

# HEADTEACHER BULLETIN

Friday 21st of October 2022

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Dear Parents/Carers,

The half term break is upon us and what a remarkable seven weeks it has been. The students have been absolutely fantastic with a record number of students being invited to the Headteacher reward lunch and an incredible amount of achievement points being issued.

The average number of points issued to each student has hit 107, which is remarkable and a vast improvement on this time last year, which signifies the higher standards and raising of the bar that we have led.

During the final week of the half term we have held year group achievement assemblies, where students were recognised for their outstanding efforts for attendance and subject performance. Well done to all students that achieved a certificate and a subject badge. You should be very proud.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Year 7 parents/carers who attended the virtual form tutor event on Wednesday the 19th of October. It was great to for you to meet your child's form tutor and to receive an update on how well your child is settling in and progressing after their first seven weeks at secondary school.

This term we have also trialed a new progress report that all year groups will receive after each assessment point in school. The year 7 progress reports were the first of these to be circulated, as we took on board feedback from the parent/carers survey completed in the summer. We hope that all parents/carers will feel better informed regarding their child's progress and attitude to learning. Please look out for a Facebook post regarding this.

On Thursday the 20th of October, it was fantastic to see members of our community attend our Macmillan coffee morning.

We also ended the day with a brilliant house competition organised by Mrs Castrey. This was themed around 'Organisation', one of our Core Values. The students took part in a paper aeroplane challenge that tested their organisation and initiative skills. There are some photographs enclosed within this bulletin.

Finally, when we return after the half term break we have many activities taking place as we continue to deliver remarkable and enriching experiences for our students. We have educational visits and trips planned along with opportunities for students to represent the school in sporting events.

The school is holding a Year 11 progress evening and the mock examinations will be taking place at the end of November. The school has funded revision guides in science for all students and we will be providing a revision 'goody' bag for all that attend the progress event on the 8th of November.

There will be a Year 9 reward event taking place to Stanley Head and a whole school reward trip planned for the end of term with the main criteria being good attendance.

Mrs Weaver is planning our second 'Enrichment Day', which are always so brilliantly planned and delivered at KSS.

We will also hold a Digital E-Sports event, coordinated by our digital champions and I am excited to see what the student leadership team have up their sleeves as we head towards Christmas.

From everybody here at KSS, we wish you all a restful half term and we will see all students for their return on 31.10.22.

Yours faithfully,  
Mr S Frost



## Upcoming Events:

All students return to school - 31.10.22

Year 11 Reward Trip - 31.10.22

Animal Magic Event - 2.11.22

GCSE Spanish Trip - 7.11.22

Year 11 Progress Evening - 8.11.22

Year 11 Mock Examinations Begin - 28.11.22

Year 9 Reward Trip - 29.11.22

# Headteacher Reward Lunch

A huge well done to all of the students that were invited to the Headteacher reward lunch on 18.10.22. This was a thank you from the school to the students that have shown an excellent attitude to learning and for demonstrating the core values on a consistent basis, both in and out of lessons.



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# Core Values

The 'Core Values' are our driving force at KSS, supported by the 'Code of Conduct'. This academic year we have linked the achievement points and house events to the core values. In the first half term, the focus was the vital core value of 'Organisation'. This was especially important for the Year 7 students who were settling into life at the school and for other year groups, as we raised the bar in terms of uniform expectations and students carrying equipment from lesson to lesson.

The next half terms focus will be 'Resilience'. This coincides with historically the worst attended half term for schools, as once the clocks go back, it can become even more difficult to get up in the morning. We would like to buck this trend and as a result the whole school reward trip focus will be on attendance to school, and we are setting the bar at 96% for the period between 31.10.22 and 8.12.22.

We hope that students will rise to meet this challenge.



# Teaching and Learning

A message from Mrs Weaver...

Quality first teaching and learning sits at the heart of everything we do here at KSS!

This first half term back, we have certainly hit the ground running.

