

HEADTEACHER BULLETIN

Friday 7th of October 2022

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Dear Parents/Carers,

The first half term is almost drawing to a close and it feels that we have made some very positive strides forward in the last five weeks.

We have held a successful open morning and open evening with a large number of our local community visiting the school.

We have had a fantastic 'House' trip to the Emma Bridgewater factory in Stoke-on-Trent, organised by Mrs Hume and a brilliant Enrichment Day and a KS4 careers visit, organised by Mrs Weaver.

There are many more events upcoming, including the Year 7 parents/carers evening, where you will get the chance to meet the Year 7 form tutors through our online parent evening portal.

The KS4 students will be attending Alton Towers 'Scarefest' on Halloween and we are holding an extra special Year 10 and 11 Progress evening on the 8th of November which we would be delighted if you were to attend. We will be visited by a number of colleges and further education providers.

This term we have made a concerted and collective effort to raise the bar at KSS in terms of student engagement and progress in learning. I have been delighted to see students meet that challenge and the 'Core Values' are making an impact on this. Every day I visit lessons to see students engaged in their learning, asking questions and developing their understanding of the lesson question. The digital skills lessons have been a brilliant addition to the curriculum and the use of iPads has developed even further in all subjects.

Mrs Weaver is delivering some very exciting virtual reality lessons in Geography which we will roll out through other curriculum areas in due course.

The prefects and student leadership teams have been very busy supporting with events and welcoming the many visitors we have at the school. As the hub for the Shaw Education Trust, we are able to showcase our wonderful students and school community on a regular basis and I am always proud of the students conduct and impeccable manners. They really are a credit to you and to the school.

Finally, an advance notice for your diaries that the school will be closed to students on Friday 21st of October due to staff training, therefore, the final day of the half term for students will be Thursday 20th of October.

Yours faithfully,
Mr S Frost



Upcoming Events:

Year 7 Form Tutor Evening - 19.10.22
Achievement Assemblies - w/c 17.10.22
School Closed to Students - 21.10.22
Year 10 and 11 Reward Trip - 31.10.22
KS4 Progress Evening - 8.11.22

Parent/Carer Forum

A message from Mrs Postlethwaite.

A thank you to the parents/carers that attended the first Safeguarding event on the 5.10.22. It was great to meet you and thank you to Mr Butler, our Safeguarding governor who was also in attendance.

The poster features a large green checkmark in the center. To the left of the checkmark, the text reads: **KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE**. Below this, a list of topics is shown:

- WHAT ARE THE RISKS?
- WHAT ARE THE SIGNS?
- WHAT CAN WE DO?

 The Kids Grove Secondary School crest is on the left. On the right, a circular inset shows students working on computers. At the bottom left, a calendar icon indicates the date: **WED 5TH OCT**, and a clock icon indicates the time: **5:00 PM**. A **JOIN US** button is at the bottom right. The Shaw Education Trust logo is at the top right.

We will be launching a parent/carers forum in the next half term where we will meet together to focus upon every aspect of life at KSS. These meetings will alternate between looking at attendance, behaviour & safety, teaching & learning, reading and safeguarding. It will also be an opportunity to meet members of the Senior Leadership Team. Further details will follow in due course.



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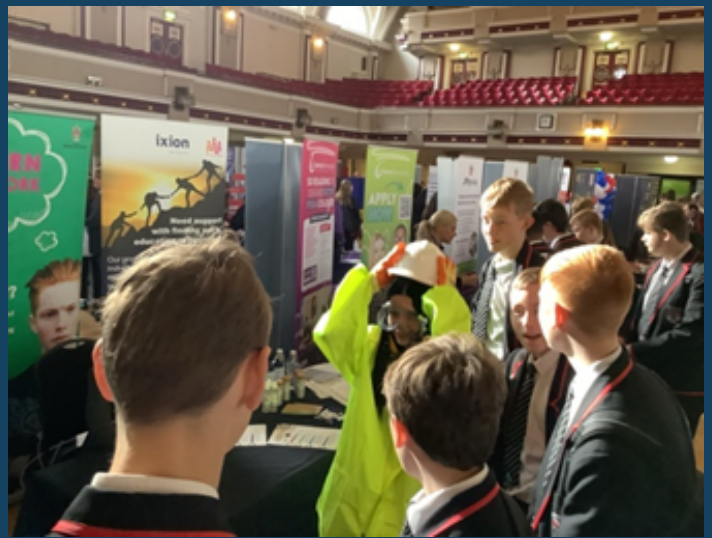


