

HEADTEACHER BULLETIN

Friday 31st of March 2023

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Dear Parents/Carers,

As the Spring term draws to a close, we have a bumper bulletin for you to look through as we celebrate even more amazing achievements from our wonderful students.

Within this latest edition we have included updates regarding various aspects of school life. These include examples of the many Personal Development opportunities we offer the students, celebration of individual and collective achievements, showcases of amazing class work, updates about the reading developments and the exciting work of the student council in supporting better air quality around the school site.

It has been an extremely busy term and as we take stock we are as always exceptionally proud of the developments and improvements we are making at KSS and how brilliant the students are on a day to day basis.

We have planned over the Easter break very important intervention sessions for the Year 11 students, further details have been communicated to parents/carers regarding these, which we would appreciate your support in encouraging your children to attend. We are now in the final 20 school days before the formal summer GCSE examinations begin but a year group has never been more prepared to face what lies ahead. This was in evidence when a number of Year 11 students visited Staffordshire University to undertake Science, English and Maths subject masterclasses organised by The Shaw Education Trust. The students were a credit to us as they joined students from other schools from within the cluster. This example of hard work and focus will stand the students in good stead.

This half term has seen two parents evenings take place for Years 8 and 10 respectively. It has been fantastic that so many parents/carers have attend appointments with subject teachers, to receive an update regarding their child's learning. There are a vast majority of students that are making fantastic progress in lots of curriculum areas which is brilliant to see and this has been evidenced in the progress reports that have been sent home.

A reminder that there will be a face to face Year 9 parents evening/options event taking place on Thursday the 4th of May led by Mrs Castrey. This is a key event for the year group as students decide on their GCSE pathway. We have spent time devising the curriculum offer for Year 9 and we think this will lead to a more appropriate suite of subjects.

Finally, from all of us at KSS we wish you a wonderful Easter holiday. A reminder that the students return on Tuesday the 18th of April 2023 as the staff have their final teacher training day of the year taking place on Monday the 17th of April 2023.



Upcoming Events:

- Tuesday 18th April 2023 - Students Return
- Wednesday 19th April 2023 - Year 11 Care Home Visit
- Thursday 20th April 2023 - Digital Gaming Event
- Thursday 4th May 2023 - Year 9 Parents Evening/Options Event
- Friday 5th May 2023 - Year 11 Examinations Begin

Yours faithfully,
Mr S Frost

Attendance

KSS



ATTENDANCE

**WHOLE SCHOOL
ATTENDANCE
THIS HALF TERM**

94.75%

BEST HOUSE



**BEST
FORM
8SB
96.69%**

**163 STUDENTS
ACHIEVED 100%
ATTENDANCE AND
WON AN EASTER
EGG**

Staff Welcome

I am delighted to introduce Ms Tucker who has joined KSS as an apprentice teaching assistant. Below is a picture and a few words from the lady herself.

My name is Miss Tucker and I am the new teaching assistant, I love to do Art and be creative, I also enjoy anything beauty related. I am a Level 3 qualified beauty therapist and I specialise in massaging, skin care, makeup artistry and eyebrow lamination. I have completed three 'Tough Mudder's' in the past two year and looking forward to doing more this year.



History

7K showed their amazing digital skills in History lessons with Mr Frost recently. There were eight students that received a laptop as a prize for their amazing castle building skills on Minecraft. The students peer assessed each others castles and they selected the winners who are pictured below.

Well done to Amelia, Amber, Ava, Kate, Rokko, Amy, Mystaya and Alfie.



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



Year 11 Easter Intervention

Across the two weeks of the Easter break, the Year 11 teaching staff are giving up their holiday break to offer subject intervention sessions for the students. Please see below a full list of the available sessions. We would be delighted if as many students as possible could join us. For every student that attends an Easter Egg is awaiting them!

Easter Revision



Date	Time	Subject
Monday 3 rd April	9am-11am	History (Mr Hilditch)
Monday 3 rd April	10am-12pm	Geography (Mrs Weaver)
Tuesday 4 th April	All day	Technology (Mrs Bryan)
Wednesday 5 th April	9am-12pm	I-Media (Mrs Morrell)
	9am-11am	Spanish- Foundation (Ms Hud)
	11am-1pm	Spanish- Higher (Ms Hud)
	11am-2pm	English Language (Mr Baldwin)
Thursday 6 th April	11am-1pm	Maths (Mrs Frost & Mrs McDermott)
Tuesday 11 th April	10am-12pm	English Literature (Mr Old)
Wednesday 12 th April	10am-12pm	PE (Mrs Castrey)
Thursday 13 th April	10am-12pm	Science (Mrs Postlethwaite)
Friday 14 th April	10am-2pm	Art (Miss Mason)



Digital Skills

A message from Miss Hud...

