

# HEADTEACHER BULLETIN

Friday 10th of March 2023

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Dear Parents/Carers,

As the sun begins to shine and spring is on its way, myself and colleagues at the school are starting to shape our academic and enrichment curriculum for 2023-2024 and beyond. Over the next few weeks and months we will be looking at the Key Stage 4 option choices and also the curriculum offer that KS3 students follow at KSS. I am hopeful to be able to share in the next few months, exciting updates which will have a positive impact on our students and their learning experiences.

The Year 11 mock examinations are coming to a close and we look forward to analysing the results in preparation for the final few weeks of lessons before the summer GCSE examinations begin. The Year 11 mentoring is working well as students receive frequent opportunities to discuss their studies and revision schedules with staff.

There have been a range of careers events taking place this year and none more so than in the last few weeks. Mrs Weaver delivered an excellent assembly looking at national careers week. We believe that students should begin to consider careers from Year 7 onwards and the dialogue with students has been great, with many sharing aspirational career hopes. We believe that through our Core Values, all students that attend KSS will have the knowledge and skills to tee them up well for their futures in what is an ever changing world. The digital strategy appears to be perfectly timed as many of the future jobs will be focused around digital skills.

We also celebrated World Book Day last week, with Mr Baldwin leading on this, it was great to see lots of subjects link reading to their specific specialisms. Mr Baldwin has driven lots of positive changes this year with our whole school reading strategy which supports all students reading skills and we are seeing good progress being made.

A reminder that the Easter reward trip will take place on Friday 31st of March 2023. We hope to invite the majority of our students on this trip if they can meet the expectation of over 90% attendance and less than 8 negative behaviour points. I am sure they will meet the challenge, as we all know that, no one rises to low expectations.

Finally, I am delighted to share that we have appointed a fantastic new Science teacher, who will be starting with us after Easter. Mrs Grice-Lowe will be joining us as a chemistry specialist, we are delighted to have her onboard and I am sure she will make a great impact.

Yours faithfully,  
Mr S Frost

## Upcoming Events:

Monday 13th March 2023 - Year 10 Churchill China Trip

Thursday 16th March 2023 - KS4 Careers Fayre

Friday 17th March 2023 - Year 11 Oddball Testicular Cancer Session

Week Commencing 20th March 2023 - Year 11 Masterclasses at Staffordshire University

Monday 20th March 2023 - Year 10 Churchill China Trip

Wednesday 22nd March 2023 - Student Council Meeting

Week Commencing 27th March 2023 - Anti-Idling Week

Tuesday 28th March 2023 - Headteacher Reward Lunch

Wednesday 29th March 2023 - Year 11 Geography Field Trip

Friday 31st March 2023 - End of the Term Reward Trip



# Expectations

A message from Mrs Postlethwaite....

Just a reminder that as per our uniform policy, false/ acrylic nails are not permitted to be worn to school. False nails not only pose a safety issue when students come into contact with each other in PE for example, but they also impact on learning in practical subjects such as Science, using the iPads in class and technology and food lessons. If your child is having false nails put on for a holiday or special event outside of school time could you please ensure that an appointment is also made to remove these before they return to school.



## KSS CODE



- ATTEND LESSONS ON TIME AND WITH CORRECT EQUIPMENT
- BE SMART IN YOUR APPEARANCE AND WEAR CORRECT UNIFORM
- FOLLOW ROUTINES AND INSTRUCTIONS
- COMPLETE CLASS AND HOMEWORK TO A HIGH STANDARD
- BE KIND TO OTHERS AND RESPECT THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT



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**Shaw  
Education  
Trust**



# Staff Welcome

I am delighted to introduce Mrs Grice-Lowe.

She will be joining us as teacher of Science in April 2023. Please find below a photograph and a short introduction from the lady herself.

