THE KIDSGROVE SECONDARY SCHOOL

HEADTEACHER BULLETIN

Friday 28.2.25

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Dear Parents/Carers,

It appears that Spring is on the horizon as we have now entered our fourth half term of the academic year. Spring time usually brings about change and there are some significant changes at the school that I wish to make you aware of. These changes will be taking place from Easter onwards.

Firstly we say goodbye to Ms Weston, who joined us in September as an English teacher. We wish Ms Weston the very best in her future endeavours. We also say a sad goodbye to Mrs Postlethwaite who will be leaving us after two very successful years at KSS, where she has made a lasting impact. We wish Mrs Postlethwaite all the best for the future in her new role at The Kings Church of England Academy in Kidsgrove. I am sure she will make a terrific impact at her new school and what is great is that she will continue to work within the local area.

As the school is growing in size and with 114 Year 7's joining us in September, the KSS staffing continues to increase and change. I am delighted to share that Mr Till has been promoted to Deputy Headteacher, and will become our new designated safeguarding lead. He will continue to lead all things behaviour and attendance related. This promotion is much deserved as I have not worked with a more committed member of staff in my time working in education.
We also have Mrs Coulson joining us as Deputy Headteacher for three days per week post Easter. She joins us as our new Quality of Education lead from a trust wide role, where she has been supporting schools with English and Literacy improvements nationally. We are delighted that she has chosen to join KSS and we believe that she we will make a tremendous impact.
We also have Mr Barlow joining us as our new Associate Assistant Headteacher for English and Mr Barker-Brown joining us as a PE teacher and as our new progress lead. We cannot wait to see the impact that these new colleagues will make to our school.
Finally, Ms Hud has been promoted to a subject leader role after two fantastic years as our Spanish teacher. She will lead our Global Innovations faculty in an exciting new chapter for these subjects. This will mean that Mrs Weaver will have more time to work on teaching and learning developments and our subject curriculums.

There are certainly exciting times ahead and we cannot wait to welcome our new staff in April.



Upcoming Events

Thursday 6.3.25 - World Book Day
Friday 7.3.25 - Enrichment Day
Thursday 13.3.25 - Year 8 Parents Evening (4pm to 7pm)

Yours faithfully,
Mr S Frost



COMING SOON

NATIONAL OFFER DAY!

KIDSGROVE SECONDARY SCHOOL

iPads

Personal

Breakfast

Trips

Uniform

Facilities



"If you do enough small things right, BIG THINGS can happen"

KIDSGROVE SECONDARY SCHOOL

PROUD TO BE KSS

Shaw Education Trust

Welcome!

I am delighted to share that Mrs Coulson will be joining us after Easter as a Deputy Headteacher. Mrs Coulson is joining us from a trust role and comes with lots of experience in supporting schools of various types and sizes. She has worked with KSS for some time, so we all know her very well and what an impact she will make. I have also worked with Mrs Coulson previously and I know for certain that she will be a brilliant addition to the team. Mrs Coulson will be leading all things quality of education post Easter.

Below are a few words from the lady herself...

I am delighted to announce that I will be joining Kidsgrove Secondary School from Easter as Deputy Headteacher. I'm thrilled at the prospect of working alongside such a dedicated team, fabulous students and supportive parents and I'm very much looking forward to contributing to the school's ongoing journey of educational excellence. It is a privilege to be part of this vibrant school, and I look forward to helping each pupil become the very best they can be.







Easy Fundraising

Did you know you could raise funds for Kidsgrove Secondary School every time you shop online?

Turn your daily shopping into everyday magic for us with easyfundraising

You shop, brands donate to us. It won't cost you any extra!

easyfundraising

Help us make a difference when you shop.
Visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

1. Visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk
2. Sign up and search for us
3. Your favourite brands donate to us whenever you shop with them



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KIDSGROVE SECONDARY SCHOOL — PROUD TO BE KSS — Shaw Education Trust

Attendance

Whole School YTD: 93.4%

YEAR 7 - 96.4%

YEAR 8 - 93.8%

YEAR 9 - 93.3%

YEAR 10 - 91.8%

YEAR 11 - 91.3%

National Average: 91.7%



TRAFFORD TREATS

Form Vs Form Competition Pending.....

Which Form is climbing to 1st Place??

Best Attendance wins





Form Attendance





What is my child learning?

