



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

Head Teacher
K McAlaney

S2 – Welcome Back to Hillhead High School

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well and that you and your family have enjoyed a restful summer break.

My name is Mr Carson, and as Depute Head Teacher for S1 and S2, I am delighted to welcome our S2 pupils back to Hillhead High School for the new school year.

S2 is an important year. Having successfully made the transition to secondary school, our young people now know Hillhead: they understand our routines, have established relationships with staff and classmates and know what is expected of them. Our focus this year is therefore on helping every S2 pupil build on the foundations established during S1. That means becoming increasingly independent, taking greater responsibility for their learning and continuing to develop a strong sense of belonging within our school community.

We want every pupil to look back at the end of S2 and recognise how much they have progressed, both academically and personally.

Returning to School – Wednesday 12th August

Pupils return to school on **Wednesday 12th August**.

At the beginning of the new school year, all S2 pupils should go straight to their registration class. This registration period will be extended until 9.25am so that pupils receive key information. They will then attend their period 1 class and begin their timetable as normal.



Unlike this time last year, our S2 pupils return knowing the school, its staff and its routines. I would therefore encourage every pupil to approach the new year positively and confidently, ready to build on what they learned during S1.

Indeed, some of our S2 pupils will now have the opportunity to use their own experience to support our new S1 pupils as mentors during their first few days at Hillhead. This is an important example of the greater responsibility we want our S2 pupils to begin taking within our school community. I have posted the names of mentors on the year-group Teams page today. If your child has not been selected to mentor then there will be plenty of other opportunities for them throughout the school year to support others.

Hillhead Habits of Learning and Belonging

At Hillhead High School, we believe that every young person should leave school with the knowledge, skills and qualifications to lead a happy and successful life.

Our three Hillhead Habits of Learning and Belonging provide a simple framework for what we expect from every pupil:

- **Maximise Learning Time** – attend regularly, arrive on time and be ready to learn.
- **Maximise Learning Quality** – work hard, concentrate, participate and make the most of every lesson.
- **Be Part of the Team** – show kindness, respect and pride in our school community.

Our S2 pupils will already be familiar with these expectations. This year, we want them to demonstrate these habits with increasing consistency and independence.

Every lesson matters. Every day matters. The habits pupils establish during these early years of secondary school provide the foundations for the qualifications and opportunities that will follow later.

Full school uniform (white shirt, red tie, black trousers or skirt) remains an important part of fostering a strong sense of belonging while helping to minimise unnecessary pressure around clothing.



Working in Partnership

Young people achieve most when school and home work together.

Your child's Pastoral Care Teacher remains the main point of contact for you throughout S2 and will work closely with teachers, Support for Learning and myself to ensure that every young person is well supported.

2A – Ms Williams gw20williamsalice@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

2B & 2F – Miss Hewitt gw09hewittjenny@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

2C & 2D – Mrs Alexander gw10higginsnicola@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

2E – Mr Greechan gw07greechanjohn@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

1D – Miss Caven gw20whytecaitlin@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

Our Principal Teachers of Support for Learning also work closely with pupils with additional support needs:

Mr Pache

gw17pachejohn@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

Mrs McGuire

gw17mcguiresiobhan@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns. Early communication is particularly helpful: if something is affecting your child's learning, attendance, wellbeing or experience of school, we would always encourage families to contact us so that we can work together.

Keeping in Touch

Throughout the year, we will communicate important information with families through:

- The EduSpot app
- The Hillhead High School website

Please ensure that you regularly check EduSpot for updates and important information relating to the S2 year group.



Parents' Evening

Our S2 Parents' Evening will take place on **Tuesday 17th November**.

This is an opportunity to meet your child's teachers, discuss their progress and identify next steps in their learning. Information about booking appointments will be shared nearer the time.

Tracking Reports

You will receive Tracking Reports throughout S2. These provide an overview of your child's progress across their subjects and highlight strengths as well as areas for development.

Tracking Reports will be issued during the weeks beginning:

- **2nd November 2026**
- **11th January 2026**
- **19th April 2027**

I would encourage families to discuss each Tracking Report with their child. In particular, pupils should be able to identify what is going well, where they need to improve and what they are going to do next.

Parent and Carer Tracking Report Drop-ins

During the week following each Tracking Report, I will host an optional online **Parent and Carer Drop-in Session**.

These sessions provide an opportunity to discuss your child's progress, ask questions about the Tracking Report and consider how we can work together to support their continued success.

Details of each session will be shared via EduSpot in advance.

Financial Support

We are committed to keeping the cost of the school day as low as possible.

Payments should be made through ParentPay. Further information can be found on the school website.



Families can also access free, confidential financial advice through our Financial Inclusion Support Officer, **Nicola McCaskill**, who can provide guidance on Free School Meals, Clothing Grants, EMA and other financial support.

Telephone: 0141 648 2022

Email: schools@moneymattersweb.co.uk

Please do not hesitate to access this support if it would be helpful to your family.

Looking Ahead

S1 was about making the transition to secondary school and finding their feet. S2 is about building on that foundation.

Over the coming year, we want our young people to become more confident learners, more independent in the way they approach their work and increasingly conscious of the contribution they make to the wider school community.

There will inevitably be challenges along the way. Our role is not to remove every challenge, but to provide the support, encouragement and high expectations that help young people learn to overcome them.

Most importantly, we want every S2 pupil to know that they belong at Hillhead High School and that, with consistent effort and the right support, they are capable of making excellent progress.

I look forward to welcoming our S2 pupils back on **Wednesday 12th August** and to working closely with you throughout the year.

Kind regards,

Mr Tom Carson

Depute Head Teacher (S1 & S2)

gw11carsonthomas3@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