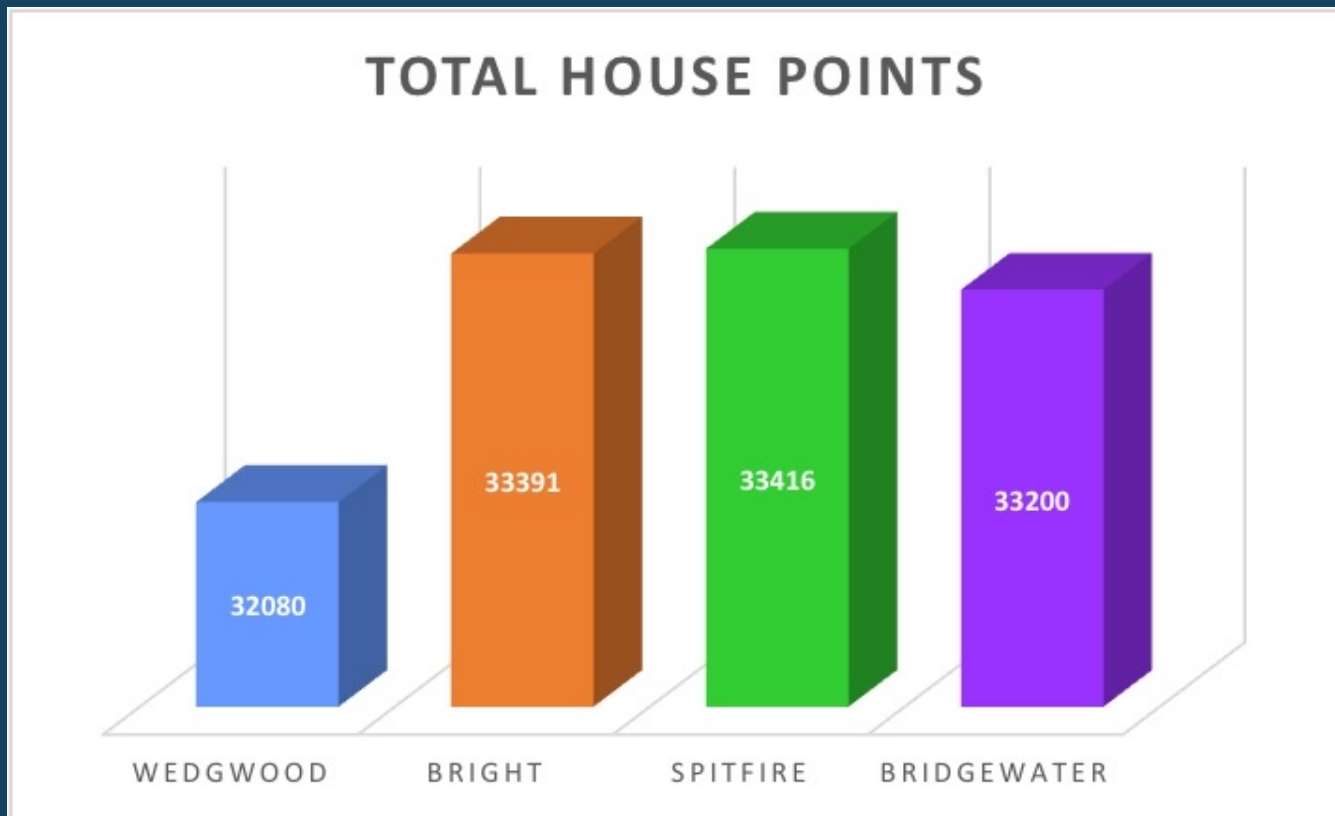
I'm really excited to join the school team and get to know the students. I've been a science teacher for 8 years and especially love getting stuck into exciting experiments. See you all after the Easter holidays!



# House Update

The house competition is close as always, with only 1336 positive points separating fourth and first place. Well done to Spitfire who are our new leaders this term.

Keep pushing to get those positives over the next few weeks as Mrs Castrey has a secret reward planned for the winning team.



# Year 9

A message from Mrs Castrey...

Attention year 9.

The options evening will be taking place on the 4th of May 2023.

In the next few weeks your subject staff will be discussing with you the potential choices for your KS4 studies.

Please speak to myself or your form tutor about your options if you have any queries at all.

We are exploring opportunities for increasing the number of subjects for Year 9 but in the meantime, I am encouraging students to continue enjoying their broad range of subjects and to start thinking about the subjects they are currently enjoying to support with those choices and discussions.





# Numeracy

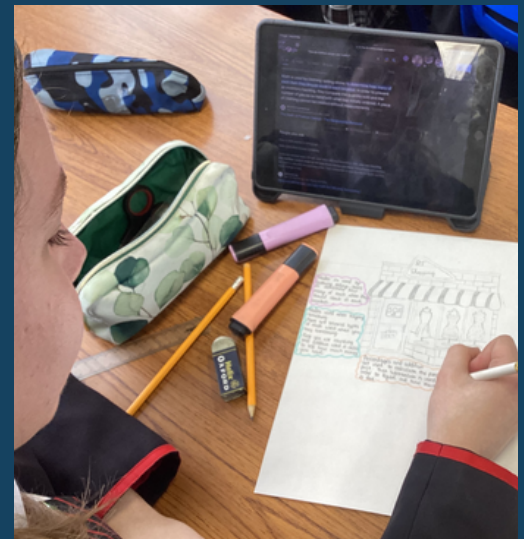
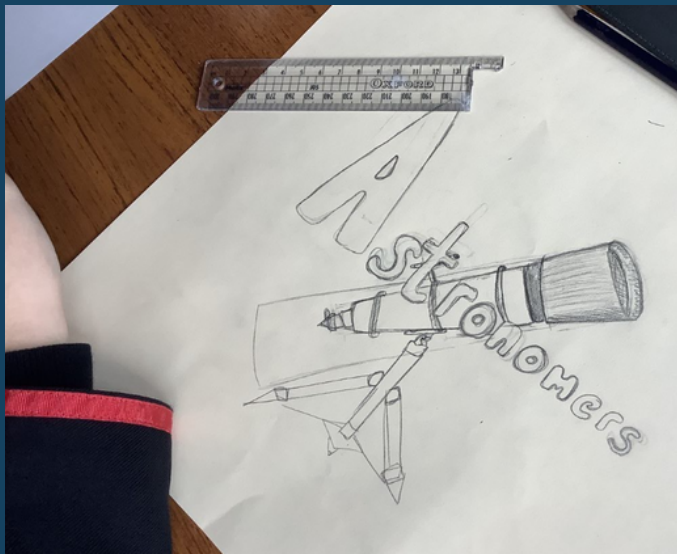