Personal Development

A message from Mrs Weaver.

Aspirations Summit.

As part of their planning for their future, our Y10s and Y11s visited the Aspirations Summit at the Kings Hall in Stoke. This event enabled them to meet apprenticeship providers, colleges, university providers and local employers. The students engaged brilliantly with the event. It was brilliant to see them approaching and engaging with exhibitors and there were some great conversations and ideas coming out of the day.... Not to mention all the freebies they got! We are so proud of how they conducted themselves and how they interacted with the opportunity! Well done!



Personal Development

A message from Mrs Weaver.

Persimmon Homes 'A Place to Live' Workshop

A group of Y10 and Y11 students took part in the 'A Place to Live' workshop. The students worked in teams and had to use research about locations, target audiences and local amenities to choose a suitable site for a housing development. Once they had bid for these, they had to set about choosing which homes were needed and which additions they wanted whilst being mindful of their budget and ensuring they made a profit. The workshop finished with them pitching their housing development. The workshop enabled students to experience the process used when creating a housing development and got them showcasing transferable skills and our LORIC values. Well done!



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Enrichment Day

A message from Mrs Weaver.

The enrichment day was held yesterday with a host of visitors coming into school to deliver sessions to our students about a range of topics and issues.

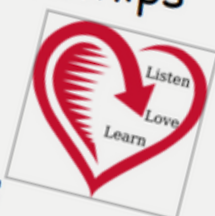
The areas discussed ranged from learning about college applications, mindfulness, knife crime, CPR, the National College Service and mental health awareness.

The students engaged brilliantly and many of our Core Values were being met through the sessions under the Personal Development themes indicated below.

Over the next few pages you will find images from the day.

	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5
7KH	The Cube K. Castrey Gym	A Career using Art T. Mason Rm 10	A Career using Art T. Mason Rm 10	A Career using Art T. Mason Rm 10	A Career using Art T. Mason Rm 10
7HM	A Career using Art T. Mason Rm 10	Self confidence Sarah Frost Rm 12	Mindfulness K. Hud Rm 6	Managing Anxiety L. Weaver Rm 9	Managing Anxiety L. Weaver Rm 9
8MH	First Aid A. Till Fitness Suite	First Aid A. Till Fitness Suite	Keeping Safe External / Steve Frost Hall	The Cube K. Castrey Gym	Mindfulness A. Till Rm 12
8LH	Self confidence Sarah Frost Rm 12	Self Harm V. Unwin / K. Hud Rm 22	Keeping Safe External / L. Weaver Hall	Organisation (Paper Airplanes) V. Unwin Rm 22	Mindfulness A. Till Rm 12
9MO	Self Harm E. Postlethwaite Rm 18	Self Harm E. Postlethwaite Rm 18	Keeping Safe External / L. Weaver Hall	Organisation (Paper Airplanes) V. Unwin Rm 22	Organisation (Paper Airplanes) V. Unwin Rm 22
9VU	Organisation (Paper Airplanes) V. Unwin / K. Hud Rm 22	Creating a personal brand S. Morrell Rm 15	Creating a personal brand S. Morrell Rm 15	Organisation (Paper Airplanes) V. Unwin Rm 22	Organisation (Paper Airplanes) V. Unwin Rm 22
10SM	Debating NCS / M. Old Rm 3	Debating NCS / M. Old Rm 3	Debating NCS / W. Baldwin Rm 3	Debating NCS / W. Baldwin Rm 3	Debating NCS / W. Baldwin Rm 3
10WB	Choosing the right career H. McDermott Rm 11	Communication workshop B. Goode / N. Ma Hall	Choosing the right career H. McDermott Rm 11	Communication workshop B. Goode / N. Ma Hall	Choosing the right career H. McDermott Rm 11
11KC	Applying for the future J. Knight / W. Baldwin Rm 2	Applying for the future J. Knight / W. Baldwin Rm 2	Applying for the future J. Knight / W. Baldwin Rm 2	Applying for the future J. Knight / W. Baldwin Rm 2	Applying for the future J. Knight / W. Baldwin Rm 2
11NM	Communication workshop B. Goode / N. Ma Hall	Communication workshop B. Goode / N. Ma Hall	Communication workshop B. Goode / N. Ma Hall	Communication workshop B. Goode / N. Ma Hall	Communication workshop B. Goode / N. Ma Hall