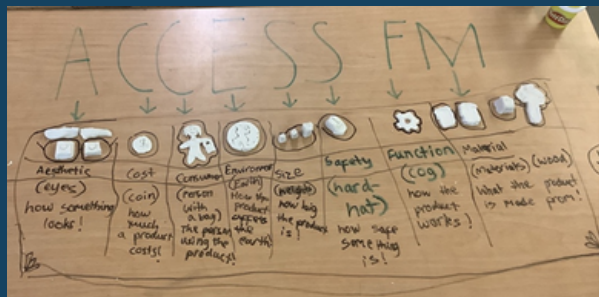
All of our lessons follow our '5 Learning Steps' plan. This certainly doesn't restrict creativity but is used as a foundation to create outstanding learning experiences!

Our use of 'big questions' instead of lesson titles, and a 'master' outcome encourages students to explore content prompting a deeper thinking and questioning.

Staff CPD this half term has focused on sharing good practice of a plethora of active learning strategies, questioning techniques to ensure all students are engaged and adaptive teaching methods to support all students to thrive.

We have also run three 'sprints' that feed into our teaching and learning. The focus of these have been adaptive teaching, the use of iPads to enhance learning and the development of a new behaviour reporting system.

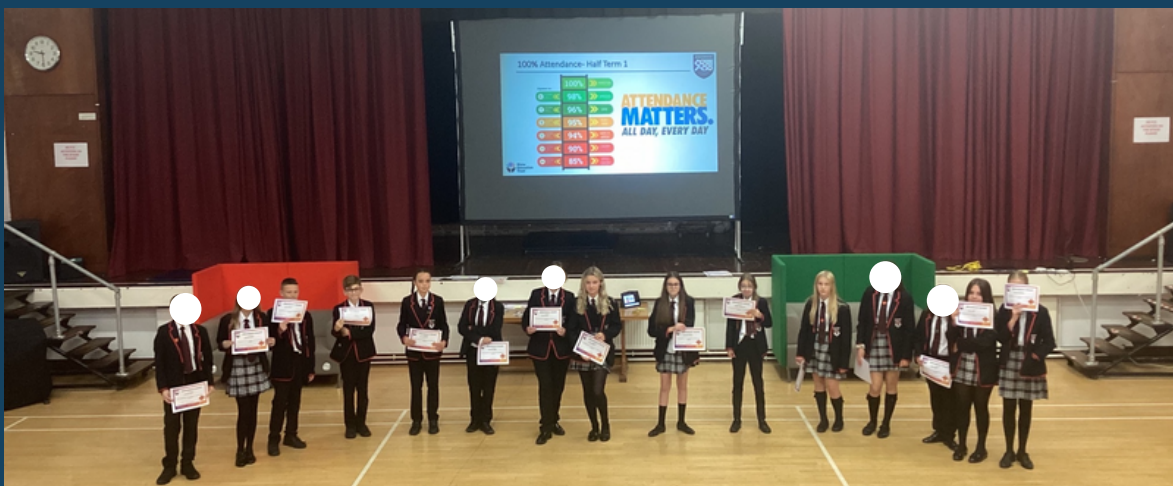
Active learning is a key aspect of our lessons. This isn't referring to activities that get students up and moving around (although we do that too), but the ones that require all students to think. We are fortunate enough to know our students well and can ensure that the lessons we deliver will get the best out of them!



# Half Term One

A message from Mrs Postlethwaite...

I can't believe that the first half term is almost over. My first 7 weeks at KSS have flown in some ways, but in others it feels like I've been part of this school community forever. I have been blown away by the behaviour and attitudes of the vast majority of students and have enjoyed building new relationships and getting to know everyone. This week we celebrated the success of our learners in a series of achievement assemblies and a reward lunch and it was wonderful to celebrate with students. What stuck out for me is the immense sense of pride and support the students have shown each other, and the amazing manners and maturity of students, making us all #ProudToBeKSS.



