



# HEADTEACHER BULLETIN

Friday 3rd of February 2023

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Dear Parents/Carers,

As we enter February, this is a great opportunity to write to you all to thank you for your support with a recent award that the school has been recognised for.

I am delighted to share that KSS was placed within the top 25% of all secondary schools nationally for its overall attendance figure for the autumn term. This also included being placed in the top 10% of schools within a similar demographic nationally. This is a remarkable achievement and testament to your support as parents & carers, along with the exceptional work of Mrs Hume and the pastoral team at KSS.

On this theme of success, the school has been undertaking a very exciting approach to school improvement that has made significant change over the past year. I will be including within this bulletin examples of these agile sprints and their impact over the course of the next few editions. I am exceptionally proud of the progress that the school has made since September 2021 and I hope that you can also see and feel these improvements yourselves.



As always, we have many exciting activities lined up for the final few weeks of the half term. We have held Year 11 masterclasses this week in English, Maths and Science which have been brilliant. These sessions aimed at grade 7 to 9 target students have been well received by the students. We also have had some superb careers events taking place, thanks to Mrs Weaver and her personal development and careers programme. There is much more to come with this as we hold an enrichment day next week focused on careers and post 16 next steps.

We also have two rewards events taking place over the next few weeks for Years 7 & 8 and Year 9 which the students are excited to attend. It is vital that we continue to reward students for their hard work in meeting our code of conduct and core values.

Finally, the breakfast bagels have been exceptionally well received by students since the launch a few weeks ago and thank you to all of the parents/carers that have reached out to say thank you for this initiative.

Yours faithfully,  
Mr S Frost



## Upcoming Events:

- Tuesday 7th February 2023 - Enrichment Day
- Friday 10th February 2023 - Year 9 Reward Trip
- Wednesday 15th February 2023 - Headteacher Reward Lunch
- Thursday 16th February 2023 - Year 7 & 8 Reward Trip
- Friday 17th February 2023 - End of the Half Term

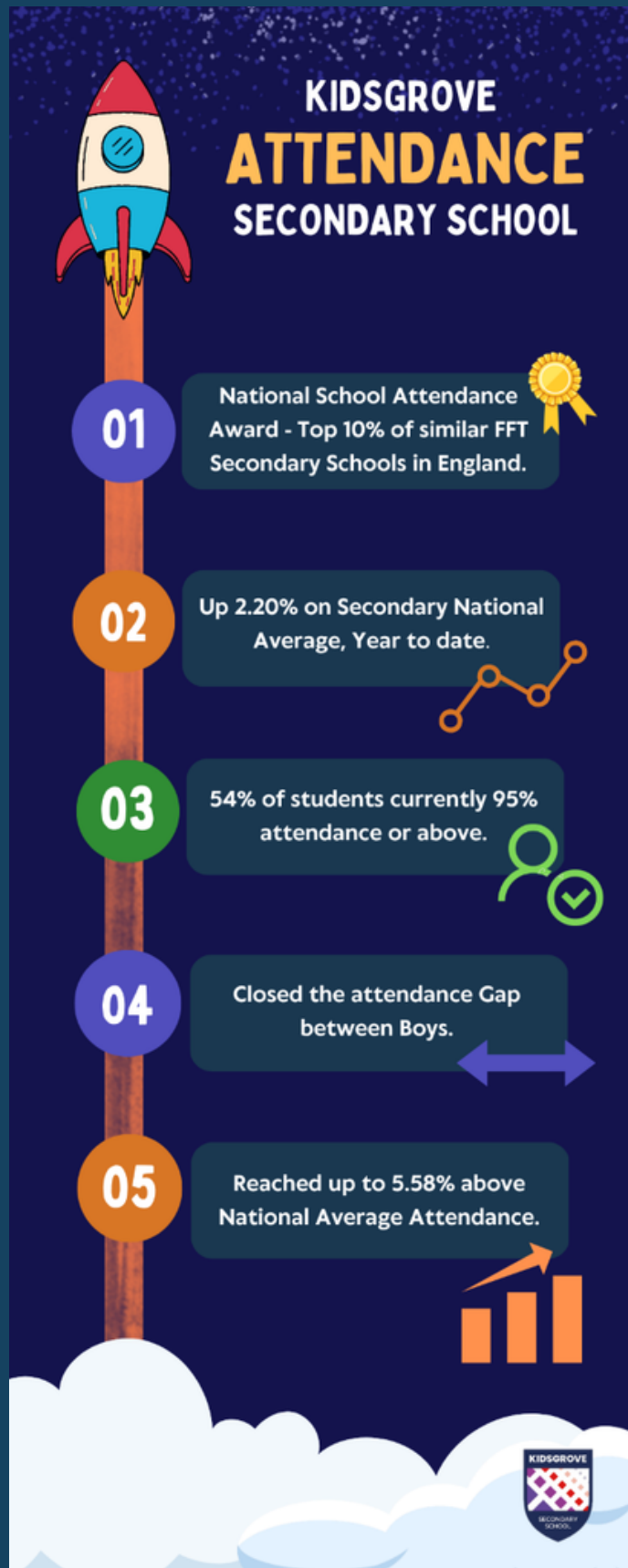


#DigitalByDesign



# KSS Sprints

Since last January, KSS has been utilising an 'agile' approach to school improvement. This approach has brought about significant improvements in key areas of the school. Mr Till has produced some very informative posters to showcase our work. I will be sharing these over the next few bulletins. The first sprint to showcase is around attendance.





# Reading

A message from Mr Baldwin...

All staff at KSS are extremely proud of how well students in KS3 have shown resilience to their new form time programme. The introduction of silent reading every morning has already improved the opportunities to read for pleasure and students have begun to engage in conversations about reading which staff have been impressed to hear.

Each student, in form time alone, would have read approximately 6000 words this week which will enhance their ability to demonstrate the core value of communication – an amazing achievement.

Remember to bring in the books you have read to swap with peers, write a review and to contribute to the termly reading newsletter.