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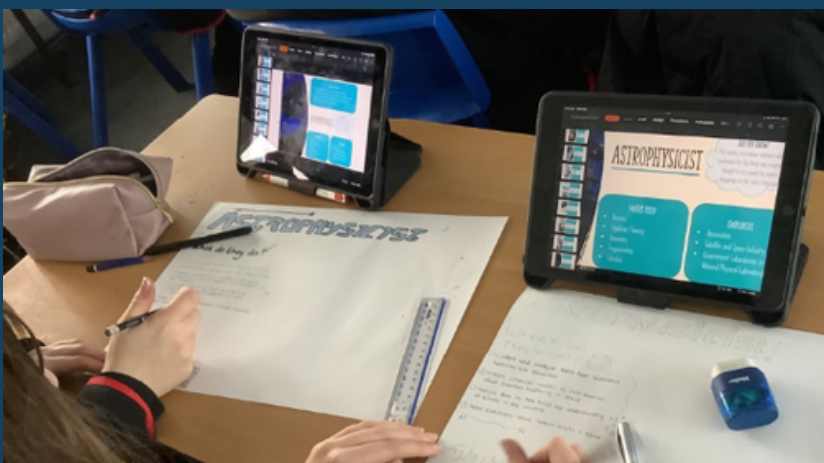
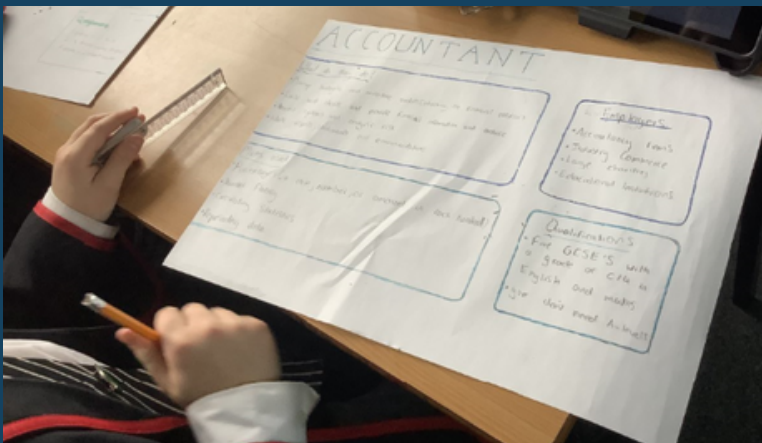
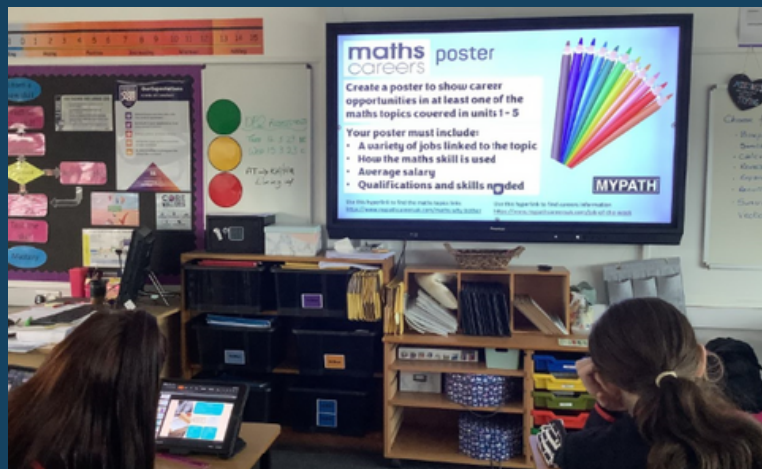


A message from Mrs Frost....

This week is National Careers week. In Maths students have engaged in lessons aimed at connecting maths to careers, life skills and use in everyday life. Specific focus has been on increasing our students' awareness of just how many careers use maths. This includes how it is used in life more generally, highlighting transferable skills and helping them to recognise that they might already utilise or be developing these skills through education and enrichment. Students researched careers related to topics covered during this academic year to create either a poster or Minecraft world detailing relevant career opportunities, how maths is used in the role, average salary, qualifications and skills needed.







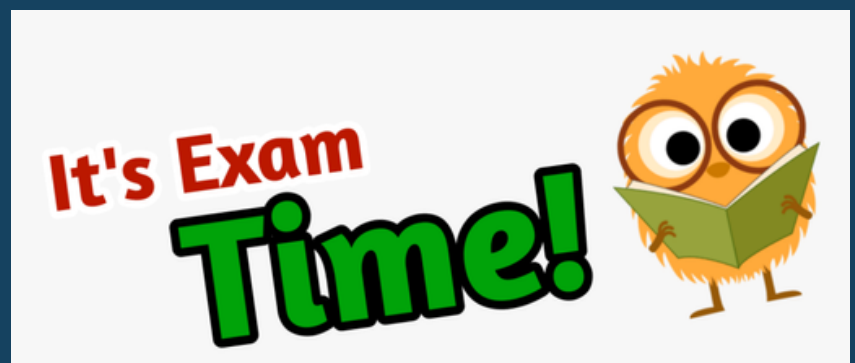
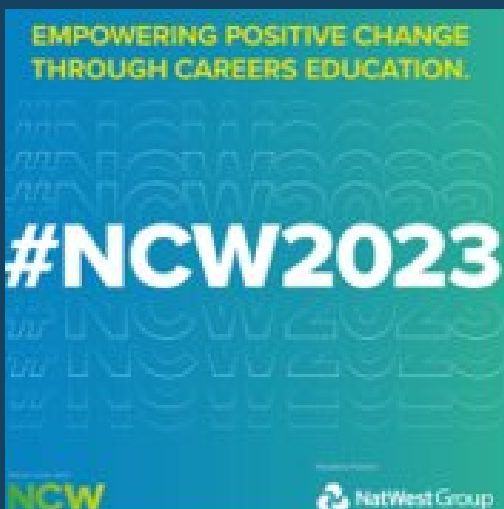
# Key Stage Four Update

A message from Mrs Postlethwaite...