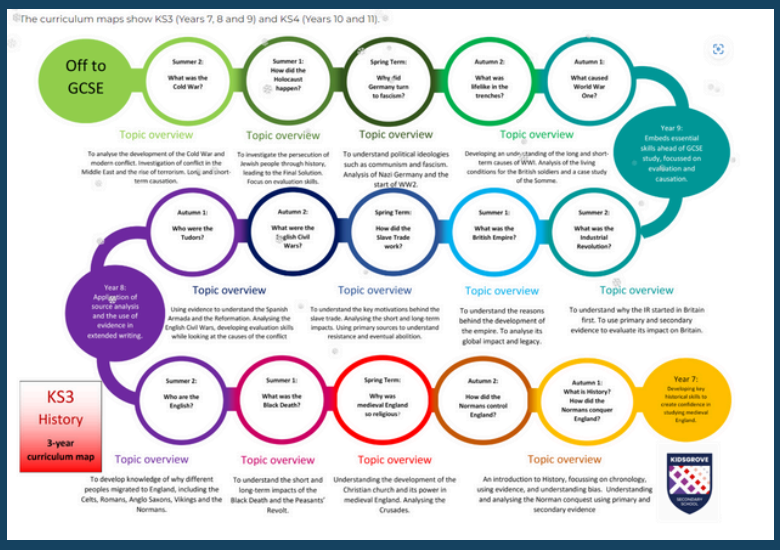
One of the strengths of KSS is the fantastic curriculum that we deliver to all students.
When Ofsted visited the school last year they were impressed with our subject curriculums and how the students were taught the key themes.

From the recent parent & carer survey, a common area for feedback is that you are interested to know more about is the curriculum and what your child is learning.

To find out more, please scan the QR code below or visit the website @ https://kidsgrovesecondary.org.uk/curriculum/subject-curriculums

Once on the website you can click on each subject, read about the curriculum and even follow a map to see the key topics and content.





"If you do enough small things right, BIG THINGS can happen"

KIDSGROVE SECONDARY SCHOOL
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Shaw Education Trust

Save the Date

KIDSGROVE SECONDARY SCHOOL

Save the Date

SEND Parent Review Day

Thursday 15th May

A CHANCE TO DISCUSS YOUR CHILD'S PROGRESS WITH THEIR SEND KEY WORKER

KIDSGROVE SECONDARY SCHOOL
LEARNING SUPPORT DEPARTMENT
ENGAGE, EDUCATE, ENABLE



Invites and booking information to follow



"If you do enough small things right, **BIG THINGS** can happen"



KIDSGROVE SECONDARY SCHOOL

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KIDSGROVE SECONDARY SCHOOL

Shaw Education Trust

WELCOME

I am delighted to share that Mr Barlow will be joining us after Easter as Associate Assistant Headteacher for English and Literacy. Mr Barlow joins us with a track record of excellent teaching and leadership of all things English. We cannot wait for him to work with Mr Old, Mrs Beard and Mrs Coulson in our new look English team.

Below are a few words from the man himself...

Hello to all the students and parents of the Kidsgrove Secondary school community. My name is Mr. Barlow, and I am thrilled to be joining you just after Easter as an Associate Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for English.

My background is teaching English in several different schools in the local community, and I have been a Curriculum Team Leader of English at The Oaks Academy in Crewe since 2020; in these roles, I have grown the brand of English and Literacy, developing a challenging and inspiring curriculum, which allows all students the skills necessary to bring success to their lives and to question their place and role in the modern world. This has also gone hand-in-hand with improving the student's outcomes in both English Language and English Literature year-on-year.

I have also led whole school on Literacy, embedding a whole swathe of ways for our students to enjoy and approach reading. I am an avid reader, and strongly believe that books and reading can be a gateway to greater success. I have created and delivered whole school reading strategies: from the Word of the Week to Reading Mentor Programmes and Form time reading. I place creating a culture of reading at the very heart of what I bring to Kidsgrove Secondary School.