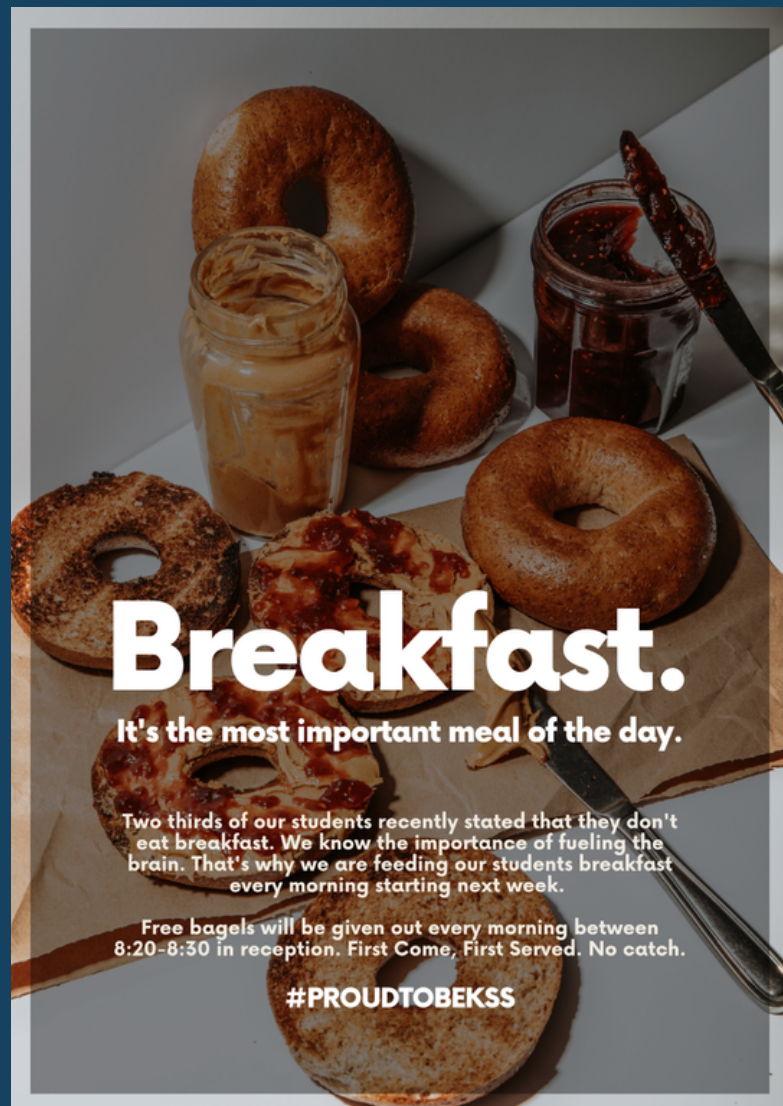


# Breakfast Initiative

A message from Mrs Postlethwaite...

The breakfast bagels have gone down a storm since the launch a few weeks ago.

A reminder that the bagels are free to all students and can be collected by the school hall each morning from 8.20am. It is really important that students eat breakfast to maximise their engagement in learning each day.





# Student Council Meeting

The student council met with myself and Staffordshire travel ambassador, Mr Procter to discuss a range of initiatives. This includes an upcoming anti-idling campaign. The student council will be leading on this over the course of the next few weeks as we try and encourage greener ways to travel to school. It was also fantastic to welcome Kidsgrove Primary School students to the meeting, as we look to tackle some of the issues together as part of our learning campus.



#DigitalByDesign





# Student Council Meeting

Please look out for our new roadside banner located on the school railings.

In the next few weeks you will see a number of students leading our initiative to improve the air quality of our area.

We look forward to your support.



**KIDSGROVE**  
SECONDARY SCHOOL

**PROUD TO BE KSS**

**KIDSGROVE**  
SECONDARY SCHOOL

Shaw Education Trust

Turn it off. Save Money.  
Spare the air.

