



Hillhead High School
Oakfield Avenue
Glasgow G12 8LJ
Phone 0141 582 0100

Head Teacher
K McAlaney

14th August 2026

S5 Parent/Carer Information

Dear Parent / Carer

I hope this communication finds you safe and well. We are about to start another busy school year, and I am looking for all S5 pupils to hit the ground running. This is the best time to communicate with you about the year ahead and provide information about key dates, expectations, and messages that will allow your child to make a positive start to the new term. This information will allow you to work in partnership with us, as we look to provide the best learning environment for your child as they head towards their formal Qualifications Scotland (QS) Exams in May 2027. Our vision at Hillhead High School is "We Thrive Together," by working in partnership we can ensure this happens.

Tracking reports, parents' evening, and contacts

Your child is now halfway through their journey towards QS qualifications. Support and challenge are important throughout this time and at the beginning of the school year it is vital that key messages are shared consistently with both our young people and their families as we aim to work in partnership to achieve success.

Throughout this academic session tracking reports will be sent out to families at various points, with a parents evening being held to allow more detailed conversations to take place. The date for S5 parents' night is outlined below; along with tracking report dates for session 2026/27. If you have questions about your child's progress, you should contact the Faculty Head of the subject on the email addresses provided below. I have also added contact details for our Pastoral Care Team.

S5 Parents Evening: **Tuesday 12th January 2027**

S5 Tracking Reports will be issued in **October & February**

Departments/Faculty contacts

- English: Miss Southern gw20southernsusan@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk
- Expressive Arts: Mr Reid gw10reidross@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk
- Humanities: Mr Elder gw10elderdouglas3@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk
- Mathematics: Mr Scanlan: gw15scanlanmarkdanie@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk





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- Modern Languages: Mrs Campbell-Young gw10campbellyounglau@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk
- P.E. and Health & Wellbeing: Mr Gemmill gw14gemmilljohn3@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk
- Science: Miss Ayton gw11aytonalyson@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk
- Technologies: Miss Cuthbertson gw10cuthbertsonelain@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk
- Support for Learning: Miss McGuire gw17mcguiresiobhan@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

Pastoral Care contacts

5A & 5F: Miss Williams gw20williamsalice@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

5B & 5E: Miss Hewitt gw09hewittjenny@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

5C: Mrs Alexander gw10higginsnicola@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

5D: Mr Greechan gw07greechanjohn@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

Hillhead High Habits of Learning & Belonging

Regular in-school tannoy messages and posts on the S5 Year Group Teams page will continually reinforce our school values and expectations. It is crucial that your child always conducts themselves in an appropriate manner, both within our school building and across our wider community. We expect our pupils to live our positive ***"Hillhead Habits of Learning & Belonging"*** where we promote,

Quality **Learning Time** – maximising time in class. Mobile phones should not be out in class.

Positive **Learning Quality** – maximising focus in class.

Being **Part of the Team** – feeling a sense of belonging and pride in our school community.





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- S5 pupils should wear full school uniform every day. PE kit should be brought in a bag and all pupils should change into their kit at the beginning of the lesson and back into their school uniform at the end.
- S5 pupils should come to school fully prepared with all materials and equipment for class, including their fully charged school iPad.
- S5 pupils should arrive on time and attend all classes each day, including daily registration and Friday Period 5.
- S5 pupils should work hard and give 100% effort during **every** timetabled class.
- S5 pupils should complete all classroom and homework tasks to the best of their ability.
- S5 pupils should not be using or have their mobile phone out in class; the focus should be on learning.
- S5 pupils should model our school values consistently.

Timekeeping and attendance are imperative in ensuring that learning time is maximised. All S5 pupils are required to attend registration each morning at 8.54am to find out essential information as well as opportunities. If we have concerns about attendance, letters will be sent out by Pastoral Care teachers to communicate this and support us all working together to support your child.

Our school values and “Hillhead Habits” will continue to be reinforced throughout S5 and in our weekly year group assembly which will take place on a Thursday morning in the hall during registration.

Communication / Support / Information

Channels of Communication

As well as letters like this, updates and information will be communicated through:

- our Twitter / X account (<https://twitter.com/HillheadHS>)
- Eduspot App (formally Xspressions App)
- our website (<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/gc/hillheadhigh/>)
- **S5 Information Night (Online via Microsoft Teams)**





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Our S5 Information Night will take place on **Thursday 3rd September, 6.30-7.30pm, via Teams**. The meeting will be set up on the S5 Year Group Teams page and will be accessed using your child's school iPad. During the evening, I will explain the importance and expectations of S5, along with information about formal evidence gathering, QS exams and support.

- **Family Drop-Ins**

I will be running monthly optional family drop-ins via Microsoft Teams starting in September. These drop-ins allow you to log in with your child using their school iPad, to discuss any issues or concerns you may have. These sessions will run from **6.30pm-7pm** and each family will have a 5–10-minute time slot with me. Please see dates below.

Wednesday 23rd September 2026
Wednesday 21st October 2026
Wednesday 26th November 2026
Wednesday 16th December 2026
Wednesday 27th January 2027
Wednesday 24th February 2027
Wednesday 24th March 2027
Wednesday 21st April 2027
Wednesday 19th May 2027

- **S5 Formal Evidence Gathering**

Over the last few years at Hillhead High School, we have worked hard to change the messaging around the idea of “prelim examinations” and the thinking that a pupil's performance in one formal assessment should dictate their ability to sit the final exam. **From week beginning 23rd November to week ending 4th December**, our pupils will sit their formal evidence papers across their subjects. These assessments will have the formality of Qualifications Scotland exams, with invigilators and timed papers, however the purpose is to provide all our S5 pupils with the “exam” experience and allow class teachers to measure progress, while providing robust evidence in appropriate conditions. Your child is more than just one exam/performance!





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- **Qualifications Scotland Examinations and Supports**

At this moment the 2027 Qualifications Scotland exam diet is due to start on Monday 26th April and finish on Wednesday 2nd June. The full exam timetable is due to be published by the end of August. A reminder that eSgoil (<https://www.e-sgoil.com/sgoil.com/>) and WestOS (<https://www.westpartnership.co.uk/west-os/>) offer live and recorded sessions that are available now.

- **Financial Information**

While we work hard to minimise the cost of the school day for all pupils, any payments (e.g for prom, ties) must be made to the school via ParentPay. More information on ParentPay can be found here: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/gc/hillheadhigh/shop/>

We also have a Financial Inclusion Support Officer (FISO) who is available to provide free advice regarding finances. This includes entitlements such as EMA, Free School Meals, and school clothing grants. Her name is Nicola McCaskill, and she can be contacted in confidence at 0141 648 2022 or at schools@money mattersweb.co.uk.

More information regarding financial supports can be found here: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/gc/hillheadhigh/school-information/cost-of-the-school-day/>

It is crucial that every pupil makes a positive start to S5. Every piece of work carried out by your child has value. I am sure that with focus, hard work, and consistent effort, they will have a successful year.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

Steven Neil

Depute Head Teacher Email: gw10neilsteven@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