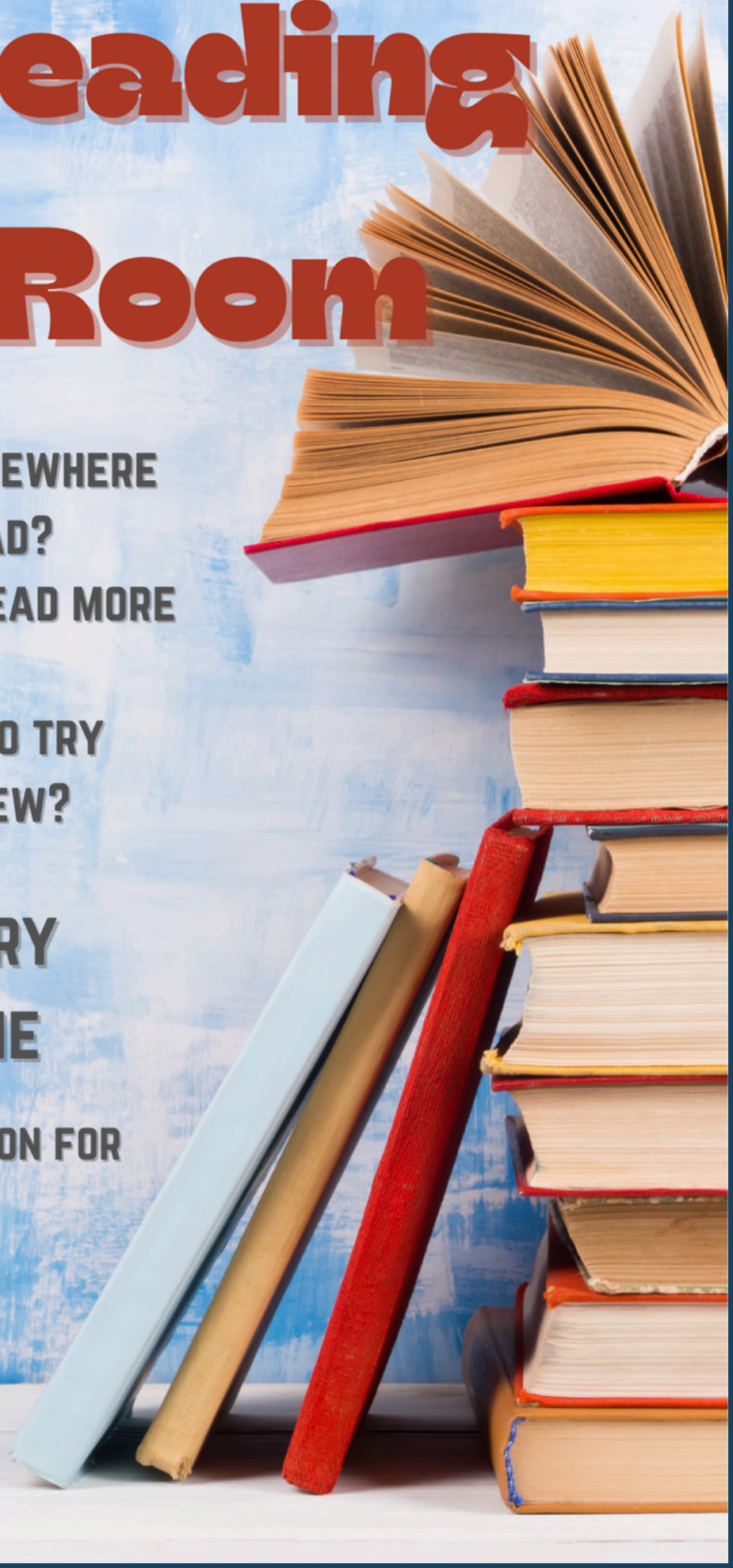






KIDSGROVE SECONDARY SCHOOL

Reading Room



Do you want somewhere quiet to read?

Do you want to read more books?

Do you want to try something new?

Open every lunchtime

See Ms Hambleton for details

Reading Room

The Reading Room is a quiet place where students can seek peace and cozy up with a book.
It is open to all students every lunchtime. Students can make use of the beanbags and comfy seats and spend time getting lost in a good book. We also have a range of magazines and revision guides
Students who attend will receive achievement points in addition to the points achieved when borrowing a book.





Welcome

I am delighted to share that Mr Barker-Brown will be joining us after Easter as our new PE teacher and Progress Lead. Mr Barker-Brown joins us with a wealth of experience and we cannot wait for him to start.

Below are a few words from the man himself...

I am proud to have recently been appointed as PE Teacher and Head of Year 11/Progress Lead at Kidsgrove Secondary School.
Before embarking on my teaching career, I studied a BTEC Extended Diploma in Sports & Exercise Science at Newcastle Under-Lyme College followed by achieving a First-Class Honours Bachelor of Science Degree in Sports & Exercise Science at Staffordshire University.
During my teaching career, I have completed a Masters Degree in Educational Leadership at Liverpool Hope University and most recently a National Professional Qualification in Leading Behaviour and Culture.
I completed my school-centred initial teacher training (SCITT) with the Ormiston and Keele SCIT. Afterwards, I firstly taught at Ormiston Stanley Matthews Academy for 6 years as a PE Teacher/ Assistant Head of Year and in 2023, I was appointed as the Head of PE at The Discovery Academy.
Outside of school, I enjoy spending time with my family and maintaining a healthy, active lifestyle by going to the gym and running/cycling for leisure. I have a lifelong passion for sport and physical activity; I have played football for Newcastle Town FC and during my childhood, I captained Staffordshire County F.C and represented British Colleges Football Association.
I am thoroughly looking forward to working closely with all staff, students and parents/guardians at Kidsgrove Secondary School and I am firmly committed to ensuring all students thrive personally and academically to realise their potential and beyond.