Relationships



Careers information and guidance



Health and Wellbeing



Citizenship



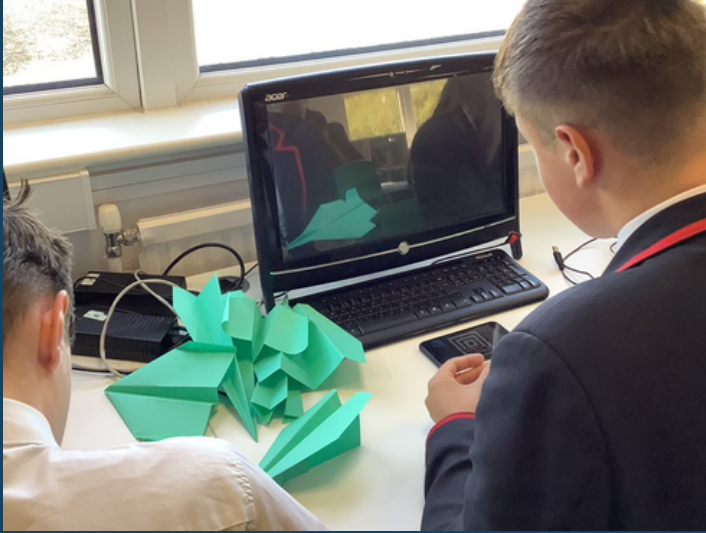
Financial capability



