

HEADTEACHER BULLETIN

Friday 17th of February 2023

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Dear Parents/Carers,

As another half term break arrives, please find enclosed a bumper issue of the Headteacher bulletin which is focused upon celebrating the achievements of our students from the last two weeks of this half term. The final week of the half term is always our favourite time as we hold achievement assemblies and share certificates with students as a thank you for their hard work.

These achievements cover subject accolades, attendance recognition and also acknowledgement from the senior leadership team for students that have gone above and beyond in meeting our core values of leadership, organisation, resilience, initiative and communication.

This half term has ended with a fully packed enrichment day that took place last Tuesday, which has been supported by several engaging careers visits all organised by Mrs Weaver. These activities have provided a really valuable insight for the students into life after KSS which we feel will stand them in good stead for their next steps and post 16 choices. We also saw Year 8 students engage within a 'HS2' project and I am convinced from the work that they completed that we will have some future engineers and architects on our hands. Their engagement was remarkable and the effort was outstanding.

The reward trips have also been a real highlight of this half term with Year 9's visiting 'Ninja Warrior' and Years 7 & 8 attending the 'Stoke Ski Centre'. The students have been set the challenge of achieving over 90% attendance and less than eight behaviour points over the next four weeks to qualify for the whole school Easter reward trip at 'The Crocky Trail'. This trip looks like it could be the best reward trip yet. A special mention to Mrs Castrey for her hard work in organising these trips.

When we return we will be starting the year 9 options process ready for the students to select their GCSE studies for the start of Year 10. We will be holding a face to face parents evening/options event after Easter and Mrs Castrey will be in touch with the finer details in due course.

The school will also be sending home progress reports over the next half term to ensure that you are updated regarding subject performance. As a staff team, we have been looking at ways in which to ensure that each student maximises their potential. We will look forward to seeing this work make a significant impact.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a restful break and a reminder that students will return to school on Monday the 27th of February 2023. We look forward to welcoming the students back for a really important half term before the Easter holidays.

Yours faithfully,
Mr S Frost



Upcoming Events:

- Monday 27th February 2023 - Year 11 'Prepare to Pass' Event
- Tuesday 28th February 2023 - Year 11 Mock Examinations Begin
- Wednesday 8th March 2023 - Student Council Meeting
- Week Commencing 20th March 2023 - Year 11 Masterclasses at Staffordshire University
- Wednesday 29th March 2023 - Headteacher Reward Lunch
- Friday 31st March 2023 - End of the Term Reward Trip

Bagels

A message from Mrs Postlethwaite..

Our free breakfast offer has been really well received by students this half term. We now have between 150 and 180 students every morning having breakfast when they come into school.

A very special mention to Tyler in Year 7 who has helped support the breakfasts this week by serving the bagels to students (and even offering them to visitors!) as they have come through the door. Tyler has really demonstrated our school values of Leadership and Initiative this week, well done!