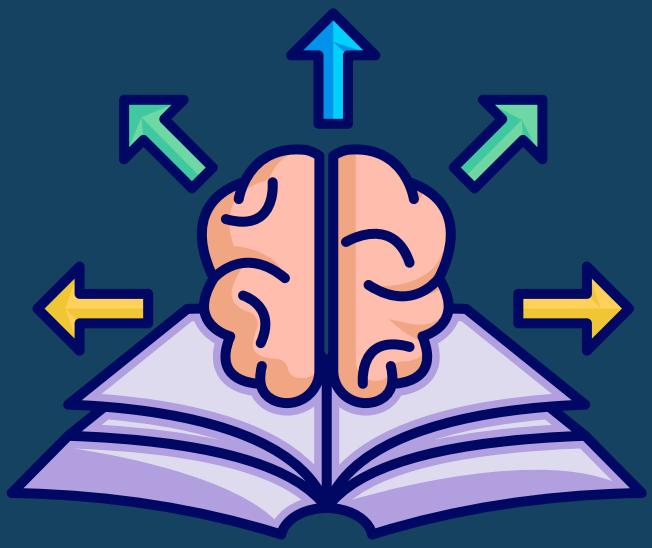




Enrichment

FEB-APR EXTRA CURRICULAR ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

	Lunchtime Clubs - 13.30-14.00		After School Clubs - 15.05-16.05	
EVERYDAY	Reading Room	Open to all		
MONDAY	Science Support	Y7, Y8 and Y9	Science Club	Y7 and Y8
TUESDAY	Science Support	Y7, Y8 and Y9	Dance Club	Open to all
			Open Art Studio	Open to all
WEDNESDAY	Young Carers	Invite only	Drama Club	KS3
	Graphic Design Club	Y7, Y8 and Y9	Open Art Studio	Open to all
			KS3 Football	KS3
THURSDAY	Music	Open to all	GCSE Open Studio	GCSE Art
			Cooking Club (Wk. 2)	Open to all
			Fitness Club	Open to all
			Duke of Edinburgh	Y9, Y10 and Y11
FRIDAY	Pride Club	Open to all	KS4 Football	Y10 and Y11
	Chess Club	Open to all	Darts Club	Open to all



"If you do enough small things right, BIG THINGS can happen"

PROUD TO BE KSS

National Apprenticeship Week



🚀 Before half term we celebrated National Apprenticeship Week! 🚀
This is a great opportunity to highlight the value of apprenticeships and how they contribute to career development and shape industries.



Amy and Suzy from Stoke on Trent College visited us to talk to our Y8 and Y9 students about the range of apprenticeships, how they differ from more traditional college routes and where they can lead us in the future.





During our 'World of Work' form time, students hand the opportunity to look at examples of apprenticeships. They discussed misconceptions and thought about which apprenticeships might interest them.

There are some great resources out there for parents and carers! Click this link for support and information.

Hints and Tips for Parents and Carers

Are you interested in what apprenticeships are out there? Click on the Government Apprenticeship here

Government Apprenticeships

National Apprenticeship Week

Our Y10 students visited the Big Apprenticeship Expo at Bet365 during National Apprenticeship Week. They had an insightful session learning about apprenticeships—what they are, how they work, and the incredible benefits they offer.
The Apprenticeship Marketplace was a hit, with students exploring exciting opportunities and engaging with top providers. They were excellent ambassadors for our school, making it the perfect event for those ready to take the next step in their career journey!















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Shaw Education Trust



National Careers Week

Careers education is important because it empowers students to make informed decisions about their future, equipping them with the skills and knowledge to navigate career paths successfully. It provides essential guidance on choosing the right educational route, developing employability skills, and understanding the world of work. By fostering self-awareness and adaptability, careers education helps students align their strengths and interests with the right opportunities, preparing them for a successful career and promoting lifelong learning.

Get ready for an exciting **Staff Career Path Scavenger Hunt**! All year long, our staff have been sharing the unique journeys that led them to their careers, but next week, students will get the chance to dive deeper! It's the perfect opportunity to engage with the content, ask questions, and discover the unexpected twists and turns that shape a career!



Get ready for a fun and eye-opening experience! Students will have the exciting opportunity **to interview someone at home about their career journey** – from how they got into their job to what their role involves. You'll get to hear firsthand about the challenges, triumphs, and the most rewarding moments of their career. It's a chance to connect with real-world professionals, ask questions, and uncover the fascinating details behind different careers.

FRIDAY 7TH MARCH
ENRICHMENT DAY 3

A spotlight on careers

We're thrilled to welcome a diverse lineup of speakers who will be sharing their career journeys with our students! These experts will dive into their roles, discuss the paths that led them to where they are today, and explore how they apply transferable skills in their careers. It's a fantastic opportunity for students to learn from real professionals, gain valuable insights, and see how skills like communication, problem-solving, and teamwork are essential in a variety of industries.