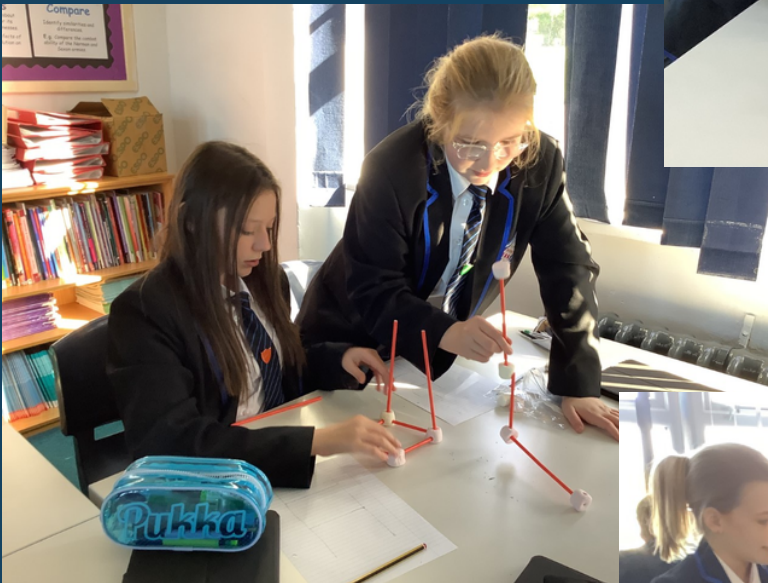
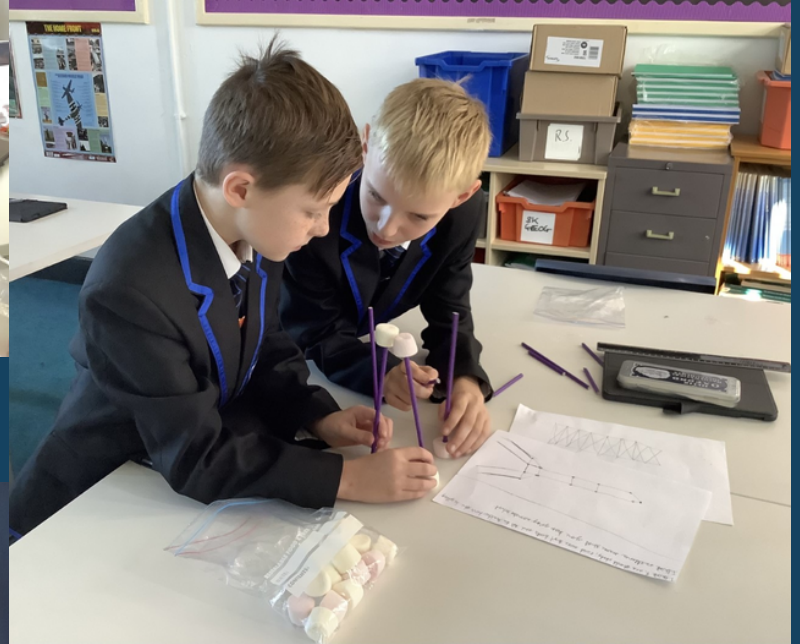
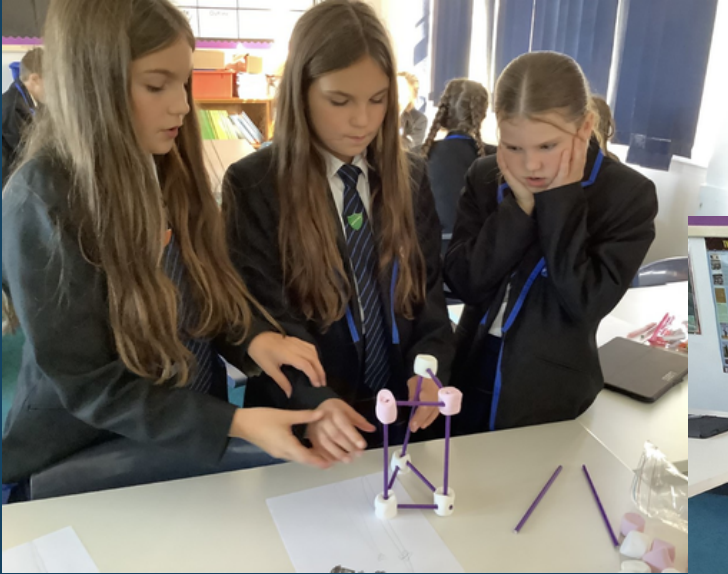
Enrichment Day