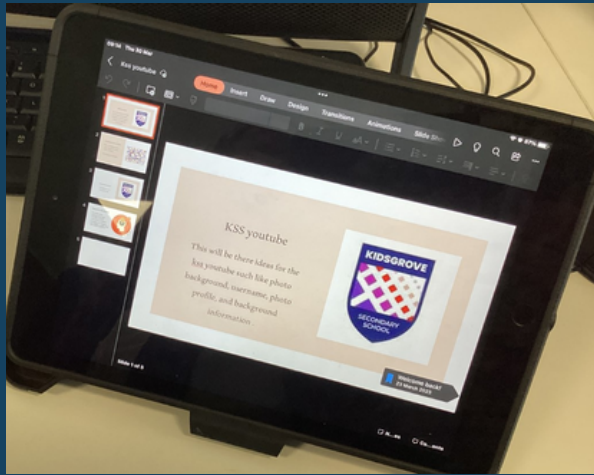
Year 7s have been working on augmented reality in digital skills. They have been very creative, each having different ideas related to their interests and abilities. They have shown great initiative and perseverance during their work.



Digital Skills



Digital Skills



DEAR

A message from Mr Baldwin...



Our Drop Everything and Read programme was launched recently. This involves all students and staff in years 7, 8 and 9 dropping what they are doing and reading for the first 15 minutes of a lesson. To ensure the best life chances for our students reading needs to continue to be a priority. Look out for more updates on reading very soon.



Headteacher Reward Lunch

A highlight of my half term is enjoying a reward lunch with students who have gone above and beyond in the previous five weeks.

I was delighted to be joined by the students listed below. Well done everyone and thank you to the kitchen staff for the lovely lunch.

Year 7
Shakira
Connor
Ava
Rokko
Victoria

Year 8
Louie
Ollie
Levi
Brooke

Year 9
Connor
Kiera
Alfie
Josh

Year 10
Caiden
Daniel
Evie
Amelia
Tilly

Year 11
Nathan
Ellie Mae
Evie
Caitlin
Kaitlyn
Kyle
Josh
Jack
Lydia



Numeracy



**PROUD TO
BE
KSS**



A message from Mrs Frost...

Mrs McDermott and I wanted to take the chance to thank all students for their hard work and effort in maths this last term and we cannot believe we are starting our final term of our first year already. We are regularly blown away by so many wonderful students and their positive attitudes to learning and how they demonstrate the core values. We will continue to push resilience in all students within their maths lessons as we move towards their end of year assessments and for the Year 9 students, the start of their Maths GCSE in September.

A special thank you to the 25 Year 11 students that came along to Staffs Uni for the Maths Masterclass last week, which was kindly hosted by the Shaw Education Trust. The students were fantastic and such a credit to us.



Numeracy



**PROUD TO
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KSS**



Year 7 have enjoyed some Football Maths Academy in their lesson this week as an opportunity to revise their most recent topic.