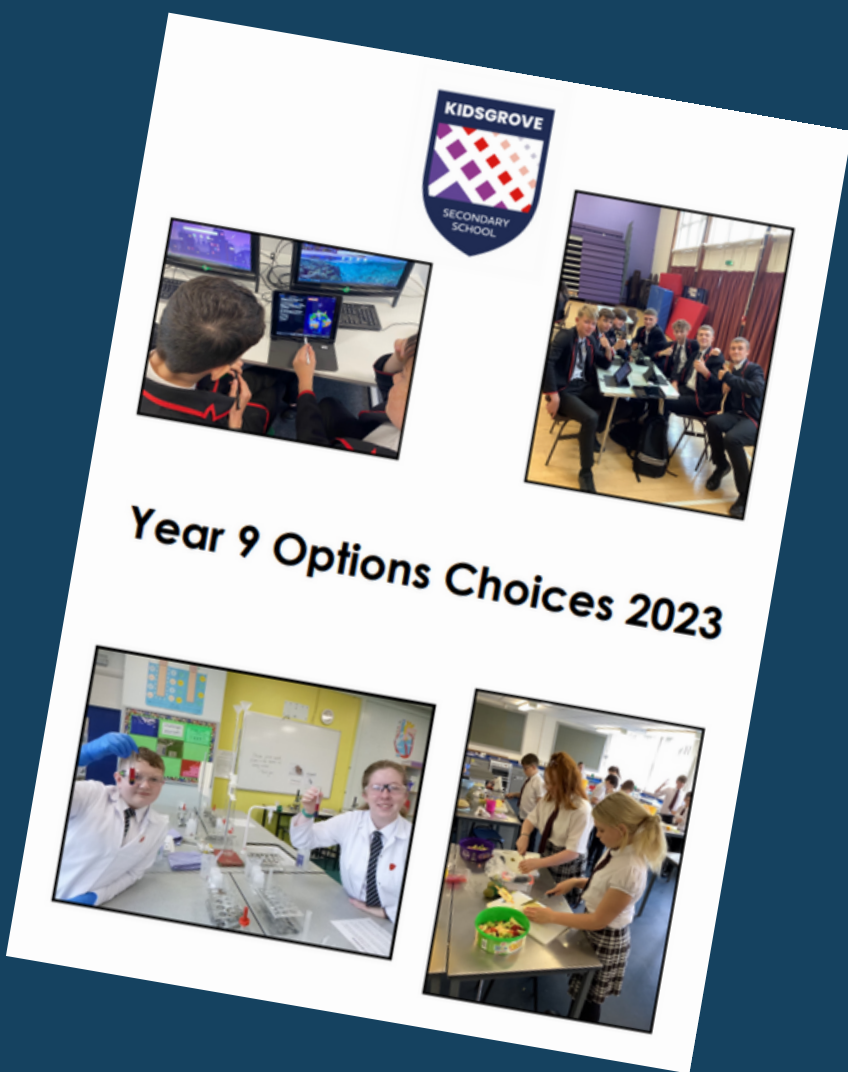


Year 9

A message from Mrs Postlethwaite..

Year 9 continue to go from strength to strength. We saw a record number of Year 9 students meet the criteria to attend our 'Ninja Warrior' reward trip last week and the student's behaviour was exemplary whilst they were out. I was incredibly proud of the year group at the recent award assembly, giving out certificates for attendance, attainment and progress as well as some special awards to students who have gone above and beyond.

After the half term break, our focus will be firmly on the Options process. Parents/ Carers will be invited in for a face-to face parents evening where the Options process will be discussed, and students will be able to make their selections for KS4. We will ensure that every student is supported to make the best choices for them, and further information will be sent out in due course.



Attendance



KSS **EASTER ATTENDANCE** **CHALLENGE**

**ALL STUDENTS WHO ACHIEVE 100%
ATTENDANCE BETWEEN 1ST - 31ST MARCH
WILL WIN AN EASTER EGG.**

**WEEKLY PRIZE DRAW FOR OTHER EASTER
GOODIES FOR EACH YEAR GROUP**

**SOME BIG DAILY PRIZES ON THE LAST
WEEK OF TERM.**



Year 11 Maths Revision

A message from Mrs Frost..

I wanted to remind you of the Maths Revision session that is taking place next Thursday (23rd of February 2023) from 11am to 1pm. This will not be a typical style of revision; you will be answering a variety of exam questions to earn puzzles. Each puzzle will get you closer to breaking the combination of the safe and unlocking some treats. This will be ideal for the upcoming mocks.

It will be great to see you all there.



Year 11 February Half Term Revision

Want extra help in maths?
Need a boost to meet your target grade?
Can you break a code?
Can your team get in to the safe before anyone else?
Then we need to see you!

Who: All Year 11
When: Thursday 23rd February
Time: 11am - 1pm

Bring in some snacks ... maths teachers have been known to take bribes for chocolate!



Headteacher Reward Lunch

I was delighted to be joined by Mrs Postlethwaite at Tuesday lunchtime, as we invited twenty two students for a reward lunch to celebrate their fantastic effort and hard work this half term. Each and every student invited has displayed day in day out, our Core Values and have really impressed us with their growth mindset. Well done everyone!