Work Experience



COMING SOON

Information Opportunities Advice Education
CAREERS
Kidsgrove Secondary School

During the first week in July, we are looking for all of our Y10s to be out on Work Experience. Work experience is important for Year 10 students because it helps them develop essential skills, gain insight into potential career paths, and build confidence in a professional environment by: developing key skills exploring possible careers building confidence improving CV and future applications providing network opportunities.

Are you able to support us?

Call to Action

By offering a work experience placement, your business can shape the future workforce, spark ambition, and give young minds a chance to shine.

- Inspire the next generation – Share your expertise and ignite passion in young people.
- Boost your business – Fresh ideas, enthusiasm, and potential future talent at your doorstep.
- Make a difference – A small opportunity for them, a huge step toward their future success.

Join us in empowering young talent—be the business that helps students take their first step into the working world!

📩 Get in touch today to offer a placement and invest in tomorrow's workforce! - communications@kss.set.org





Frost vs Till



Leader Board

Week	Attendance	Behaviour	Above & Beyond	Challenge
1	1 POINT	1 POINT	1 POINT	1 POINT
2	1 POINT	1 POINT	1 POINT	1 POINT
3	1 POINT	1 POINT	1 POINT	1 POINT
4	1 POINT	1 POINT	1 POINT	1 POINT







Week 4 was our penultimate week of the Y10 Frost vs Till competition. The half term was concluded with a tightly contested dodgeball tournament, however the results speak for themselves with a sea of red for Team Frost on the leader board.

Since the launch of the Frost vs Till competition there has been such a positive impact on the Y10 attendance, behaviour ratios (achieving 98% ratio in week 4) and motivation to achieve. Keep up the great work Y10!

"If you do enough small things right, BIG THINGS can happen"

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WORLD Book Day

MARCH 6TH

Book Swap**The Masked Reader**Swap the story writing challenge**Bookmark making and lots more!



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WORLD BOOK DAY

Activities



Book Swap

Activity: Bring a book you've finished reading and swap it for another.

When/Where: Break time/lunchtime in the Reading Room.

Impact: Fosters community, introduces you to new genres, and makes books more accessible.

'Change It Up'

Activity: Rewrite a book blurb by changing the genre (House Competition).

When/Where: Form time/ at home. Entries emailed to KHA.

Impact: Boosts creative thinking, writing skills, and critical engagement with texts.



WORLD BOOK DAY

"If you do enough small things right, **BIG THINGS** can happen"

WORLD BOOK DAY

Activities

Extreme Reading

Activity: Take a photo of yourself reading in an extreme or unusual place.

When/Where: Up until World Book Day. Entries emailed to KHA.

Impact: Makes reading fun and adventurous, sparking curiosity in others.





How You Can Get Involved

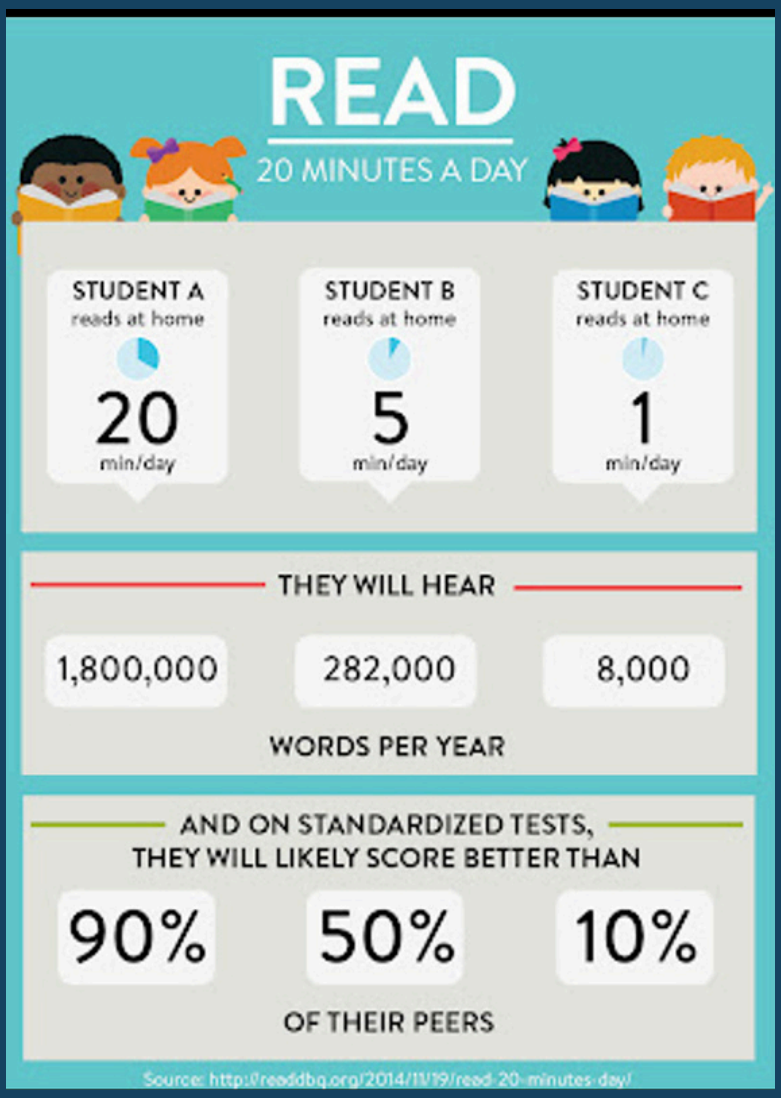
- Participate in as many activities as possible!
- Talk about books with friends and teachers.
- Visit the Reading Room and borrow books.
- Keep reading beyond World Book Day!