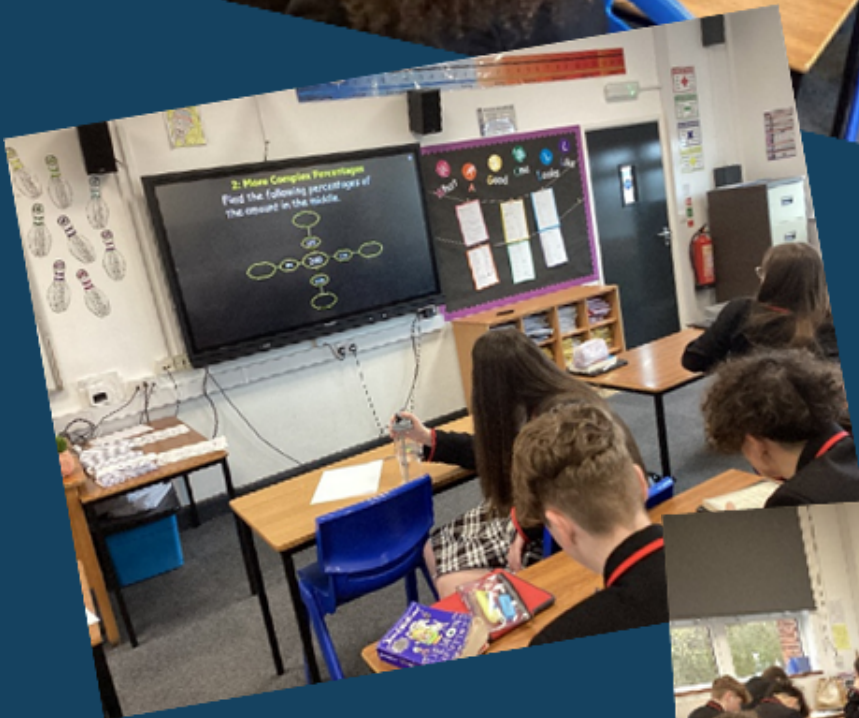
Numeracy



PROUD TO
BE
KSS



Year 9 have been doing a game of Maths Vegas to check that they have understood their topic on percentages.



Numeracy

We continue to be impressed with the number of entries for the Numeracy Puzzle each week. 439 students entered the Numeracy Puzzle during the first 4 weeks of this half term. We look forward to calculating the final results after all entries come in this week. We also thought we would include an Easter Numeracy Puzzle for you all to have a go at.

We cannot wait to welcome all Year 11 on Thursday 6th April 11am-1pm for their exam revision session.



Easter Emoji

The Numeracy Hive



$$\text{Sheep} + \text{Flower} + \text{Flower} = 95$$

$$\text{Church} \times \text{Church} + \text{Flower} = 104$$

$$\text{Sheep} + \text{Sheep} + \text{Sheep} = 45$$

$$\text{Church} \times \text{Flower} + \text{Church} = 328$$

$$\text{Sheep} =$$

$$\text{Flower} =$$

$$\text{Church} =$$



PROUD TO
BE
KSS

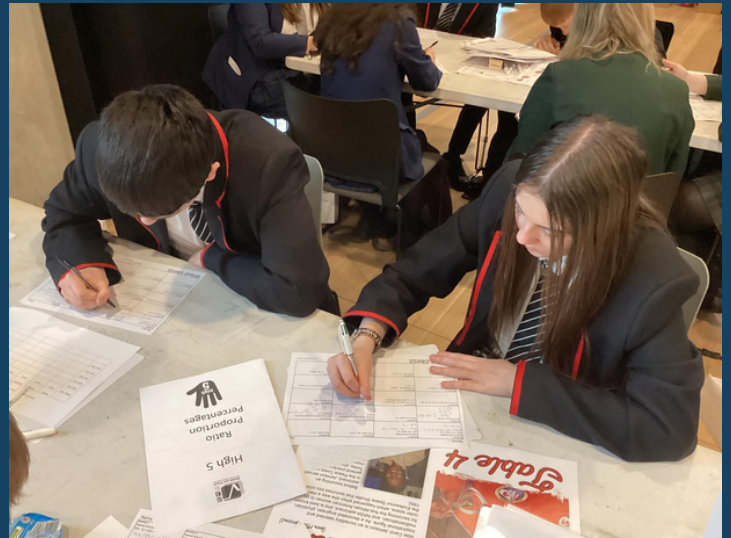
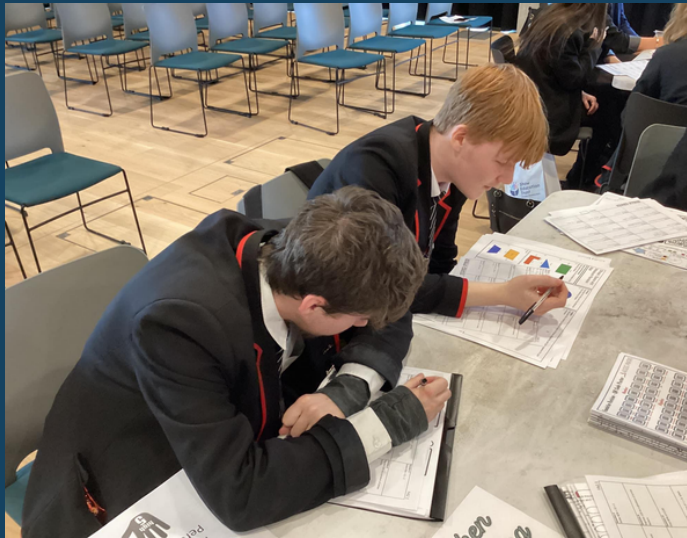


Year 11 Masterclasses

A message from Mrs Postlethwaite...