# Celebration Assemblies



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# Youtube

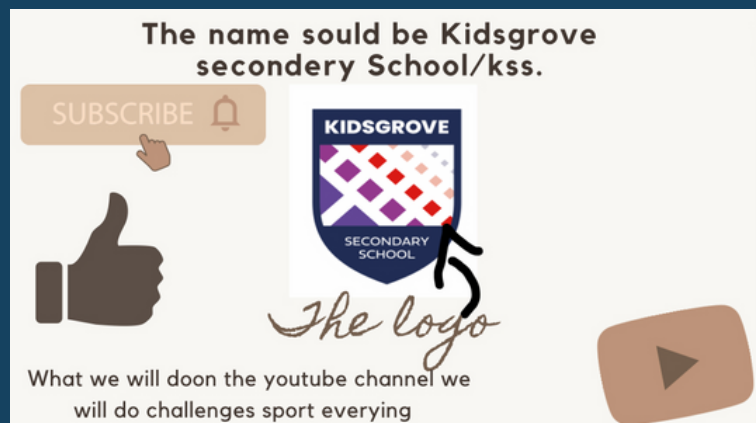
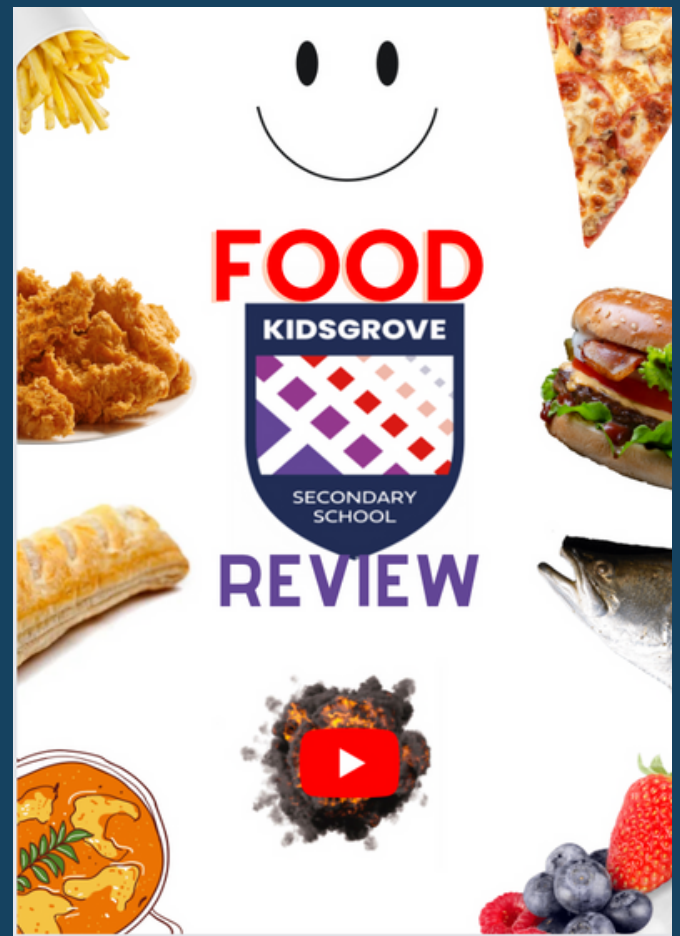


The students in Year 7 have been working on a project to create a KSS 'YouTube' channel that will be launched in 2023.

During digital skills lessons, students have been generating ideas such as a logo, content ideas, target audiences and how to engage all stakeholders. We have been extremely impressed with the creativity shown.

The digital student champions will be taking these initial ideas and creating the channel themselves.

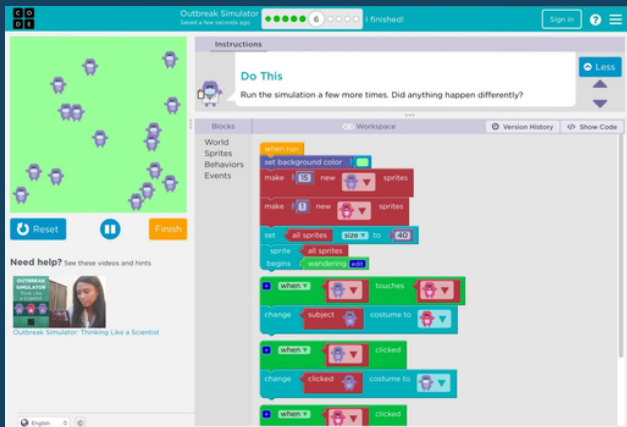
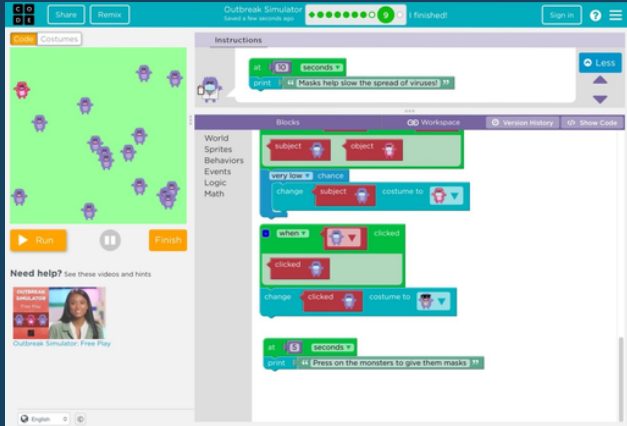
We will share with you updates as they come but please see below for some of the students work so far...