WORLD BOOK DAY

"If you do enough small things right, **BIG THINGS** can happen"

WORLD BOOK DAY



World Book Day is just the beginning – keep exploring new stories and sharing your love for reading.



The MORE that you READ, the more things you will KNOW. The MORE that you LEARN, the more places you'll GO.

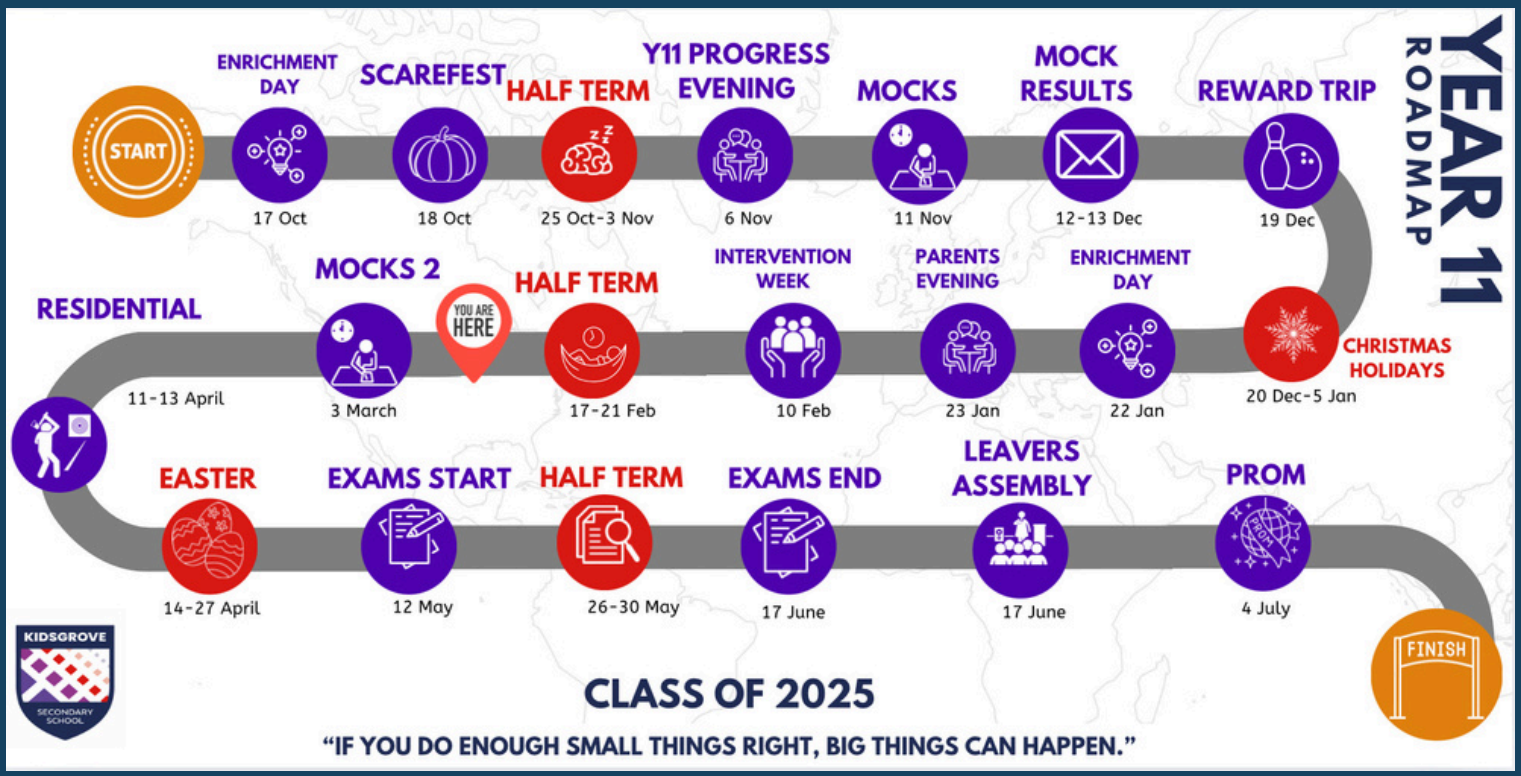
~Dr Seuss

Year 11 Updates

We are on the final stretch with Year 11 now as we approach the final few weeks of lessons. Students have just **39 school days** left before their GCSE exams start.

Next week we have the final Mock exams starting which will last for two weeks. We thank you in advance for ensuring students are in school on time each day as these Mocks provide a vital opportunity to gain an important insight into strengths and areas for development and the outcomes of these exams will shape the final few weeks of term in lessons.

Health and Social Care and Hospitality and Catering results are due into school next month and we can't wait to see how well these students have done in their recent exams.







Year 11 Mock Exams

WEEK 1	Reg	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5
Mon 3rd March	Biology Paper 2 (1h 15 min)		Maths	Maths Paper 1 (1h 30 mins)		Food, History, Geog
Tue 4th March	History paper 1 (1h 15m)		Science	Spanish reading (45m/ 1h) and Spanish listening (35m/ 45m)		English
Wed 5th March	Geography Paper 1 (1h 30m)		Maths	English Language Paper 1 (1h 45m)		PE
Thur 6th March	Maths Paper 2 (1h 30m)		Photography, Spanish, HSC, Geog	History, Art & Sport	English	PDev
Fri 7th March	Spanish writing (1h/ 1h 15m)		English	Chemistry Paper 2 (1h 15m)		PE



WEEK 2	Reg	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5
Mon 10th March	English Literature Paper 2 (2h 15m)			English	Science	Science
Tue 11th March	Form	History Paper 2 (1h 45m)		Geography Paper 2 (1h 30m)		English