**DON'T IDLE.**

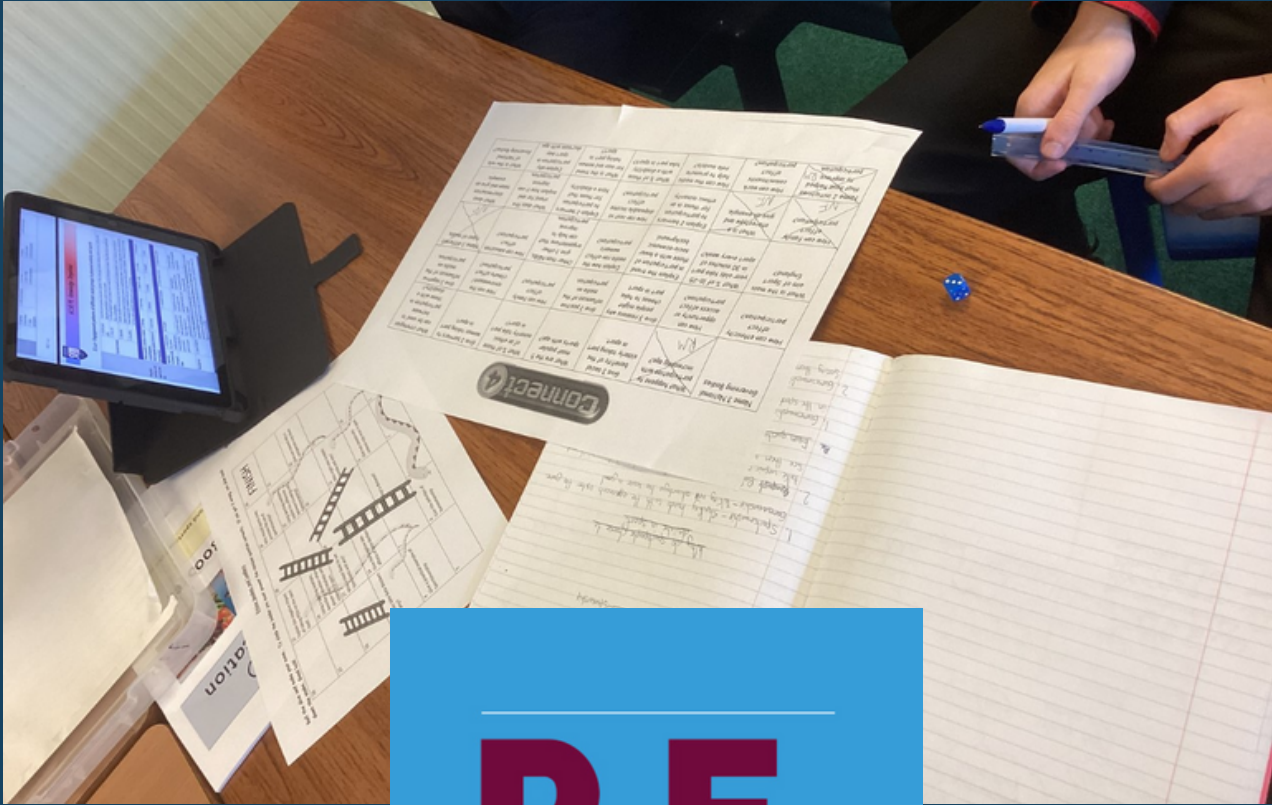


# GCSE PE

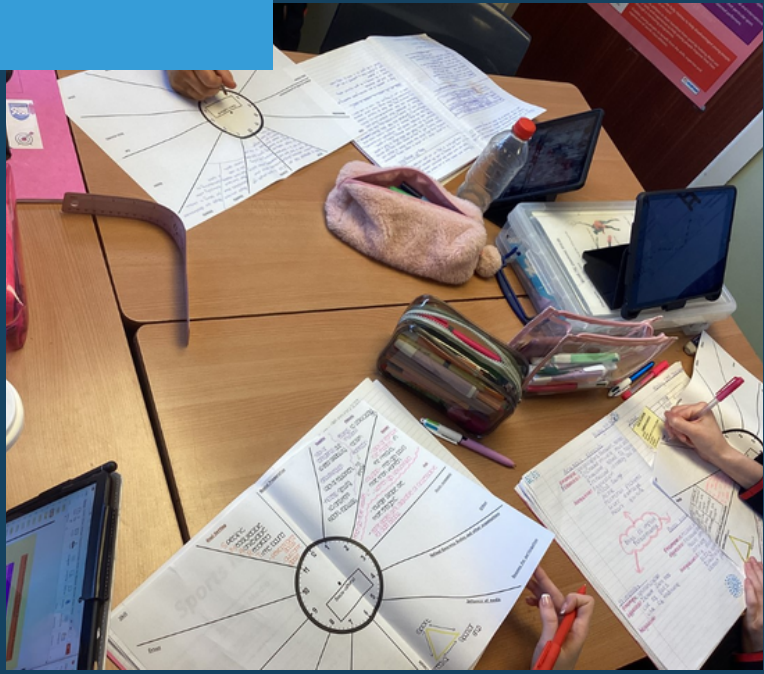
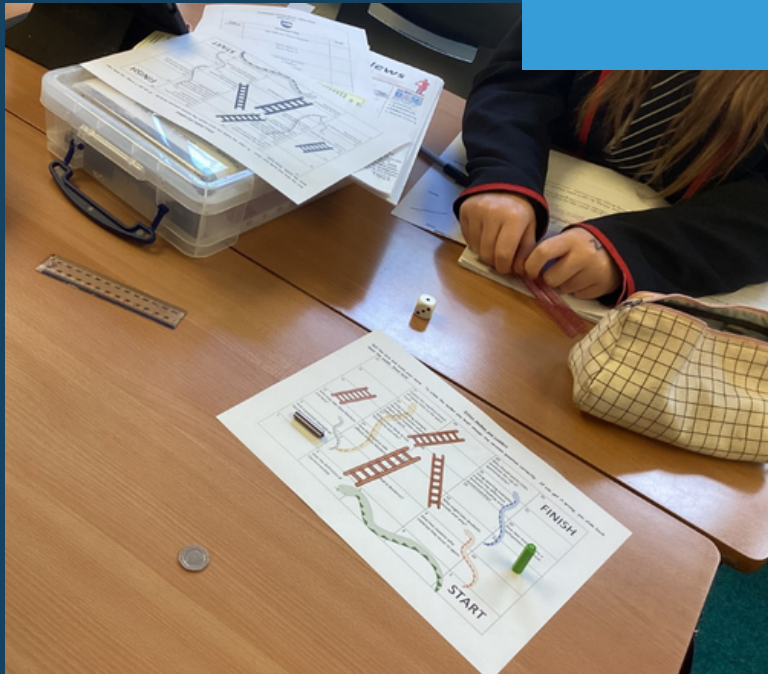
A message from Mrs Castrey...

Year 11 were using a variety of different revision strategies to consolidate their knowledge of paper two topics. They chose which revision activity would be best suited to their learning style and quizzed each other on the topics learned so far.

Keep up the hard work Year 11!



**P.E.**  
GCSE





# Football

The Year 10 football team were able to try out their new kits in training last week. In the autumn term the team and myself designed the kits on the iPads through a kit builder website. We are delighted with the outcome. The goalkeeper kit is our favourite, with its pink design.

We will make our debuts in the kit as we play competitive matches after Easter and lets hope that the performances match how great the boys will look, as they wear the KSS badge with pride.



Y9  
**REWARD  
TRIP**



Friday 10th February

To qualify you need....

- 90% attendance
- Fewer than 4 behaviour points

Between 18th January  
and 9th February.

**KEEP  
WORKING  
HARD TO  
GAIN ENTRY**

# REWARD TRIPS



**PROUD TO  
BE  
KSS**



Y7 AND Y8

# REWARD TRIP



**THURSDAY  
16TH  
FEBRUARY**

Criteria:

- 90% Attendance
  - Fewer than 4 behaviour points
- Between 18th January and 15th February

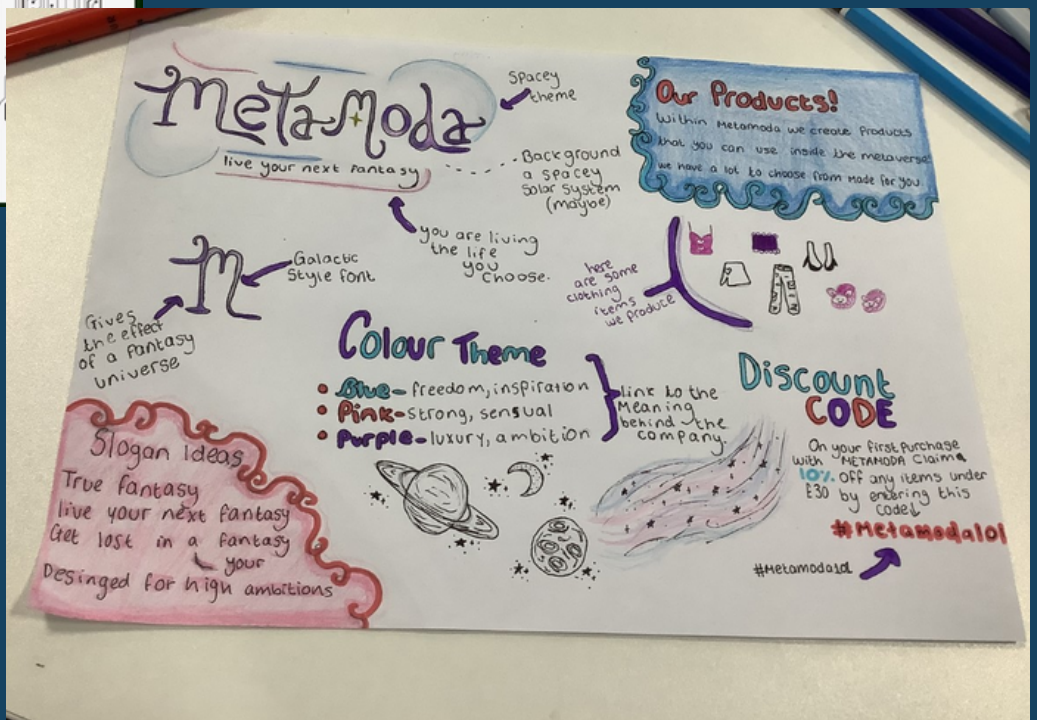
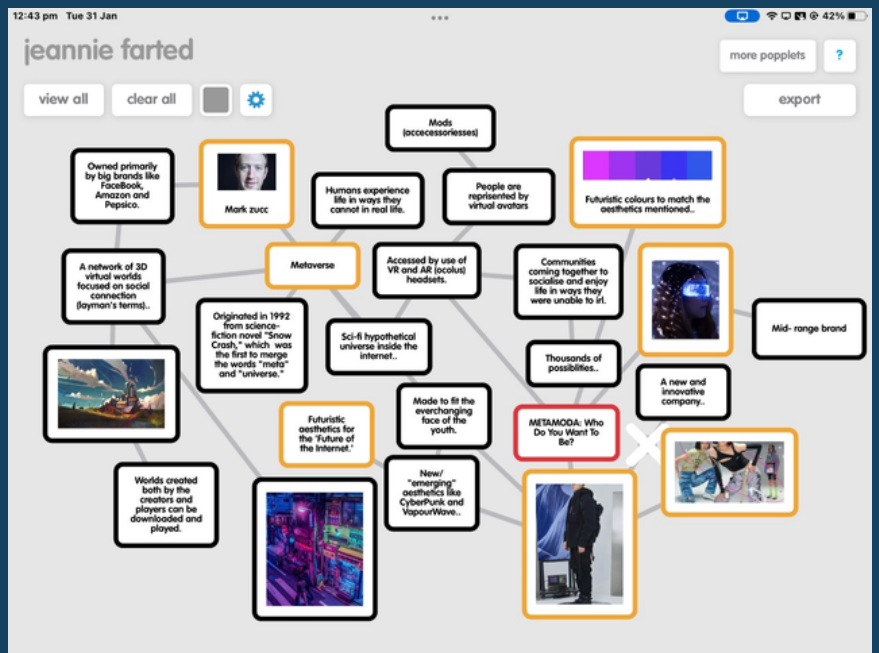




