSTAGRAM account @hillheadhs_experts for the work happening across the Faculty of Expressive Arts.