Enrichment Day



Enrichment Day



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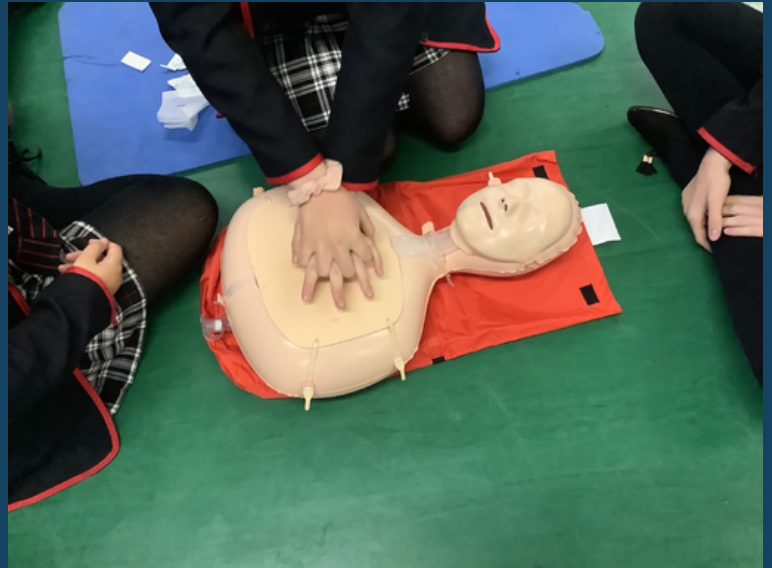


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Enrichment Day



Enrichment Day

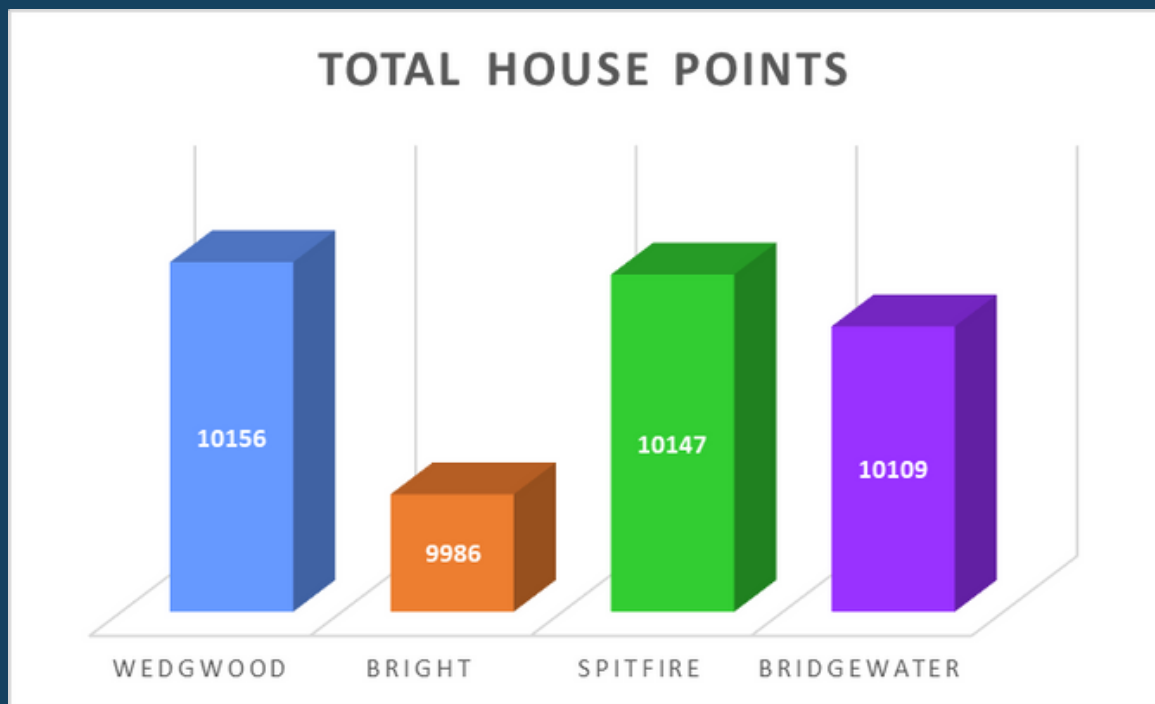
Well done to everyone who took part in 'The Cube'.

The House that beat 'The Cube' and gained the most amount of points is.... Wedgwood!!

The standings from today are below.

Wedgwood- 3775 points
Bridgewater - 3550 points
Spitfire- 3375 points
Bright- 2925 points

These points have been added to the House totals and the points so far are as follows...