# iMedia

A message from Mrs Morrell...

Year 10 iMedia have recently started their coursework, the students have been asked to create a brand identity for a company called Metamoda. Metamoda operates in the Metaverse. The Metaverse is a digital environment that makes use of both augmented and virtual reality to connect and communicate. Y10 have made mind maps, mood boards and concept sketch's to bring their ideas to life - great work!



# Year 11 Mentoring

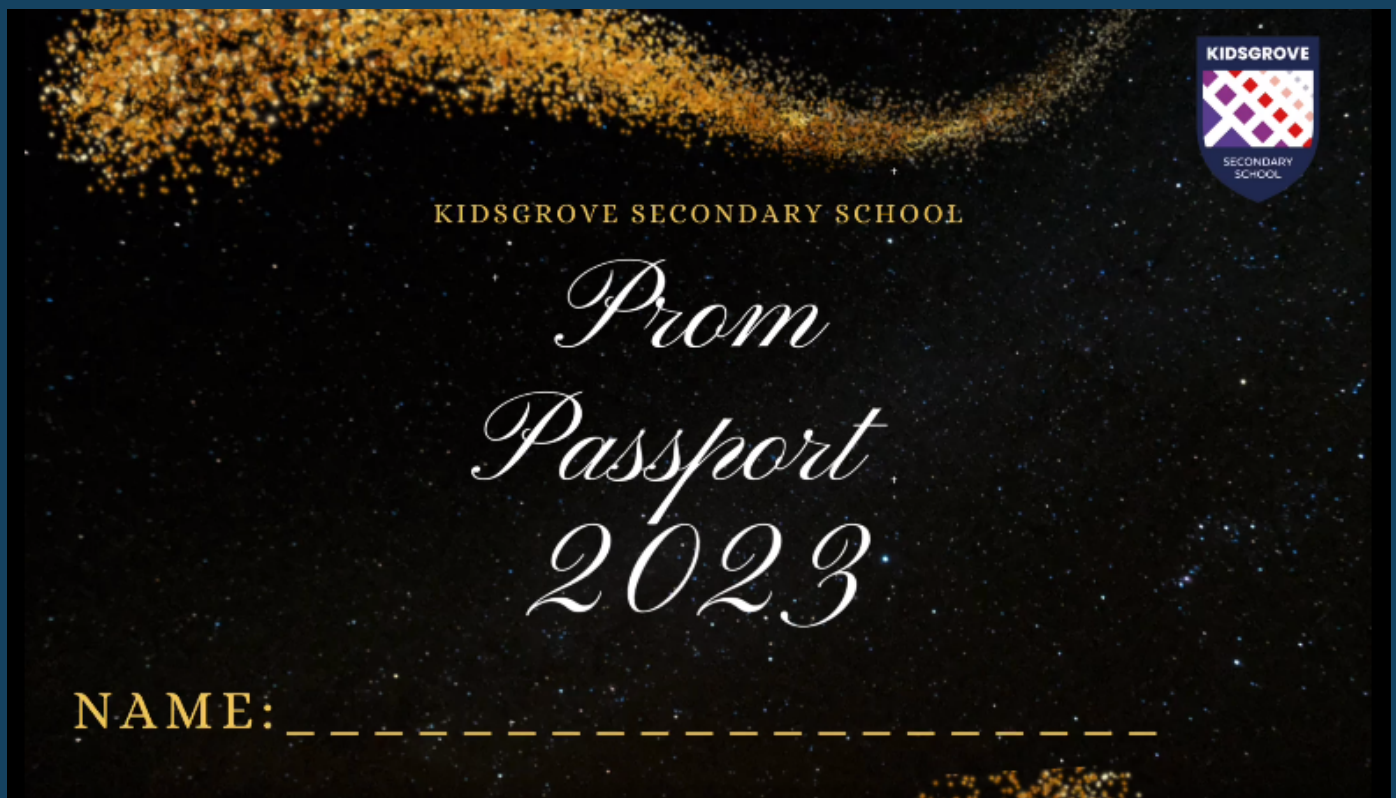
This week I have written to Year 11 parents regarding assertive mentoring for a number of Year 11 students. The students will take part in an assembly before half term to discover who their mentor is and to find out what the mentoring process will entail.

We hope that this will make a significant difference to the students that have been selected.

Mrs Castrey has also been working hard on developing a 'Prom Passport'. This aims to incentivise students to make the right choices with only 55 schools days remaining until the summer examinations.

For students who meet the threshold for a set number of points, the school will fund for the cost of the prom ticket.

This year the prom will be held at Alsager Golf Club on the 7th of July 2023.





# Welcome

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce to you, Mr Axton, who is the recently appointed Shaw Education Trust, Science subject director.

Mr Axton will be working with Year 11 students in the first instance through a range of subject masterclasses. We are really excited to have Mr Axton working with our students as he is an exceptional subject specialist. Below are a few words from the man himself:

I grew up on in Southampton on the south coast (and remain an avid Saints FC fan to this day!). I moved to Manchester to study Biomedical Sciences but soon realised that my future lay outside of hospital laboratories and my future lay in sharing my passion for all of the Sciences with young people. I trained to become a Science teacher in Manchester and took on my first teaching role in Salford. After a few years I made permanent move down the M6 to Stoke to be closer to my partners family and have never looked back. It is ten years since moving to the city and after teaching at Haywood Academy and leading the Science department at Thistley Hough Academy, I am delighted to make the move to oversee Science at the Shaw Education Trust. The passion for sharing Science with young people that first bought me to teaching still burns strong and I am excited to share that passion with all of our young people and Science Teachers.