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

KSS Sprints



DIGITAL STRATEGY

CLASSCHARTS

Embedded for behaviour/reward reporting, registers and announcements. Two-way messaging and parent profiles are active to maximise communication with parents/carers/guardians.

ENHANCING LEARNING

Apps and digital programmes are frequently used to enhance the learning experience and also support with assessment.



CORE VALUES

CORE VALUES

Positive behaviour points are linked to our core values of Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative and Communication. This leads to greater recognition of when these values are demonstrated.

BEHAVIOUR REPORTS

Behaviour reports are digitally linked to a student's ClassCharts profile. These can be viewed in the parents/carers profile with students reporting to their form tutor/key stage leader.



PROGRESS REPORTS

Newly designed progress reports are shared with parents/carers/guardians following each data entry. Link's analytics and Provision Maps are utilised to track and monitor student progress & targets.



ACCESSIBILITY

The accessibility features of digital technology helps remove barriers to learning and support with access arrangements. Resources and the learning environment can be further tailored to suit the individual needs of students.



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.

In the last Headteacher Bulletin we showcased our excellent attendance improvements. In this edition we are celebrating our use of our digital strategy and its impact on all aspects of our school.

You can see from the poster opposite that there have been key changes made at KSS through the use of iPads. The impact has been remarkable with clear enhancement of learning, embedding our newly established core values and improving how we use Class Charts (our behaviour system).

Year 10 and Year 11

A message from Mrs Postlethwaite..

Year 10 and Year 11 are working incredibly hard on their GCSE subjects and coursework is well underway in many subjects.

We are delighted to be offering work experience later in the year to Year 10 students and you have all received information about the a few weeks ago. Please let us know if you need any support in finding a suitable work placement.

When we return after half term, Year 11 students have just 45 school days left until their first GCSE exams. It really does feel like we are coming into the home stretch and we need to ensure that every lesson counts in the remaining weeks. The Year 11 prom is on 7th July at Alsager Golf Club and the 'Prom Passport' scheme starts when we return with points awarded to students for attending intervention, 100% attendance and other categories. These points will be transferred to money off prom tickets later in the term and are a fantastic way of students remaining focused and motivated in their final weeks.



Poland Trip 2023

We are delighted to announce that we will be undertaking a Key Stage 4, History and Geography trip to Poland in September 2023. The main focus of the trip will be for students to visit the Auschwitz memorial museum and to visit the famous salt mines. The interest in the trip has already been positive with 75% of the places being filled within the first few hours.

We are delighted to offer this opportunity which will be the ultimate example of cultural capital and a memory that will be everlasting for our students.



Catering Visit

A message from Mrs Weaver..

This week Year 11 joined me at Stoke on Trent College to take part in a catering visit. The students were exceptional and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of working in a professional catering environment. They really enjoyed the day and created some fantastic dishes.

Well done Year 11.



Catering Visit



**PROUD TO
BE
KSS**



**Kidsgrove
Learning Campus**
INSPIRE INNOVATE CREATE



**Shaw
Education
Trust**

E-Sports Event

The Year 10 students attended an E-Sports event today with Mrs Weaver in a competition against other schools at Newcastle College. We were delighted with how the students competitive spirit shone through on the day and they were excellent ambassadors for the school. They took part in a Rocket League competition, Overwatch gaming session and then took part in a business skills and team building session.

Well done to all involved.



E-Sports Event



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

PE

A message from Mrs Castrey...

Y8 have been displaying our LORIC values in PE by coaching each other in Trampolining.

Mrs Castrey is so proud of how each student has grown in confidence and how they all lead and support each other. Each group organises themselves so that everyone gets an equal amount of time bouncing and they all use their initiative and great communication skills to help each of them progress.

The group have shown fantastic resilience whilst learning some very difficult moves.

Well done Y8! Keep up the amazing work!



Reward Trips

The Year 9 and Year 7 & 8 reward trips have been a real success over the last few weeks. Thank you to Mrs Castrey for all of her hard work in making these happen with the work that goes on behind the scenes. Please see below for some of the fantastic images.



**Y9
REWARD
TRIP**

**NINJA
WARRIOR
UK**

Friday 10th February

To qualify you need....