The Year 11 masterclasses have been a great success and the students that attended performed really well in all of the sessions that they undertook over the course of three days at Staffs Uni.

We know that these sessions in Science, Maths and English will provide students with even more understanding of how to tackle those difficult questions in the summer. Well done Year 11!



Year 11 Masterclasses

A message from Mr Old...
Year 11 English Masterclass

On 22nd March, a group of year 11s experienced an English masterclass at Staffordshire University. There were sessions on study skills, revision tips as well as two classes on the Language exam. The sessions gave the students the opportunity to hone their writing and reading skills as well as the chance to soak up the academic atmosphere in a great university!

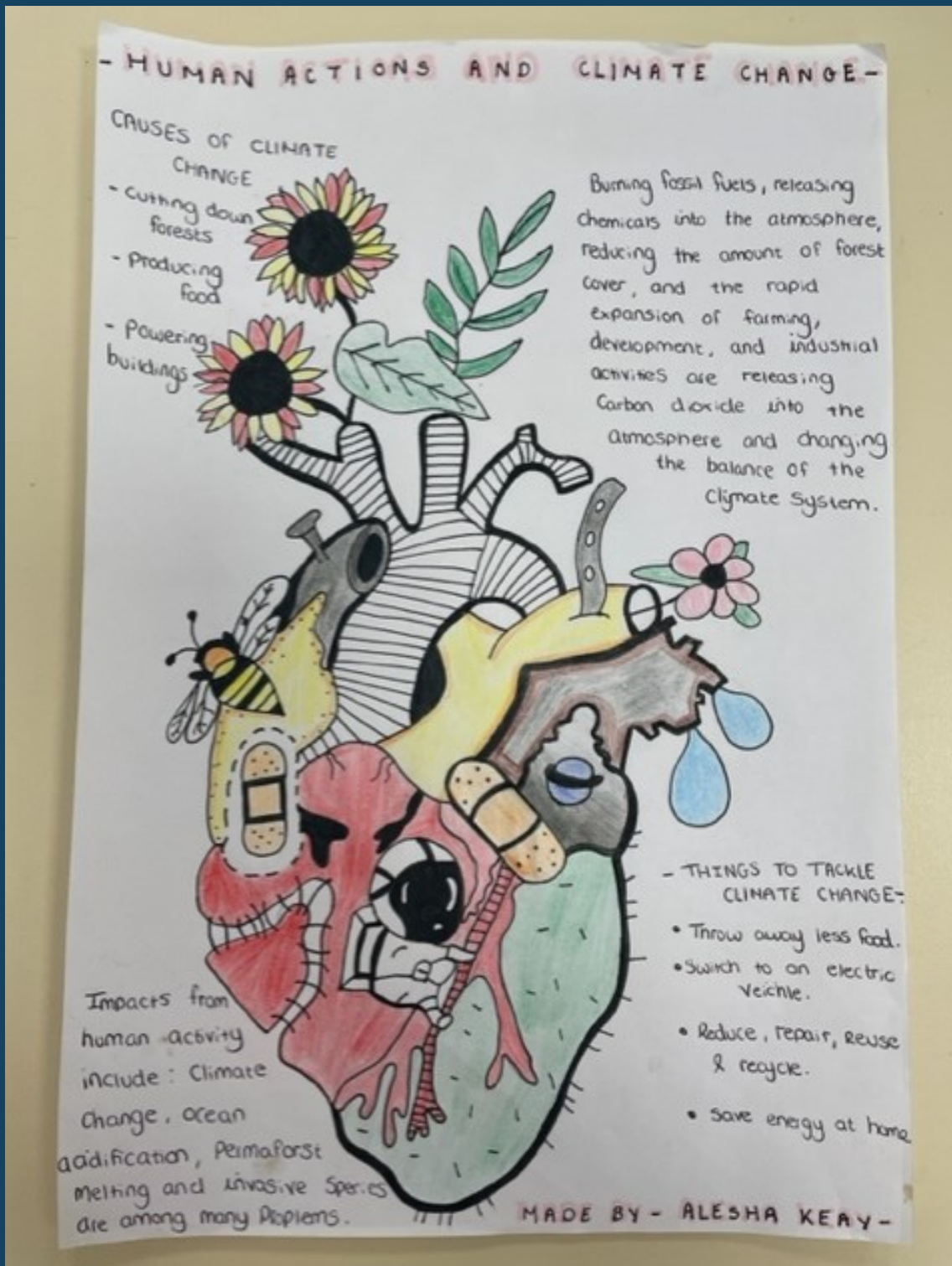
Well done to those involved, but particularly to Matthew and Charlie, who were rewarded with an Easter egg for their contributions to the day.