Black History Month

A message from Mrs Weaver.

To celebrate Black History Month, students will be delivering assemblies and subject teachers will be discussing influential Black people that have helped to shape the subject that they teach.

We are looking forward to celebrating the impact of Black History on our lives and learning. We have even created a challenge for students:

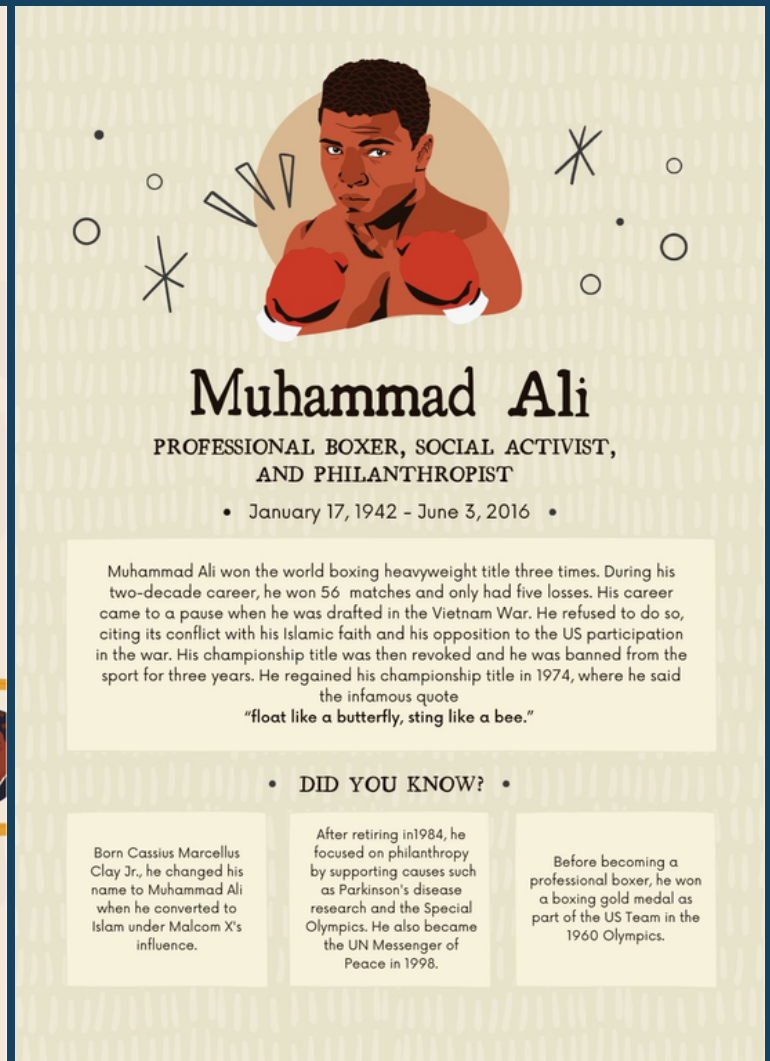


GALLERY OF HEROES

BLACK HISTORY MONTH EXHIBITION

We would like you to design a poster of an influential role model that celebrates Black History Month. This needs to be in your favourite school subject area.

- Choose a subject area in school
- Research a role model
- Design a poster to go onto the screens in school and our Facebook page.
- Email it to Mrs Castrey by Friday 14th October!



Muhammad Ali
PROFESSIONAL BOXER, SOCIAL ACTIVIST,
AND PHILANTHROPIST

• January 17, 1942 - June 3, 2016 •

Muhammad Ali won the world boxing heavyweight title three times. During his two-decade career, he won 56 matches and only had five losses. His career came to a pause when he was drafted in the Vietnam War. He refused to do so, citing its conflict with his Islamic faith and his opposition to the US participation in the war. His championship title was then revoked and he was banned from the sport for three years. He regained his championship title in 1974, where he said the infamous quote "float like a butterfly, sting like a bee."