It has been a busy couple of weeks back since Half Term!

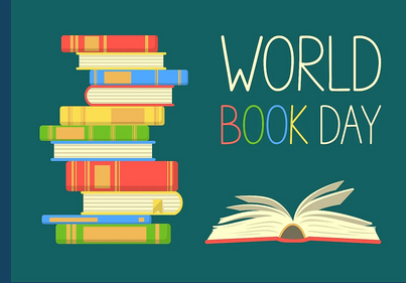
Year 11 continue to impress us with their amazing work ethic. We have three weeks before Easter and then another four weeks after Easter until the GCSE examination season begins, a total of just 35 more school days! We are working hard behind the scenes to organise individual exam timetables and intervention sessions for Easter which will be shared with you shortly. Year 11 mentoring started two weeks ago, with every student receiving weekly mentoring sessions with a teacher. The feedback from these sessions has been really positive and students are taking on board the offers of support and extra encouragement.

We have enjoyed National Careers Week activities in school this week and linking in with this, Year 10 are in the process of choosing their work experience placements with many students already securing their provider. If any parents or carers feel they would be able to support by offering a week long placement to a Year 10 student, please get in touch.





# World Book Day

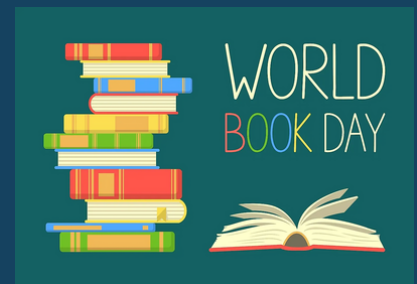


As part of World Book Day, Mr Baldwin delivered an assembly to Y7 and Y8, which explored the importance of reading but also the history of the day itself. Students shared some of the novels/materials that they have enjoyed reading. With the ever-changing methods of communication around the world, Kidsgrove Secondary School want to encourage further development of our young people's literacy skills through a culture of reading for pleasure.





# World Book Day



# World Book Day

A message from Mr Baldwin....

World Book Day 2023 at KSS was a huge success.

From every student having an assembly about the history of World Book Day and receiving their book token to get a brand-new book, to all subjects getting involved in making it a day to remember.

It is a privilege to see how all students have embraced reading for pleasure and how the cross-circular learning is having an impact on engagement. Every student has demonstrated the core value of 'resilience' this half term when it has come to reading.

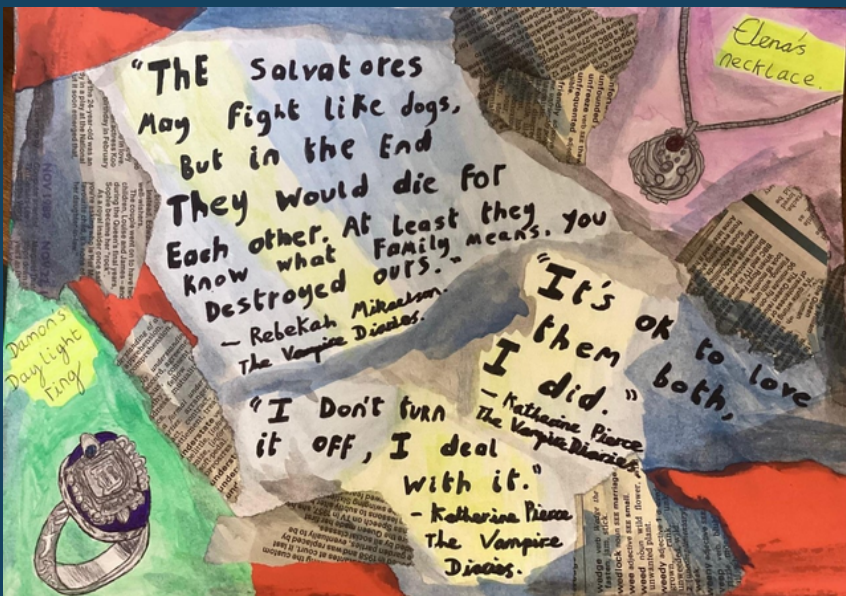
Just to name a few of the opportunities:

Computing lessons gave the students a chance to mix literacy with coding. Students created their own story using their digital skills. The outcome was fantastic!

GCSE Art designed some brilliant work that is being used for their final grades and will be displayed in the reading room. The research of key quotes and then the creative process have resulted in some beautiful pieces that will look stunning on display.

English themselves had two live events for KS3. Integrating PE and citizenship were the two themes this year. 'How to be an Ally' was particularly successful as it encouraged students to consider their personal values.