# Enrichment

**JAN - APR**

**EXTRA CURRICULAR ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

**EVERYDAY**

Lunchtime  
13.30-14.00



Reading club

Open to all

Reading Room - Mr Baldwin

**MONDAY**

Lunchtime  
13.30-14.00



Computing club

KS3

Room 15 - Mrs Morrell

Choir and Rehearsal rooms

Open to all

Music - Mrs Evans

Science Ambassadors

KS3/KS4

Room 24 - Miss Baker

**TUESDAY**

Lunchtime  
13.30-14.00



Computing club

KS3

Room 15 - Mrs Morrell



Numeracy club

Open to all

Room 12 - Mrs Frost

After School  
15.05-16.05



KS3 Fitness (Jan. only)

KS3

Fitness Suite - Miss Harrison

**WEDNESDAY**

Lunchtime  
13.30-14.00



Pride Club

Room 1 - Mrs Castrey

After School  
15.05-16.05



KS4 Basketball

KS4

Gym - Mr Till



KS4 Netball

KS4

Gym - Mr Till



KS3 Football

Y7 and Y8

Astro - Mr Hilditch

KS4 Football

Y9 and Y10

Field - Mr Frost



KS3 Trampolineing

KS3

Hall - Mrs Castrey



Open studio

Open to all

Room 10 - Miss Mason

**THURSDAY**

Lunchtime  
13.30-14.00



iMedia catch up

GCSE

Room 15 - Mrs Morrell



Warhammer Club

Open to all

Room 10 - Miss Mason

After School  
15.05-16.05

Open studio

Open to all

Room 10 - Miss Mason

**FRIDAY**

Lunchtime  
13.30-14.00



Chess club

Open to all

Room 3 - Mr Baldwin



Keyboard club/Rehearsal rooms

Open to all

Music - Mrs Evans

After School  
15.05-16.05

GCSE composition and Rock Band

Music - Mrs Evans



Trampolineing

KS4

Hall - Mrs Castrey

# Careers

A message from Mrs Weaver...

Over the last fortnight, our Year 9 students have experienced a workplace visit to Churchill in Sandyford. The event was split into three different workshops which the students rotated around.

They had the opportunity to learn more about this local business and visit the factory floor to see all the processes needed in the production of Churchill's crockery. They also had two excellent talks which looked at what their skills, qualities, hobbies and experiences told employers about them, how to best advertise themselves and what apprenticeships are.

Following our visit, they have been set the challenge of writing their own CVs which Churchill HR are going to read through, offer feedback and chose one lucky student who will receive a prize. This is a fantastic opportunity.

During every visit, our students were excellent ambassadors for our school and are eager for more experiences like this!!!

Well done Y9.

**Year 9  
CV writing competition**

Following their workplace visit to Churchill our Year 9s have been challenged to write their own CVs



Students will be starting these in their Personal Development lessons and they will be challenged to complete them at home.

**What do our students get out of it?**  
The amazing opportunity to write their CV and have feedback off professionals, but there is also an amazing prize on offer too!

**Deadline:  
Monday 30th January**





# Careers





# Welcome

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce to you, Miss Taylor, who is the recently appointed Shaw Education Trust, Maths subject director.

Ms Taylor will be working with Year 11 students through a range of specialist Maths masterclasses. We are really excited to have Ms Taylor working with our students as she is an exceptional subject specialist.

Below are a few words from the lady herself:

Hi, my name is Miss Helen Taylor and I am incredibly excited about my new role as a director of maths for the trust. I love all things maths (especially algebra!), CrossFit, heavy metal and I am bit of a crazy cat lady. I'm really looking forward to working with the students at KSS.





# History

In history lessons, Year 8 have been creating their own colonies to recreating the experience of the English settlers that moved to America in the 16th century.

The students have been using Minecraft via their iPads to create a colony settlement that is historically accurate and based on the real life challenges that the settlers faced in the 1570's.

The way in which they have embraced this project is outstanding. They have a few more lessons to develop their creations even further before half term arrives.





# History

The Year 10 History GCSE, the students have been producing some superb work in their studies of warfare from 1250 to the present day.

The students have developed a fantastic level of knowledge in what is a challenging topic. The presentation and quality of work continues to improve and as a result the progress being made is exceptional.

Well done Year 10. A special mention to Lucas, Evie, Molly, Amber, Logan, Ryan, Cody and Chloe for their consistent hard work and brilliant attitude.

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November

A summary question

The creation of the New Model Army (1645) was a turning point in the development of a standing army in Britain in the period 1550-1785.

How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

you may use the following in your answer:

- Parliament
- Volunteers

I actually strongly believe that the New Model Army was a turning point in the development of a standing army in Britain. This is shown through many reasons such as the creation of 'volunteers'.

The use of volunteers allowed the New Model Army to be much bigger than any general army because they were more than just professional soldiers. They were people who had a personal stake in the war and were willing to fight for a cause they believed in. This led to a more professional and committed fighting force.

Employment also allowed the New Model Army to be well trained and more professional. The market helped as it was an easy way to get money. This meant that there was a steady flow of money to the army, which allowed it to be a standing army.

The New Model Army was a turning point in the development of a standing army in Britain because it was the first time that a professional army was created in Britain. This was a significant step towards the modern army we know today.

**Summative Assessment Feedback Sheet**

Task/ Objective Title: 2. The creation of the New Model Army was a turning point in the development of a professional army in Britain in the period 1550-1785. How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

Strengths (tick) / Weaknesses (cross):

1. Simple generalised answer showing limited understanding but with some misconceptions.
2. Simple generalised answer showing limited understanding of basic factors.
3. Accurate understanding but overall judgement is weak or only very limited.
4. Shows some knowledge and analysis with partial understanding of the concepts of the question.
5. Shows some relevant information but a lack of reasoning that links evidence and a conclusion.
6. Overall judgement given with some justification, but criteria left unmet in all areas applied.
7. Analytical explanation given, directed consistently to the conceptual focus of the question.
8. Shows a line of reasoning that is coherent, coherent and logically structured. Criteria is justified and applied.

Spelling Corrections: *Parliament*

Next steps and how to improve:

1. Support your points with appropriate primary evidence/historical detail.
2. Refer to any key historical events and what impact they had.
3. Maintain a consistent line of reasoning in a well-structured response.
4. Provide analysis beyond the two barriers suggested.

Student Response:

Grade: **4**

Sp: Write spelling correctly three times in the margin.

Reasons: War was complicated and success depended on well trained troops, and a standing army made the **Host more powerful**.

average wage: **was about £53,000 per month**

Taxes were kept high to fund it.

The parliament **didn't trust** the standing army because they feared **they'd use it against them**.

They thought **establishing a professional army required** a balance between **parliament, monarch, nobles, gentry and local parliament**.

consisted of **retained soldiers with deep puritan convictions and strong beliefs**.

by 1660 there was about **40,000 soldiers**.

National, permanent, professional (N-P-P)

↓ soldiers not payed well - economy = disrupted

↑ many got unemployed

↑ had to get a pass so they wouldn't get arrested or vagabonds.