• DID YOU KNOW? •

Born Cassius Marcellus Clay Jr., he changed his name to Muhammad Ali when he converted to Islam under Malcolm X's influence.

After retiring in 1984, he focused on philanthropy by supporting causes such as Parkinson's disease research and the Special Olympics. He also became the UN Messenger of Peace in 1998.

Before becoming a professional boxer, he won a boxing gold medal as part of the US Team in the 1960 Olympics.



Open Day Event

A message from Mrs Castrey.

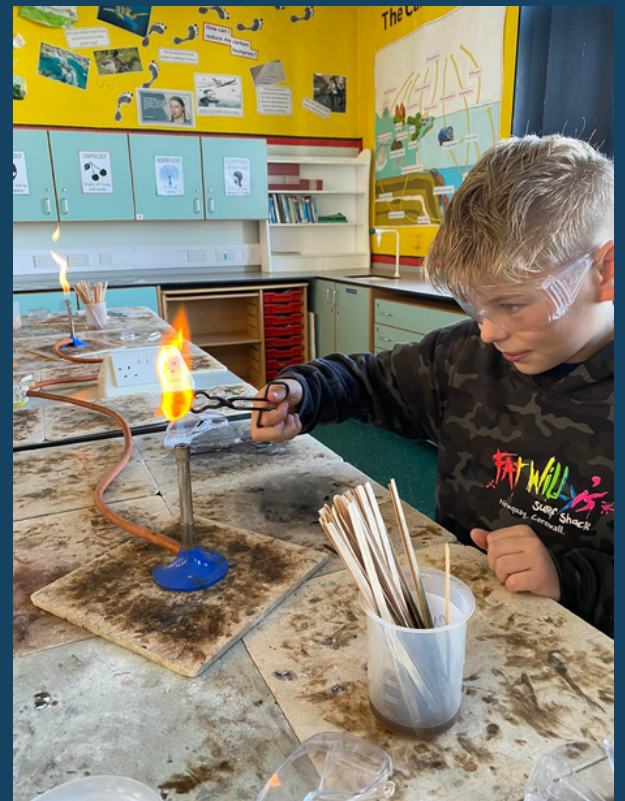
Below are images of the fantastic open morning event that was held on the 1.10.22. It was fantastic to see so many current and prospective students in attendance with their families.

The staff and students provided some great showcases of the learning activities that take place at KSS, such as digital skills, a Maths disco and experiments in Science. We also had visits from the Fire Service, the Army and the YMCA.

A big thank you to all that helped out and gave up their Saturday mornings to visit, help out or support in any way.



Open Day Event



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Open Day Event




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Reading


A message from Mr Baldwin.

Reading is a key skill that is imperative to the success of students in their learning. I am leading the reading strategy and we have already been busy testing the students to understand their reading ages. We have been reading texts in form time each week and we have also been supporting individual students through small group reading intervention. We are passionate about the impact of reading on student learning and progress across a number of curriculum areas and we will be circulating a 'Reading Newsletter' every few weeks,



Reading Recommendations

October 2022




The Agathas
KATHERINE GUSSOW & LIZ JACKSON

Welcome to Castle Cove — a town cursed with missing girls, bad boyfriends, family secrets, and some very steep cliffs.


Last summer, Alice Ogilvie's basketball-star boyfriend, Steve, dumped her. Then she disappeared for five days. Where she went and what happened to her is the biggest mystery in Castle Cove. Or at least it was. Because now, another one of Steve's girlfriends has vanished: Brooke Donovan, Alice's ex-best friend. And it doesn't look like Brooke will be coming back.

Enter Iris Adams, Alice's tutor. Iris has her own reasons for wanting to disappear, though unlike Alice, she doesn't have the money or the means. That could be changed by the hefty reward Brooke's family is offering. The police are convinced Steve is the culprit, but Alice isn't so sure, and with Iris on her side, she just might be able to prove her theory.