The reading room itself has been busier than ever! A reminder to students to: pop their suggestions into the box for future texts, complete reviews; continue talking about reading experiences as these are the most important conversations!





# World Book Day

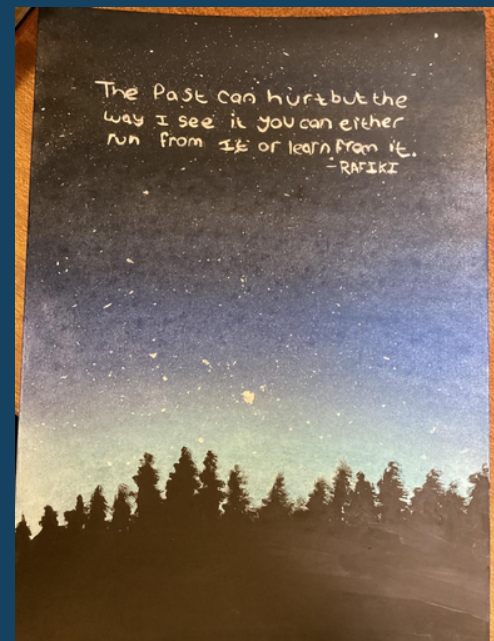
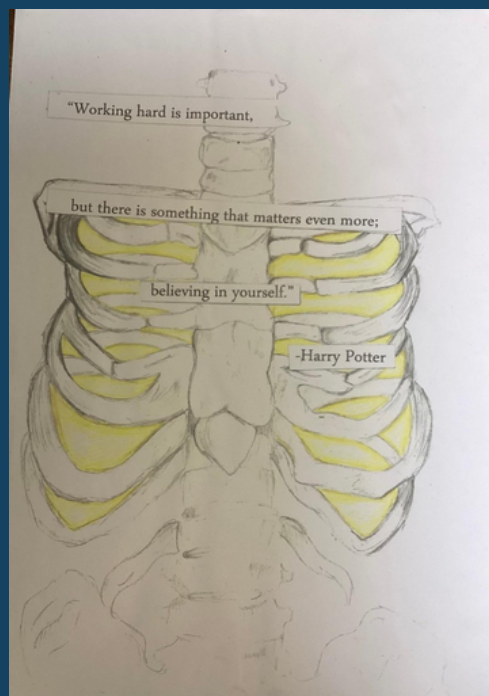
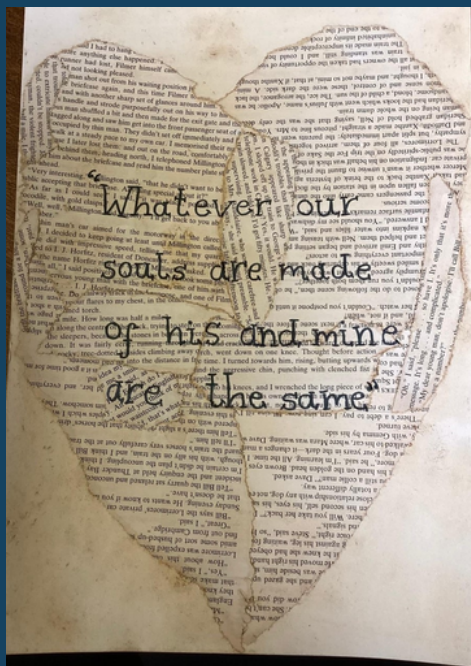


## THE QUEEN'S GAMBIT



"Her mind was luminous,  
and her soul sang to  
her in the sweet moves  
of chess."

—Walter Tevis, *The Queen's Gambit*





# Careers

A message from Mrs Weaver..

Yesterday our first group of Year 10s have experienced a workplace at Churchills in Sandyford.

Students had a talk on CV writing, a discussion about apprenticeships and a fantastic factory tour looking at how the ceramics are produced and where they go to have a go at decorating their own plates.

A great experience with the students being fantastic ambassadors yet again.  
Well done Year 10!

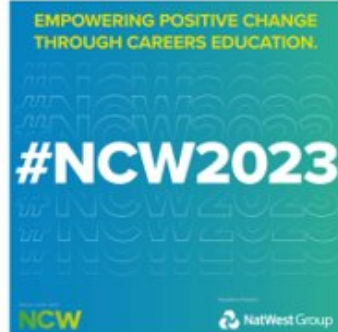




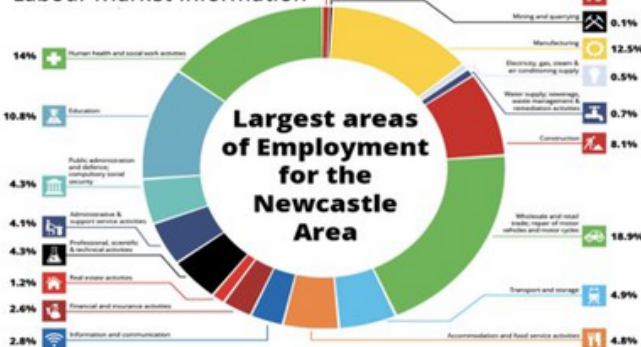


# National Careers Week

What will your future hold?