- 90% attendance
- Fewer than 4 behaviour points

Between 18th January and 9th February.



Reward Trips



Y9 REWARD TRIP

NINJA WARRIOR AIR PARK

Friday 10th February

To qualify you need....

- 90% attendance
- Fewer than 4 behaviour points

Between 18th January and 9th February.

Reward Trips



Reward Trips

Y7 AND Y8
REWARD TRIP



**THURSDAY
18TH
FEBRUARY**

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



Reward Trips

Y7 AND Y8
REWARD TRIP



**THURSDAY
18TH
FEBRUARY**

Criteria:
• 90% Attendance
• Fewer than 4 behaviour points
Between 18th January and 15th February



KIDSGROVE
SECONDARY SCHOOL



**PROUD TO
BE
KSS**



Shaw Education Trust

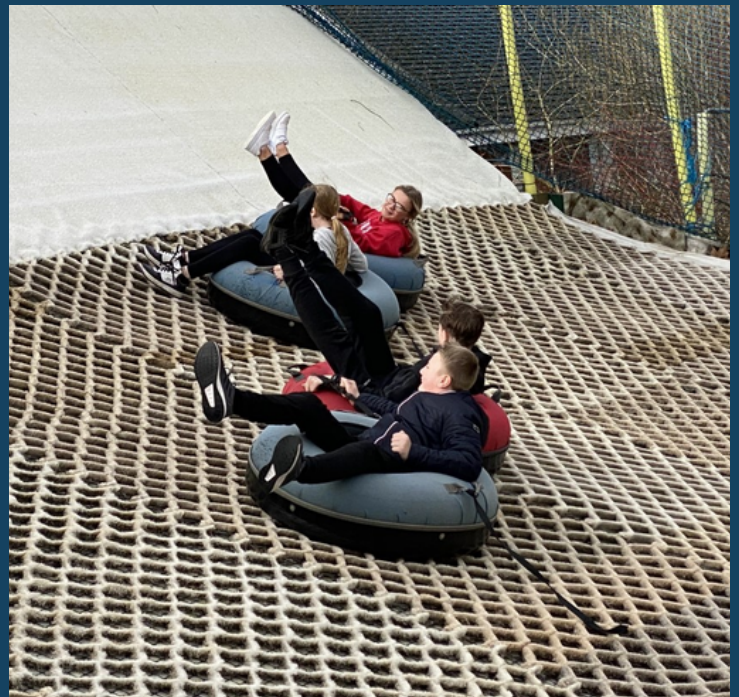
Reward Trips

Y7 AND Y8
REWARD TRIP



**THURSDAY
16TH
FEBRUARY**

Criteria:
• 90% Attendance
• Fewer than 4 behaviour points
Between 18th January and 15th
February



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

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

Student Council

During the week commencing the 27th of March, KSS and KSP will be working in partnership with Staffordshire County Council to undertake an anti-idling campaign. Kidsgrove as a town has extremely poor air quality and the student council are taking matters into their own hands. During the week, student council members will be out to encourage parents/carers to switch off their engines as they wait to collect their children from the high school and from the primary school. We are aiming to try and raise awareness of the damage that idling car engines can do. We hope to have your full support with this campaign, so please expect to have the student council tapping (politely) on your car windows very soon.



PROUD TO BE KSS



#DigitalByDesign



Numeracy Puzzle

A message from Mrs Frost..

This half term saw the introduction of the Numeracy Puzzle and what a huge success it has been. Over the 6 weeks, we have had a total of 584 entries from students. There has been a great sense of competition and teamwork to ensure their form group was at the top each week. Please see the results for the staff league, form group and houses below.