Wed 12th March	Physics Paper 1 (1h 15m)		Food, History, Geography	Maths Paper 3 (1h 30m)		PE
Thu 13th March	Sport studies (1h 15m)		Photography, Spanish, HSC, Geog	History Paper 3 (1h 20m)		Maths
Fri 14th March						

Year 11 Intervention

We have a number of Year 11 Intervention sessions that are on during the school day and after school.
Please encourage your child to attend as they really do have a big impact on progress!

Intervention Timetable

	Form time	Lunch time	After school
Monday			
Tuesday	Maths	7+ Maths (SFt)	Maths Higher Chemistry (EGL)
Wednesday	English Maths	5+ Maths (SFt)	English (MO) PE (AT & KHA) Biology (EP) History 7+ (SF)
Thursday			Photography (SB) Art (TM) Physics (NM)
Friday	PP Mentoring	Art (TM)	Spanish (KH) Geography (LW) Maths Foundation



Year 11 Leaver's Hoodies

Year 11 Leader's Hoodies are available to buy now!

https://smartuniform.co.uk/product/kidsgrove-academy-leavers-hoodies/

Kidsgrove Secondary

Leavers Hoodies 2025

Standard Standard Extra Personalisation



Dear Customer, smart school uniform are delighted to supply your 2025 Leavers Hoodies

Standard Cost of Hoodie is £20 This includes Hoodie + school logo + Back Print in white
Extra Personalisation add £3, name embroidered on the righthand side

Details to remember

Opening date for webpage Friday 24th January
Closing date for webpage Friday 21st March
Delivery Date Tuesday 29th April
Collection from School Only

.....

Please select Leavers Hoodie Free delivery from drop down menu on webpage

How to order?

Please visit www.smartuniform.co.uk
Once at website please click on,
Primary Schools, locate your school and click on shop Leavers Hoodies

Questions and queries

All enquiries & questions must be directed to:
shop@smartuniform.co.uk

Samples will be available at the school to try on for size
Please do not guess as incorrect size ordered will not be refunded