# Computing

A message from Mrs Morrell...

Year 9 have been using their code writing skills to create and run a simulation of a virus outbreak at 'Monster Town'. They have written code to slow the spread of the virus, giving Monster Town's doctors a chance to vaccinate residents. In doing so they have improved their logical thinking skills, collaboration, and resilience. Great work Year 9!



# Year 11 Progress Evening

A message from Mrs Postlethwaite...

We are holding an extra special Y11 progress evening on Tuesday 8th November 2022. This will be an opportunity to meet with a member of senior staff or your child's form tutor to discuss how they are doing in their subjects. You will also receive information about the upcoming mock examinations, and all students will receive a goodie bag on the night which will contain information and resources to help them with their revision. Colleges and training providers will be in attendance, so please come along and find out how you can best support your child in their final year.



## Safeguarding

A message from Mrs Postlethwaite...

Earlier this month, I presented to parents' information about keeping children safe online. A huge thank you to those parents who attended. These parental sessions will continue throughout the year and are informal sessions designed to share information with parents to ensure we are all working together to keep children safe both in and out of school. The next session in the second part of the Autumn Term will be about Emotional/ Mental health. More details will follow shortly, and all are welcome.



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# Charity Event



A message from Mrs Castrey...

A big thank you to everyone that contributed to the charity cake sale for Dougie Mac. The school raised £140 and it was great to see so many members of the community support the sale. Also, a big thank you to everyone that made cakes. They cakes were delicious!