↑ what effect did this have on civilians?

↑ people often had their goods requisitioned (no shoes, food)

↑ Taxes shot up.

↑ Free quarter - paying civilians to house and feed troops, just leaving a receipt.

↑ mostly poor & not paid.

↑ damage: armies could ruin crops for a year, in sieges about 11,000+ horses and more from slain and 55,000 people made homeless.

was this important battle, despite being outnumbered.

Overall, **medieval warfare** changed in many ways from 1250-1500, which are clearly shown in the battle of Falkirk and the battle of Agincourt. **Changes** included weapons, tactics and recruitment and leadership, however leadership is the most important change.

**Summative Assessment Feedback Sheet**

Task/ Objective Title: In what ways had warfare changed between 1250 and 1500? Refer to both the Battle of Falkirk and the Battle of Agincourt.

Strengths (tick) / Weaknesses (cross):

1. Shows understanding of basic aspects of warfare but with some misconceptions.
2. Shows an accurate understanding of medieval warfare but very limited analysis.
3. Accurate understanding of some changes in warfare but analysis is limited.
4. Shows a balanced analysis of both battles supported by a limited range of evidence.
5. Presents a deeper analysis of change and continuity supported by a varied range of evidence.
6. Shows evidenced analysis that goes beyond the battles, but line of reasoning is under-developed.
7. Shows evidenced analysis that moves beyond the battles, with a consistent line of reasoning.
8. Shows original analysis and evaluation, supported by evidence throughout.

Spelling Corrections: *Develop your conclusion. Are there any other battles that take place to support your answer? A great effort.*

Next steps and how to improve:

1. Support your points with appropriate primary evidence/historical detail.
2. Refer to any key historical events and what impact they had.
3. Maintain a consistent line of reasoning in a well-structured response.
4. Provide analysis beyond the two barriers suggested.

Student Response:

Grade: **4**

Sp: Write spelling correctly three times in the margin.

Wednesday 2nd November

What were armies like between 1500-1700?

- The ratio of infantry to cavalry was 1:2 ideally.
- Pike →
  - difficult to wield
  - very long (10-20ft long)
  - Provided an advantage because you would be further away
  - heavier (took stronger men to use)
  - reduced the risk of being injured and dying
- Bill →
  - shorter (6-7ft)
  - less heavy
  - different spikes
  - no range advantage
  - easy to wield
  - beaten by pikes

Excess diagrams *Evie*

learn *Oliver*

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November 20

How did weapons change? 1500-1700

1. In 1500 armies held 50,000 men and were made up of infantry and cavalry, 2:1 ratio.
2. Sentance was paid what nobles paid to get out of fighting.
3. English won Agincourt because of the use of a longbow, and the adaptation of tactics to not use cavalry or English leadership.

- Pikemen became more heavily armoured and better trained.
- Pikemen and musketeers worked together in combined units.
- Muskets replaced longbows as the main English missile system.
- Pikemen did become more heavily armoured to defend musketeers against the cavalry.
- Pikemen and musketeers did work in combined units to help defend and attack simultaneously, as the pikes would shelter musketeers as they re-loaded, pike and shot method.
- Muskets did replace longbows because muskets could do more damage to a soldier, meaning they required less ammunition than a longbow was to ~~shoot~~ shoot, muskets had could be defended easier and required less training.
- pikemen would duck their musketeers would shoot them down.
- 7 year long battle you better, quacked arrow.
- bow - 1510-1512 musket - 3100J.



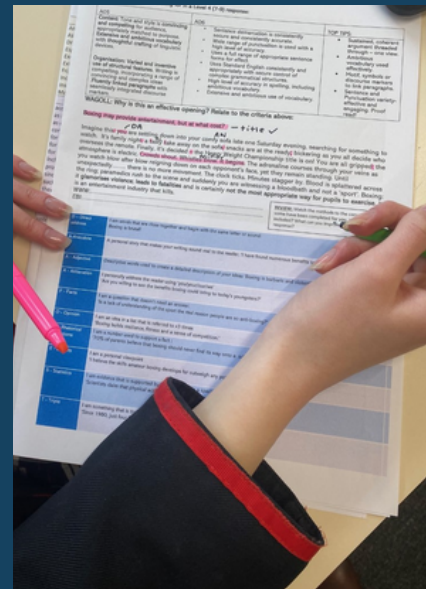
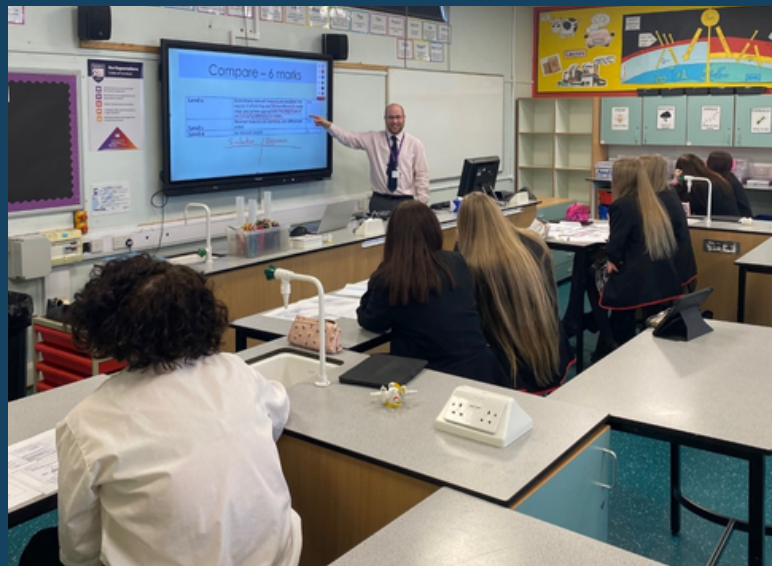
# Year 11 Subject Masterclasses

As we are all aware, there are only a matter of weeks remaining for the Year 11 students before they sit their summer examinations.

To ensure that they can achieve the top grades that they are capable of, the students have been working with subject specialists in English, Maths and Science from The Shaw Education Trust in school. The students selected to work with the SET colleagues today are the students that are pushing for grades 7 to grade 9.

The school will be participating in a grades 3 to 5 masterclass at Staffordshire University in March, which will bring together local Shaw Education Trust secondary school students to work on examination technique in the core subjects.

A big thank you to Mrs Coulson (English), Ms Taylor (Maths) and Mr Axton (Science).



# Welcome

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce to you, Mrs Coulson who is the recently appointed Shaw Education Trust, English subject director.

Mrs Coulson will be working with Year 11 students in the first instance through a range of subject masterclasses. We are really excited to have Mrs Coulson working with our students as she is an exceptional subject specialist who I have had the privilege of working with previously.

Below are a few words from the lady herself:

My name is Mrs Anna Coulson and I've recently been fortunate to begin working for the fabulous Shaw Education Trust as Director of English! This means I have the pleasure of working with your wonderful children and their staff to ensure they achieve the very best outcomes possible in English. My previous experiences as a Head of English, Head of Year and Leader of Teaching and Learning means I am able to utilise my knowledge to support your learners on their English journey this year. I can't wait to work with them!