Engage

Numeracy



NUMERACY PUZZLE Results

House League;

1st Place – Spitfire

2nd Place – Bright

3rd Place – Bridgewater

4th Place - Wedgwood

| | Bridgewater | Bright | Spitfire | Wedgwood |
|---------|-------------|--------|----------|----------|
| Year 7 | 60 | 63 | 62 | 53 |
| Year 8 | 67 | 45 | 50 | 50 |
| Year 9 | 21 | 28 | 34 | 20 |
| Year 10 | 48 | 31 | 42 | 40 |
| Year 11 | 18 | 66 | 61 | 42 |
| TOTAL | 214 | 233 | 249 | 205 |

Each house will be awarded 10 times these points, e.g. Spitfire will receive 2490 points

A huge well done to Mrs Morrell, IKC and Spitfire. I would also like to thank anyone that sent their response in after seeing it on our Facebook page. The scores will go back to zero when we return from the break and the next half term will see more weekly puzzles.



Personal Development Enrichment Day

A message from Mrs Weaver..

Please see below some highlights from our recent Personal Development Enrichment Day.

Enrichment Day
Tuesday 7th February

SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES

- Cyber Robotics
- Chimp v Human
- Next Engineers
- LGBTQ+
- Apprenticeship Bus
- NHS
- VR workshops

NHS

Apprenticeships
National Apprenticeship Week
7th to 13th February 2022
BUILD THE FUTURE

Logo: A heart with rainbow and transgender colors.

- The focus for your day is 'Being a Good Citizen and Cyber Robotics'.
- You will be using **initiative and resilience** whilst taking part in our **Cyber Robotics workshop.**
- During your session on **chimp v human** you will talk about metacognition (knowing your brain) and how to use **leadership** skills to make the right choices.
- You will use **communication** skills during the session on **being a British citizen.** You will discuss British values and what this means!
- **YOU WILL NEED TO BRING YOUR FULLY CHARGED IPAD AS WELL AS THE REST OF YOUR SMARTSTART**

YEAR 7 ONLY





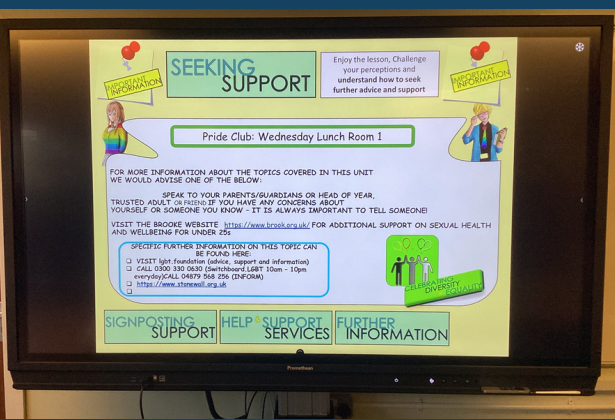
- The focus for your day is 'Being a Good Citizen and Career Pathways'
- During your session on **chimp v human** you will talk about metacognition (knowing your brain) and how to use **leadership** skills to make the right choices.
- You will be visited by speakers from the NHS and Fire Service who will talk about routes into careers and the roles that they carry out.
- **THINK ABOUT MEANINGFUL QUESTIONS TO ASK.**
- During the **power of the media** session you will look at how powerful **communication** is and how when used incorrectly, it can be an issue.
- In the **National Apprenticeships Activity** session you will have the opportunity to explore what apprenticeships are, what jobs you can do linked to them and how you can get started on looking for apprenticeships.

YEAR 8 ONLY

- The focus for your day is 'Career Pathways and Next Engineers'
- As part of your Enrichment, we have our second exciting visit off **Next Engineers**. You will take part in two workshops in which you will have to show all of our **LORIC Values** - **leadership, organisation, resilience, initiative** and **communication** skills to successfully complete team challenges.
- In the **National Apprenticeships Activity** session you will have the opportunity to explore what apprenticeships are, what jobs you can do linked to them and how you can get started on looking for apprenticeships.
- Your **VR Workshop** will talk to you about the routes into careers in this area, followed by the opportunity to have a go on them.

YEAR 9 ONLY





Your focus for today is 'Independent Living using **LORIC** values'.