Luckily, Alice has exactly what they need to crack the case — the complete works of Agatha Christie. If



The Agathas
Growing up
Murder Mystery



Revolver
Thriller
Historical
Adventure

Razor-sharp, psychological thriller set in a snowy Arctic wilderness.


"They say that dead men tell no tales, but they're wrong. Even the dead tell stories."

It's 1910. In a cabin north of the Arctic Circle, in a place murderously cold and desolate, Sig Andersson is alone. Except for the corpse of his father, frozen to death that morning when he fell through the ice on the lake.

The cabin is silent, so silent, and then there's a knock at the door. It's a stranger, and as his extraordinary story of gold dust and gold just unfolds, Sig's thoughts turn more and more to his father's prized possession, a Colt revolver, hidden in the storeroom.


A revolver just waiting to be used...but should Sig use it, or not?

Our summaries are taken from the Goodreads website
<https://www.goodreads.com/>



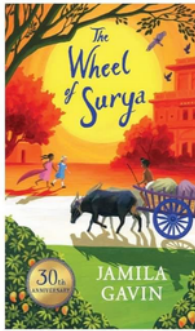
Reading Recommendations

Welcome to our termly reading newsletter. Each term, we will recommend books from a range of genres and styles. What we would like the most though, is for you to be involved. Please send across your recommendations for next term's newsletter to William.Baldwin@kss.set.org



The Wheel of Surya
Historical
Action
Prejudice

A brother and sister's epic journey to independence spans India and England in war and peace.



The Wheel of Surya
JAMILA GAVIN

their burnt-out village as under and Jaspal are...
Marvinder has already...
low they both face a daily

and nearly halfway
id a father they hardly

uardian Children's Fiction

"Packed with action"

entive story with so many twists and turns. There
he really strong characters, who you cannot but
ring about."



Reading Recommendations

October 2022



JASMINE RICHARDS
THE UNMORROW CURSE

Two friends awaken a world of myth and magic in this epic middle grade fantasy perfect for fans of Rick Riordan.

It's not every day that you find a famous weather woman bound by magic to a tree deep in the woods. Or discover that the weatherwoman is in fact Sunna, the Norse Goddess of the Sun, and one of the seven day guardians who keep time in order. But that's just what happens to new friends Buzz and Mari—and it's only the start of their adventure.

Now, as humanity is forced into a lockdown called the Unmorrow Curse and is forced to repeat the same Saturday over and over again, Buzz and Mari must journey to collect the Runes of Valhalla and awaken the other day guardians, before vengeful god Loki can get to them first.



The Unmorrow Curse
Myths
Quest
Adventure



We love hearing about books you have read so let us know what book you think everyone should read!



A student who reads is a student who succeeds.



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Science

A message from Ms Baker.

In Science, 7K have been testing their measuring and getting weights correct in science with Dr Ma. They were using an unknown chemical which they found out was salt, but allowing them to not know, helped the students understand the respect that you should have for unknown chemicals in a laboratory.



Bridgewater House

A message from Ms Hume.

I was delighted to lead a visit to the Emma Bridgewater factory with a group of students this week. They had a great time creating their own plates and also toured the factory and got an understanding how the ware is produced. A great morning for all.



Digital Skills



**Community
Learning Service**

Learn, evolve, achieve, progress



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Trust**



**Institute of
Education**

Grow. Contribute. Flourish.



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County Council**

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Essential Digital Skills Qualifications:

Learn using the Computer, Laptop, Tablet or Mobile Smart Phone



Kidsgrove Secondary School

Friday 16th September 2022 – Friday 21st October 2022
(6 Week Course)

Please call/message or email to book an appointment

Any Questions please email
acl.ict@staffordshire.gov.uk

or
Call/WhatsApp or message
on

07875 767 283

Free
for those on Benefits
and looking for Work

the knot unites



Transforming lives and communities
through lifelong learning'



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