## Labour Market Information



## Assemblies this week have been based around National Careers Week.

### maths careers poster

Create a poster to show career opportunities related to percentages

Your poster must include:

- A variety of jobs linked to the topic
- How the maths skill is used
- Average salary
- Qualifications and skills needed



**MYPATH**

Use this hyperlink to find the jobs related to percentages  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7E9H11MGT0>

Use this hyperlink to find careers information on the jobs related to percentages  
<https://www.mypathcareersuk.com/job-of-the-week>

**Alternatively you can create a careers world on Minecraft embedding the poster criteria**



We have discussed how jobs in the future may change and how it is important to develop our KSS Core Values.

Some lessons have also had a careers twist as well as staff sharing their career paths.

## Top Employment Sectors with Skills Shortages in Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire



**Social Care**

[www.careersinhealthcare.co.uk](http://www.careersinhealthcare.co.uk)



**Digital**

[www.digitalcareers.org.uk](http://www.digitalcareers.org.uk)



**Nursing**

[www.healthcareers.nhs.uk](http://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk)



**Logistics**

[www.logistics.org.uk](http://www.logistics.org.uk)



**Hospitality**

[www.hospitalityjobsuk.com](http://www.hospitalityjobsuk.com)



**Engineering**

[www.hospitalcareers.co.uk/career-sectors/engineering](http://www.hospitalcareers.co.uk/career-sectors/engineering)



# Technology

A message from Mr Till....

Year 11 Hospitality & Catering:

Students are beginning to finalise their final dishes for the Hospitality and Catering coursework. The Year 11 class have been experimenting with ways that dishes can be adapted to be more nutritious/healthier.

The use of sugar alternatives, wholemeal flour, butter substitutes and even the method of cooking (e.g. Baked donuts rather than deep fat fried) are all approaches that the class are manipulating to produce high quality products.

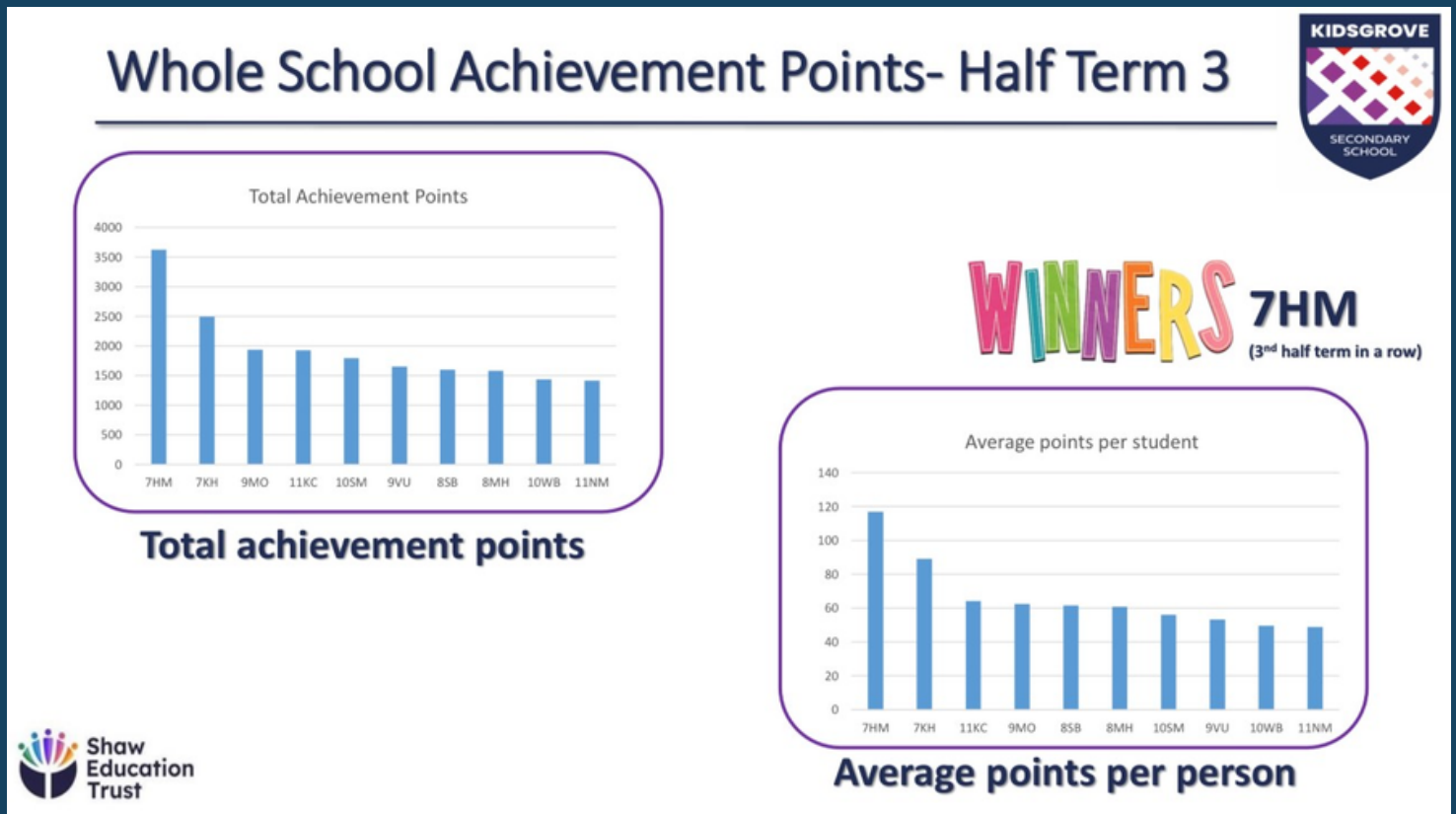
Keep up the great work Y11.