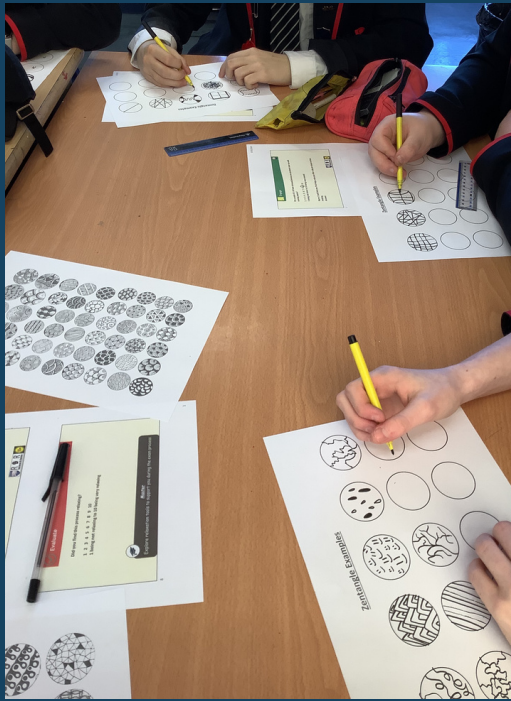
- NCS are visiting us to lead you through a lesson on Budgeting and how you can do this successfully in the future using **organisation** skills to support.
- Two of your other lessons are based around independent living activities that you will soon be doing. These are looking at buying and furnishing accommodation using budgeting.
- One session will be on the LGBTQIA+ community.
- Session 5 is a visit from Newcastle College and the Apprenticeship Bus.
- If you have opted into the Apprenticeships or NHS workshop, you will have received a confirmation invite.

YEAR 10 ONLY

NSCG

Year 11

NHS



STEM

HS2

A message from Mrs Weaver..

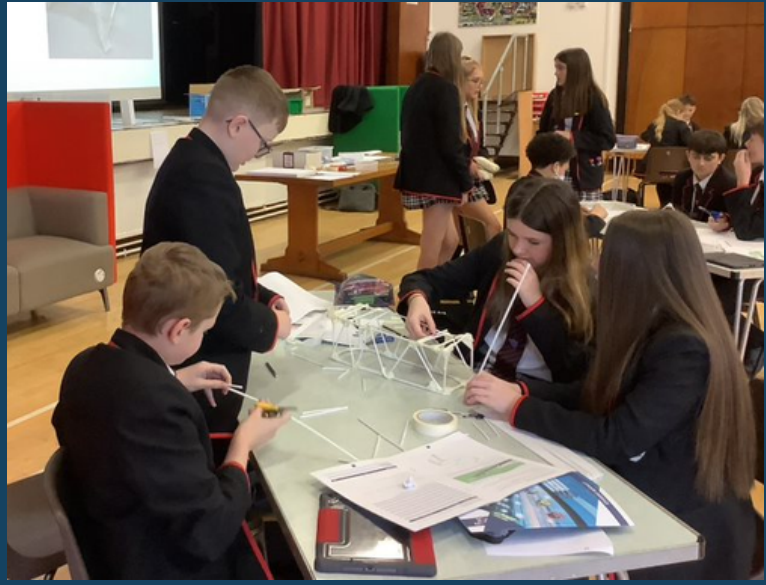
Last week Y8 took part in a STEM workshop based around HS2 ran by the SmallPeice Trust. They worked in teams to plan, design and present a train station of the future and a tunnel that they than tested. They showed fantastic LORIC values and were excellent ambassadors for our school. We certainly have some engineers in the making. Well done Year 8!