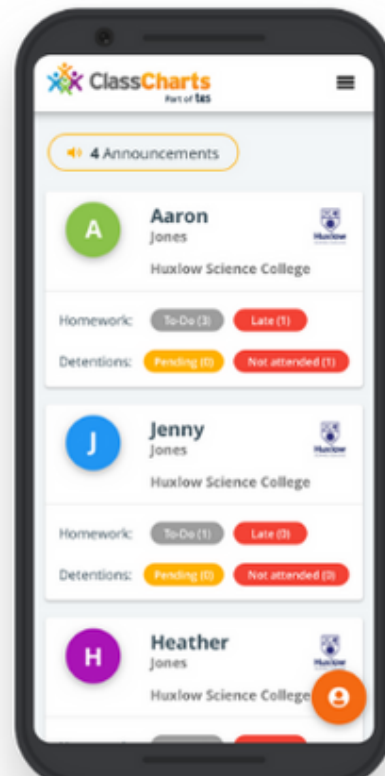
# Class Charts

A message from Mrs Postlethwaite...

'Class Charts'



We now have over 85% of parents signed up to Class Charts. If you haven't already signed up and need your login code, please call reception and they will be able to provide the to you. On Class Charts you will see attendance to lessons, rewards, detentions and a full breakdown of behaviour. There is also the function to message individual teachers. Moving forward, more communication will come through Class Charts so please download the App if you haven't done so already. If you need any help setting up the app, please pop into school and a member of staff will help you get up and running.





# Maths

A message from Mrs Frost...

In year 8 Maths we explored an introduction to probability with an experiment involving the rolling of two dice and then playing a game of cards. We are hoping for them to be able to win a game of 'Play Your Cards Right' by the end of this unit using their new knowledge of probability and what values make up a pack of cards.

Well done 8S.

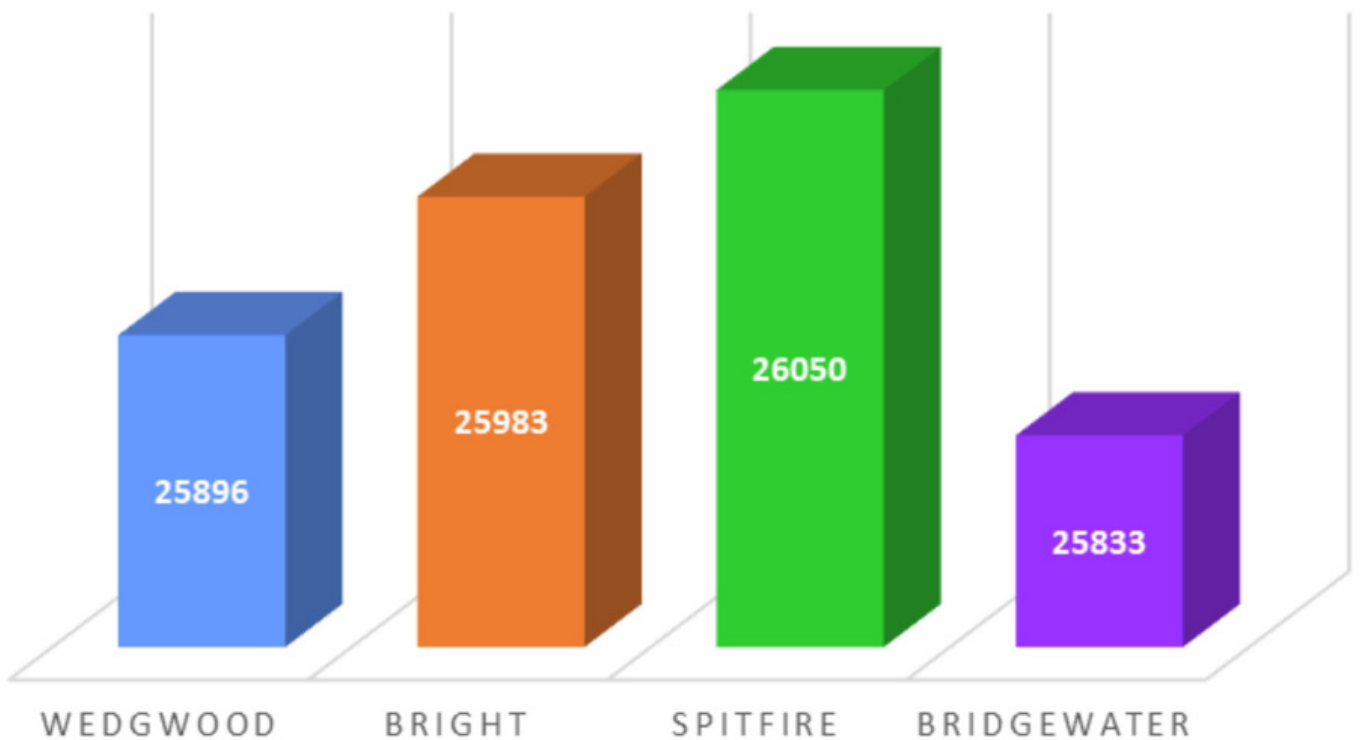




# House Update

The house completion continues to gather pace this half term. There has been a shift in the leaders across the second half of the autumn term and into this term so far. Mrs Castrey is continually checking the scores the house leaders are very competitive. There will be a reward at Easter for the house with the most points, so please keep working hard.