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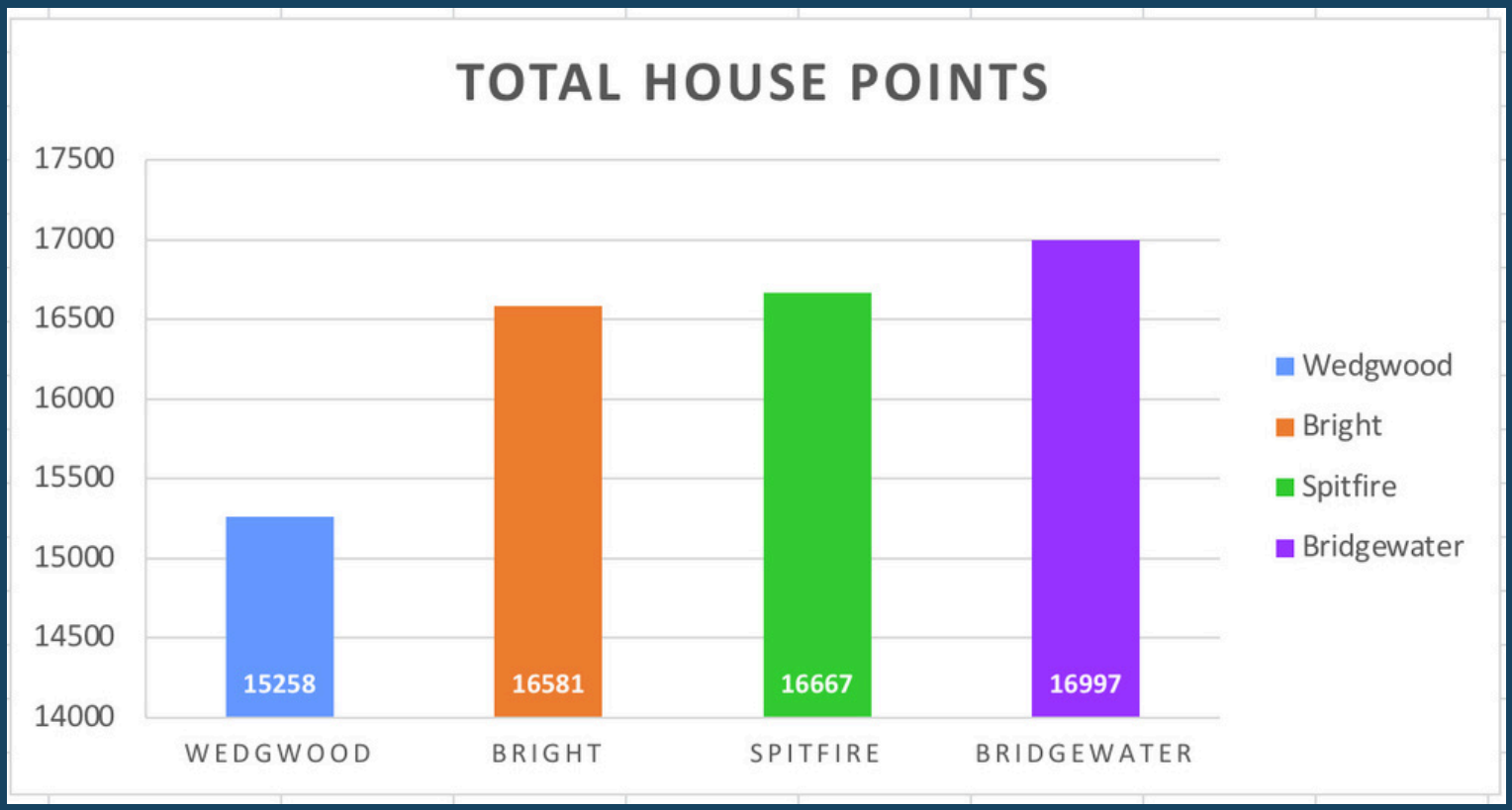
House Points

Lots of achievement points are being received by students at the moment especially from using the reading room and borrowing books.

This week, the house topping the charts is....

BRIDGEWATER



Well done to all the students in Bridgewater! Keep up the hard work!



SUPPORT

At KSS our students come first and to enable them to be the best version of themselves, we offer a wide range of support!
From a bagel as they enter the building, to providing equipment and mental health support.

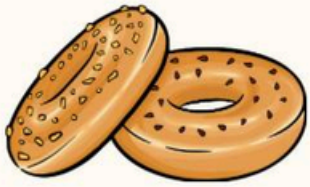
KIDSGROVE SECONDARY SCHOOL

Support at KSS

"If you do enough small things right,
Big things can happen!



Uniform bank



Breakfast bagels



Equipment shop



Free sanitary products



Mental health support







Attendance


KIDSGROVE
SECONDARY SCHOOL
IS YOUR CHILD FACING BARRIERS TO SCHOOL ATTENDANCE?
KIDSGROVE SECONDARY CAN HELP!
WE CAN SUPPORT YOU WITH
Breakfast On Arrival
Uniform
Equipment
Transport
School Meals
Shaw Education Trust


Kidsgrove Secondary School
Attendance Matters
#StopTheDrop
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