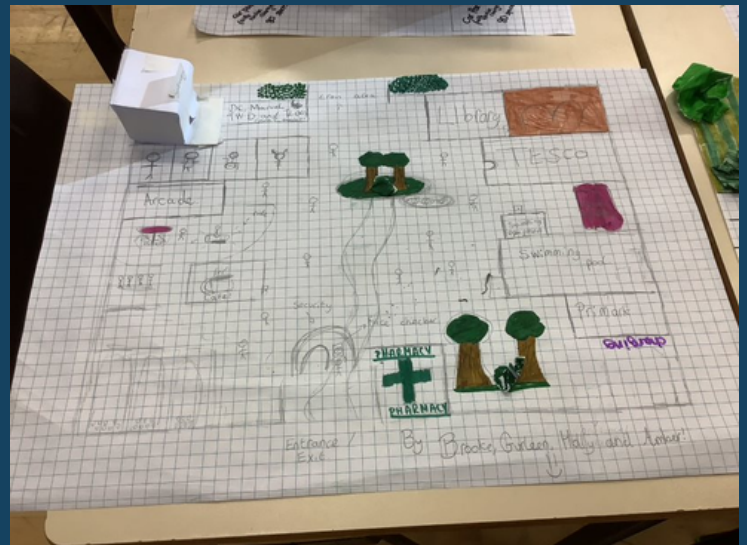
STEM



STEM



H S 2



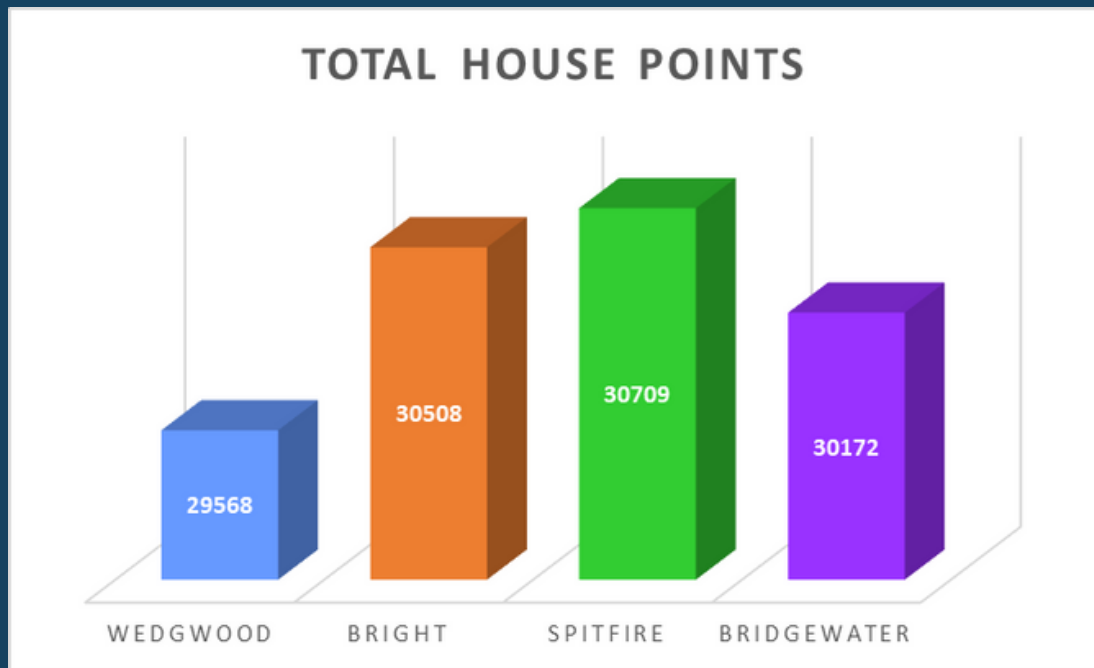
House Update

The house completion half term results are in!

There has been a shift in house leader this term so far and we were able to share this update with students in the recent achievement assemblies.

A big well done to 'Spitfire' who have sneaked into an 201 point lead from 'Bright'.

Keep working hard and meeting those code of conduct expectations to move your team up the leader board.



English

A message from Mr Old...

Students in year 9 have been gripped by our reading of the hit National Theatre play Small Island, based on the best selling novel by Andrea Levy. The play follows the story of four main characters, whose lives are turned upside down by the Second World War. The play deals with themes of prejudice and racism, which has formed many of the talking points within our lessons. In 9k, credit must go to Lilly B, Callum, Tyler and Macy for excellent reading of the main characters.