# Year 7 and 8 Update

A message from Mr Till....

Y7 enter the second half of the spring term as whole school leaders in achievement points. 7HM have maintained the top spot for an incredible three half-terms in a row with 7KH close in second. Both Y8 forms have climbed an impressive 3 spaces on the whole school leader board.



Y8 Parents' Evening will be held virtually, via School Cloud, on Thursday 16th March 4:30pm-6:30pm. Please use the following link to book appointments with your child's class teachers:

<https://kidsgrovesecondary.schoolcloud.co.uk/>.

A digital letter has also been sent out via ClassCharts.

# Music

A message from Mrs Evans....

A huge well done to Izzy and Kirsti for their achievements in music.

Kirsti is mastering the saxophone and Izzy is mastering the Flute.

It is great to see students expressing themselves and learning how to play an instrument in extra curricula time.

Well done to both students.





# Music

A message from Mrs Evans....

Year 11 music students have been perfecting their skills for their coursework.

Here are James and Keira honing their skills on guitar!

They have been working hard on practising key pieces of music and they have developed their skills brilliantly.



# Staff Welcome

I am delighted to introduce Miss Pearson.

She has recently joined us as SEND tutor, working with small groups. Please find below a photograph and a short introduction from the lady herself.

Having graduated from Manchester , Elizabeth Gaskell, I started my teaching career in Somerset as a music/drama teacher. A belief in holistic teaching sent me down the SEN and Counselling path some twelve years later. These areas have remained my passion.

Encouraging self-belief is instrumental to my teaching philosophy. I later went on to look at more specific learning challenges and became interested in dyslexia, ADHD and Autism.

I believe I have gained so much in working along side these alternative learners. I hope to continue 'learning' at Kidsgrove Secondary and am excited to be working as part of the Learning Support Team to support your children.





# Attendance



# Digital Strategy

An update regarding the digital strategy at KSS. The use of iPads has revolutionised the teaching and learning experience of our students and the support from parents to ensure that your child charges and looks after their device has been amazing.

The students use their iPads in all subject areas and through a variety of ways. The latest project is being developed within digital skills lessons as students create their own virtual reality worlds through AR MaKR.

Please ask you child for them so show you their digital work including their One Note exercise books from across their curriculum. I am sure you will be impressed!



iPad



iPad



iPad



iPad





# Parent/Carer Survey

We would really appreciate your feedback regarding the use of iPads and the digital strategy at KSS.

Please scan the QR code below and submit your answers so that we can take your views forwards.

## Parent/Carer Digital Survey



# Digital Strategy



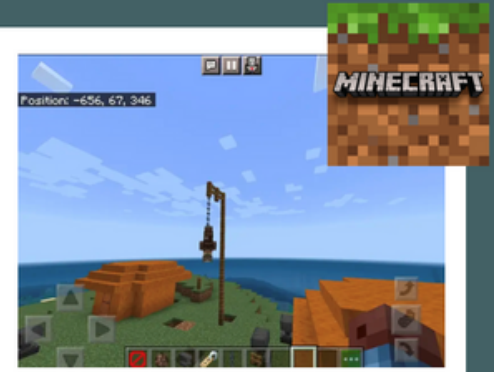
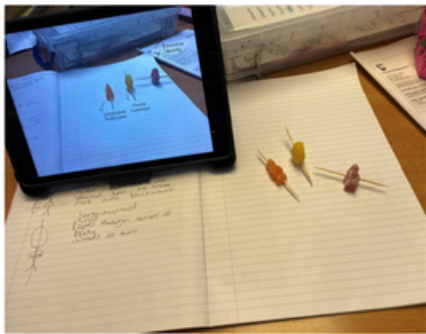
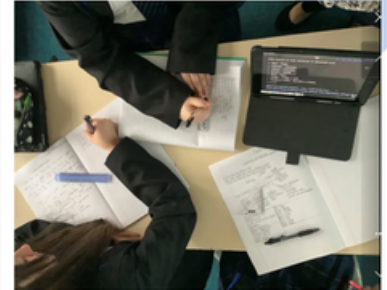