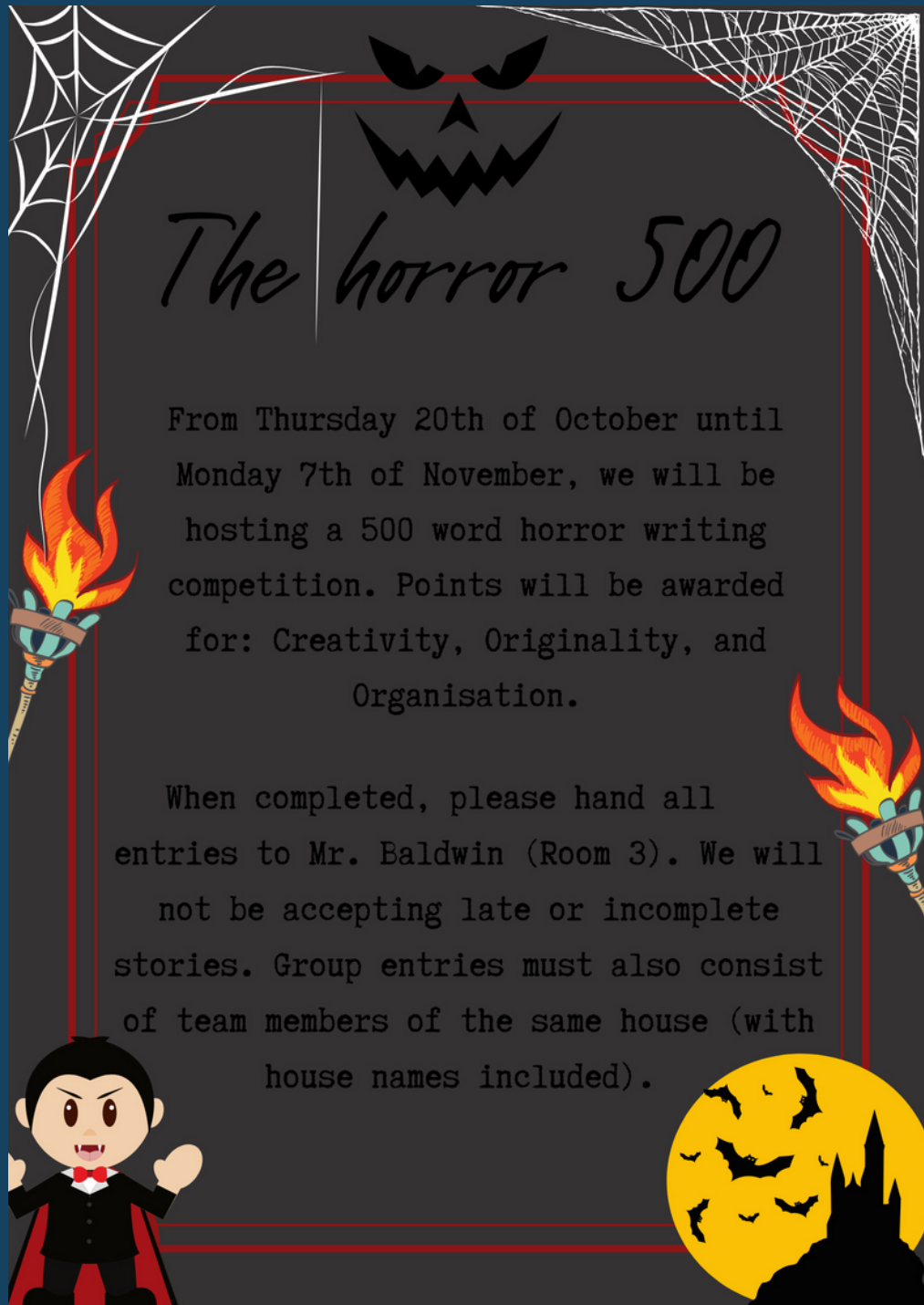
# Creative Writing

A message from Mr Baldwin....

The Horror 500!

Good luck to all students who are taking part in the creative writing challenge that is based around the theme of 'Halloween'.

Let's win as many house points as possible over the next few weeks with your creative ideas, which have blown me away in lessons.



*The horror 500*

From Thursday 20th of October until Monday 7th of November, we will be hosting a 500 word horror writing competition. Points will be awarded for: Creativity, Originality, and Organisation.

When completed, please hand all entries to Mr. Baldwin (Room 3). We will not be accepting late or incomplete stories. Group entries must also consist of team members of the same house (with house names included).



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# Thank you!

Over the past few weeks, the school has hosted lots of events and the student leadership team have been at the forefront of this along with the wonderful staff. As a thank you to those students that gave up their free time (including a Saturday morning), we arranged a pizza delivery as a small token of our appreciation.

Thank you and well-done students.

#ProudToBeKSS



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# Digital E-Sports



The digital champions have started to plan the forthcoming E-Sports event that was such a success last year.

Morgan (Year 7) is leading the team as they utilise the core value of 'Organisation'. We are hoping to hold the school tournament in November, and we will hopefully qualify for the regional finals in 2023.

Watch this space for more updates.

For more information please follow this link @ [digitalschoolhouse.org.uk](https://digitalschoolhouse.org.uk).



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# Reward Trips

A message from Mrs Postlethwaite...

I am really excited about our upcoming Y10/11 reward trip to Alton Towers 'Scarefest' on 31st October. Students have really risen to the challenge and ensured their behaviour points stayed low so that they could get a place on this trip.

In assemblies this week, our Christmas reward trip was shared with students. We have an attendance target and a behaviour target attached to this trip, and all students have been told there is a fresh start from the first day back after half term, so everyone has a chance to be involved. I'm looking forward to seeing students rise to this challenge so we can enjoy a day trip on 8th December.

Year 9 have been given the opportunity to gain a place on an additional reward trip on 28th November to Stanley Head. Again, information about what they need to do to gain a place has been shared with students, and there is a fresh start on the attendance and behaviour figures after half term, so everything to play for!