## TOTAL HOUSE POINTS



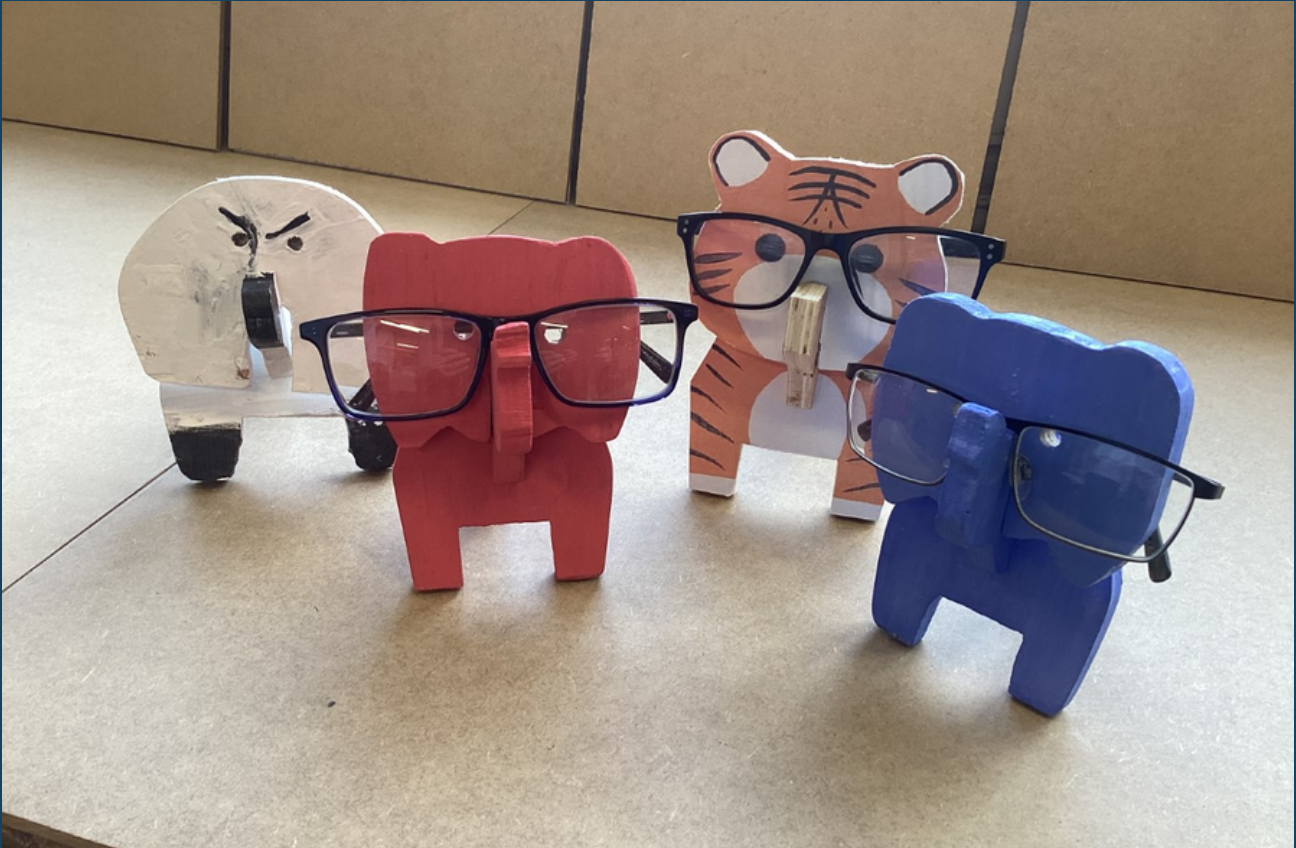
# Technology



A message from Mrs Bryan...

Year 10 have been working in the workshop to produce some lovely glasses stands. Here are just some of the finished results. So impressed with how they have worked and the effort the students have put in.

Keep up the great work Year 10.





# Music

A special mention to Tommy in Year 8 who is extremely passionate about music. He has been playing the guitar for a while now and has made excellent progress. He is currently learning to play the 'Imperial March' from the Star Wars films as part of his music studies.

Keep up the fantastic Core Values and passion for music. Rock on Tommy!





# Science

A message from Ms Baker...

8S with myself and Dr Ma, looked at density!

Using the Eureka cans, they can work out the density of an object. Firstly, they weighed an object on the top pan balance to measure the mass, they then placed the object into the Eureka can, and measured the volume of water that came out of the can using the measuring cylinder. To calculate the density, they had to divide the mass by the volume. The equation for this, that we use in science is  $d=m/v$ .

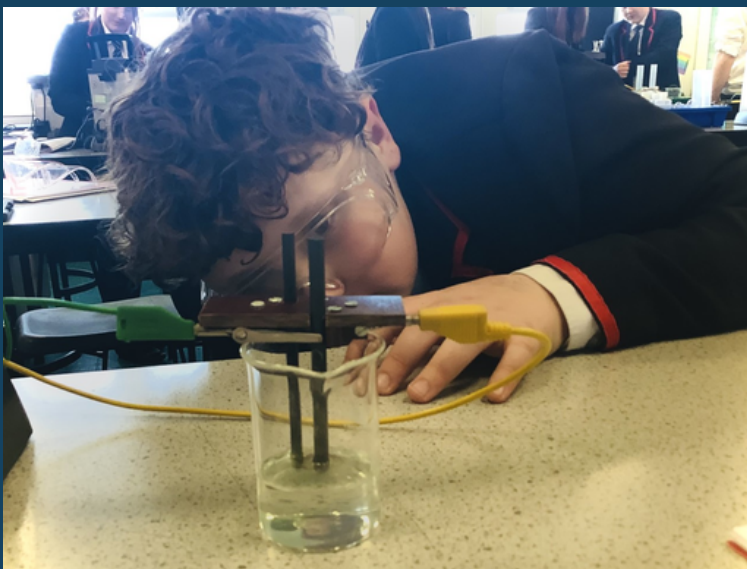
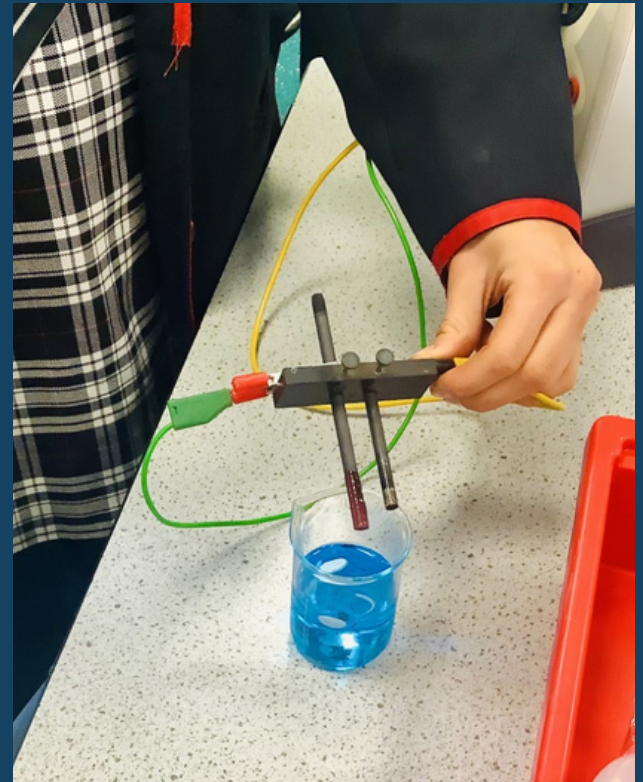




# Science

A message from Ms Baker...

Year 10 have been enthusiastically enjoying chemistry this afternoon, exploring electrolysis. Electrolysis is the chemical decomposition produced by passing an electrical current through a liquid or solution containing ions.





# Science



A message from Ms Baker...

My two Silver Crest Award science ambassadors, Emily and James. They have been busy discussing what they need to do for their extra curriculum science experiment to hopefully succeed and achieve their silver award!

Keep up the great work.





# Environmental Awareness



February 14th  your journey to School

**Air Pollution and lack of activity are two of the major causes of heart disease in the UK**

**Join us on St Valentine's**

**Tuesday 14th February**

**Love your heart and choose an ACTIVE mode of travel to school that day, or one day that week**

**160,000 people die prematurely each year due to exposure to air pollution**



**British Heart Foundation**



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