# Digital Strategy



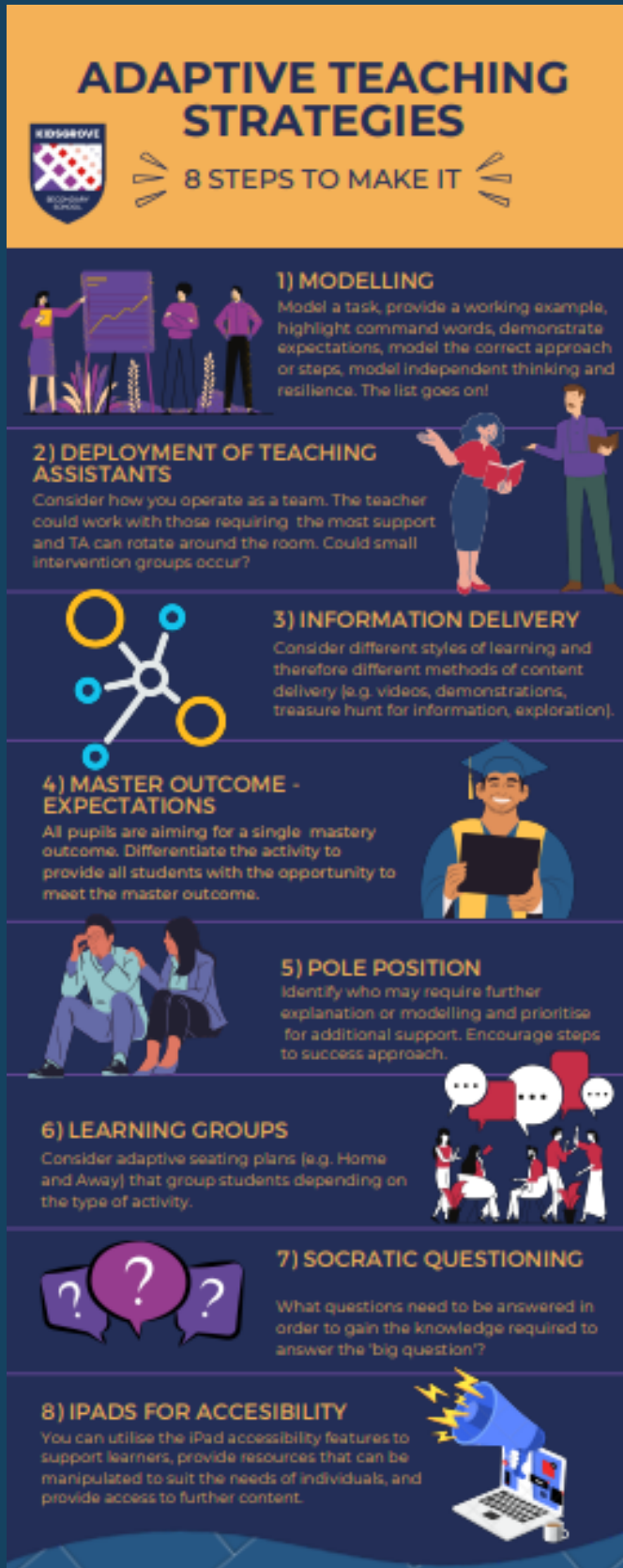


# Digital Strategy





# 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.

In the last Headteacher Bulletin we showcased our digital improvements. In this edition we are celebrating our use of adaptive teaching strategies that support all students in accessing the KSS curriculum.

You can see from the poster opposite that there are 8 steps to success through adaptive approaches to learning. This starts with teachers modelling tasks and is supported by the teaching assistant team, the lesson outcomes and questioning techniques used by staff.

# 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 Trampolining

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

Trampolining

KS4

Hall - Mrs Castrey



# Staff Welcome

I am delighted to introduce Miss Morgan.

Miss Morgan joined us in January as a new apprentice teaching assistant. She has really hit the ground running and has made an immediate impact with our students. Please see below a photograph and a welcome from the lady herself.

I am a new teaching assistant apprentice at the Kidsgrove Secondary School.

Here are a few things about me;

I am a fully qualified beautician; I specialise in Nail therapy and Make up artistry.

By the age of 17 I had performed in a stadium in Europe as part of the Kidsgrove Scouts Drum and Bugle Corps and won a European championship medal.

I am a football fan and the team I support is Port Vale.



# 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.





# Easter Reward Trip



The Easter reward trip is just around the corner.

In order to qualify, students need to achieve above 90% attendance and receive no more than 8 behaviour incidents for the four weeks up until a week before the end of term.

We hope that all students will join us for what is destined to be a brilliant adventure.

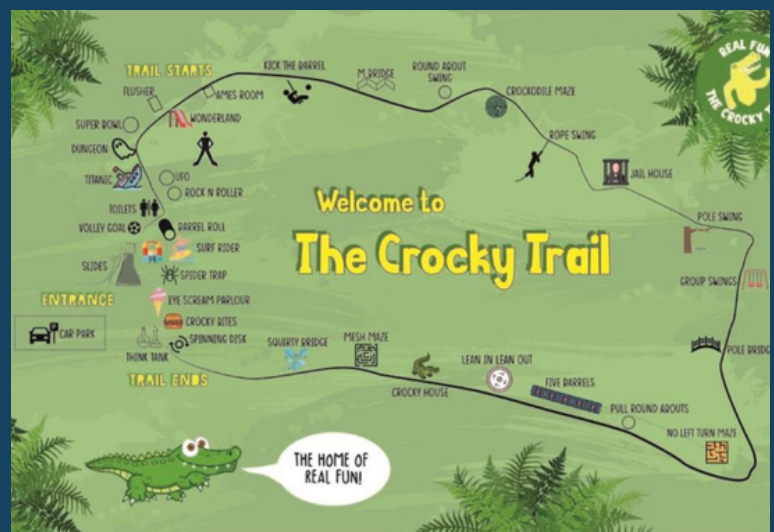
## Whole School Reward Trip- Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March.



**Reward window: 27<sup>th</sup> February – 24<sup>th</sup> March. (20 school days)**



**Less than 8 behaviour points and 90% Attendance or above.**



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