T H E B I G K S S  
C H R I S T M A S



# BOWLING REWARD TRIP



9TH DECEMBER 2022  
CINEBOWL UTTOXETER



96% ATTENDANCE



+ LEAST BEHAVIOUR POINTS

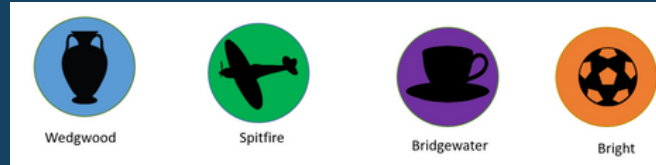
## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

6 days or less  
absence per year  
**97% or above**  
VERY GOOD  
THIS IS YOUR  
TARGET

Between  
7 and 19 days  
absence per year  
90% - 96%  
BELOW  
EXPECTATIONS

More  
than 19 days  
absence per year  
Under 90%  
POOR  
ATTENDANCE

# House Competition



A message from Mrs Castrey...

A big well done to all of the students that took part in the latest House competition. The students were given the task of working in teams to make Paper Planes. House points were given to the first, second and third place teams. There were clearly some very strong designs that would give Boeing or Airbus a run for their money.

**HOUSE COMPETITION**  
Organisation  
Thursday 20th at lunch  
in the hall

*Paper Planes*

Points For:  
Design  
Distance  
Good sportsmanship/  
Team work you dont have to be in teams

Prizes for the first, second and third in each category

Teams have to be in the same houses



#ProudToBeKSS



Over the half term break, the students have been set a challenge.

We are proud to be members of the Kidsgrove Secondary School and we have created a hashtag to represent this.

#proudtobekss

The challenge over the half term break, is to create a logo much like the one created by Amber (Year 10) above, that will be used on our website and other social media platforms.

This will include our new YouTube channel that will be launched in 2023.

The deadline for the submission of these logo's is Thursday the 3rd of November 2022. To enter, students need to email the Headteacher @ [steven.frost@kss.set.org](mailto:steven.frost@kss.set.org) with your completed designs.

Please use the school logo colours as a base design but the rest is up to the students.

The student council led by Cameron will vote for the winning design and Cameron will email all students to announce the winner on the 4.11.22.



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# Student Uniform

A message from Mrs Postlethwaite...

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents for supporting us with our high uniform standards this year so far. We now have a fully stocked uniform bank containing new school shoes in all sizes and a full range of clean uniform items which will be loaned to students if the need arises. Could I please remind parents that black trainers are not suitable for school and leggings are not a suitable replacement for trousers or a skirt. Students will need to change into suitable alternatives from our uniform room if they arrive in school improperly dressed. We know that times are difficult for families at the moment, so if you are struggling with replacing uniform either short-term or longer term and need some support, please speak to a member of staff who will be happy to help with whatever you need.



	Girls	Boys
Blazer & tie		
Trousers/ skirt		





Please see below, details of the extra curricula enrichment opportunities available to students for the remainder of the term. We would like to encourage as many participants as possible. If parents/carers have any questions about the activities, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Activity	Location	Time	Staff Member
<b>MONDAY</b>			
Keyboard Club/Rehearsal Rooms (All years)	Music Room	Lunch – 13.30-13.50	Mrs. Evans
KS3 Computing Club	Room 15	Lunch – 13.30-13.55	Mrs. Morrell
<b>TUESDAY</b>			
Girls Football (Y7, Y8 and Y9)	Meet by the changing rooms	15.05-16.05	Miss Harrison
KS3 Computing Club	Room 15	Lunch – 13.30-13.55	Mrs. Morrell
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>			
Football (Y7 and Y8)	Meet by the changing rooms	15.05-16.05	Mrs. Hilditch
I-media catchup	Room 15	Lunch – 13.30-13.55	Mrs Morrell
Basketball (Y10 and Y11)	The Gym	15.05-16.05	Mr Till
Netball Fixtures	External	After school	Mrs Castrey
Art Intervention (Y10 and Y11)	Room 10	15.05-16.05	Miss Mason
<b>THURSDAY</b>			
Art Club (Y7, Y8 and Y9)	Room 10	15.05-16.05	Miss Mason
I-media catchup	Room 15	Lunch – 13.30-13.55	Mrs Morrell
Netball Practice (All years)	Meet by the changing rooms	15.05-16.05	Mrs. Castrey
Football Fixtures (KS3)	External	After school	Mr Till
<b>FRIDAY</b>			
Chess Club (Y7, Y8 and Y9)	Room 3	Lunch 13.30-14.00	Mr Baldwin
Trampolining (Y10 and Y11)	Hall	15.05-16.05	Mrs. Castrey