National Theatre

Celebration Assemblies

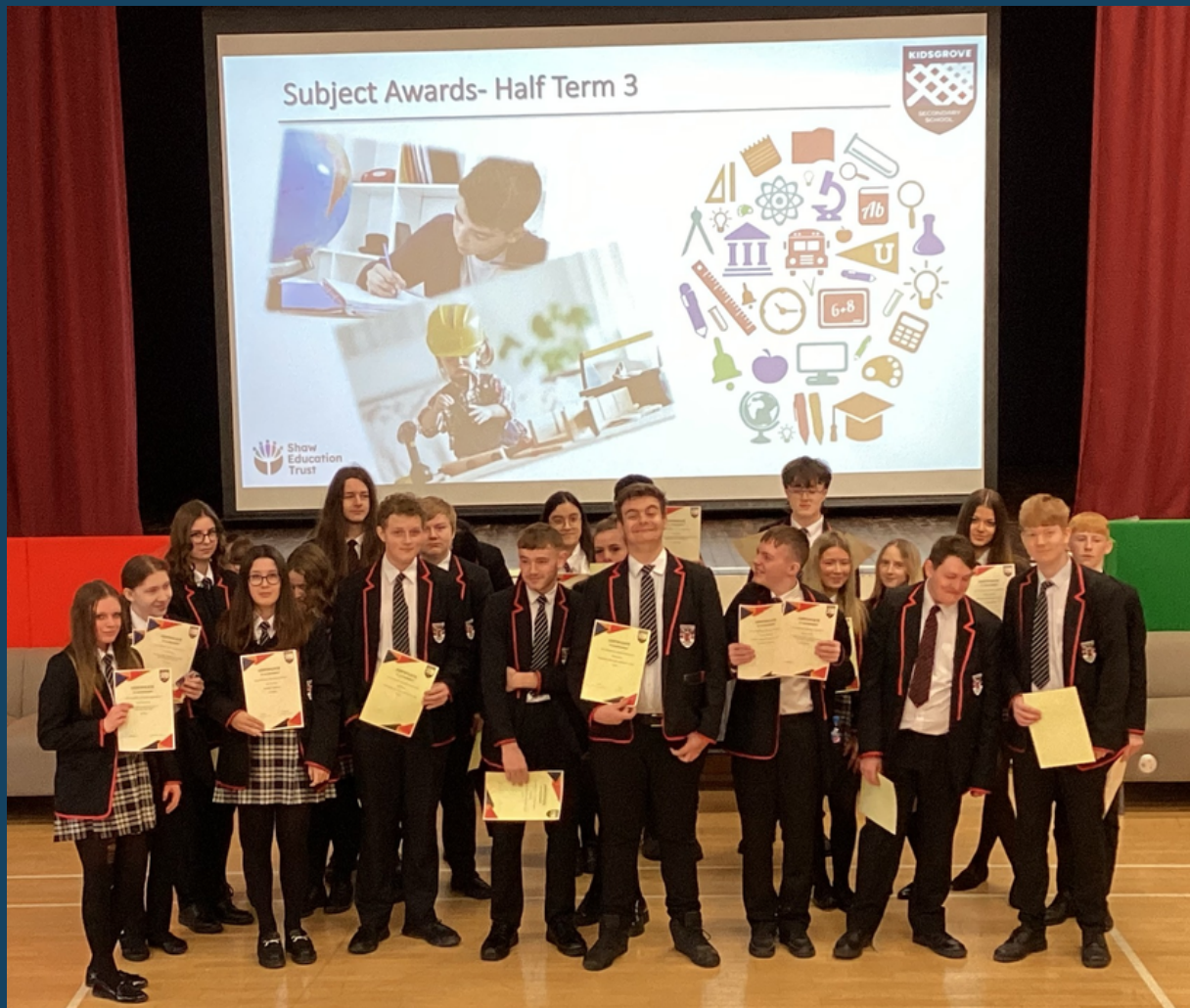
This week we have been celebrating students' successes in our assemblies. Students were acknowledged for their excellent attendance and were nominated by their subject teachers to receive awards for attainment, most improved and having a great work ethic & positive mindset. Well done to everyone who received an award. We are immensely proud of what all of our students have achieved this half term!



Celebration Assemblies



Celebration Assemblies



Celebration Assemblies



Celebration Assemblies



Celebration Assemblies



Celebration Assemblies



Celebration Assemblies



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.