Science

A message from Dr Ma...

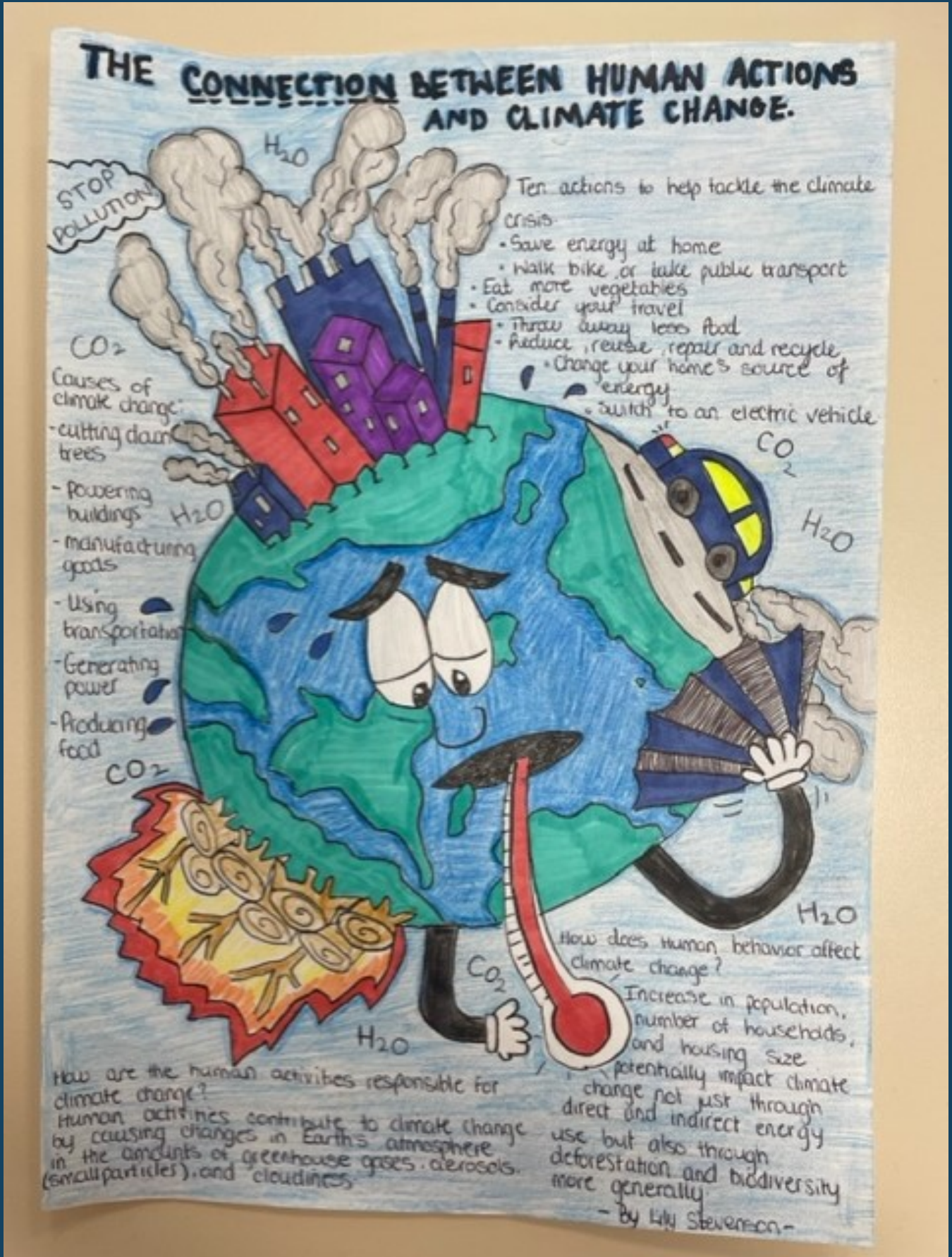
Winners of the British Science Week competition on "Connections" were Alesha & Lily, both from Year 9 with their posters to show the connection between "Human Impacts & Climate change" and Reece & Tommy from Year 7 with their animated film clip on "Science connections".



**PROUD TO
BE
KSS**



Science



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

KIDSGROVE SECONDARY SCHOOL

PROUD TO BE KSS

Shaw Education Trust

Year 9 Options

A message from Mrs Castrey...

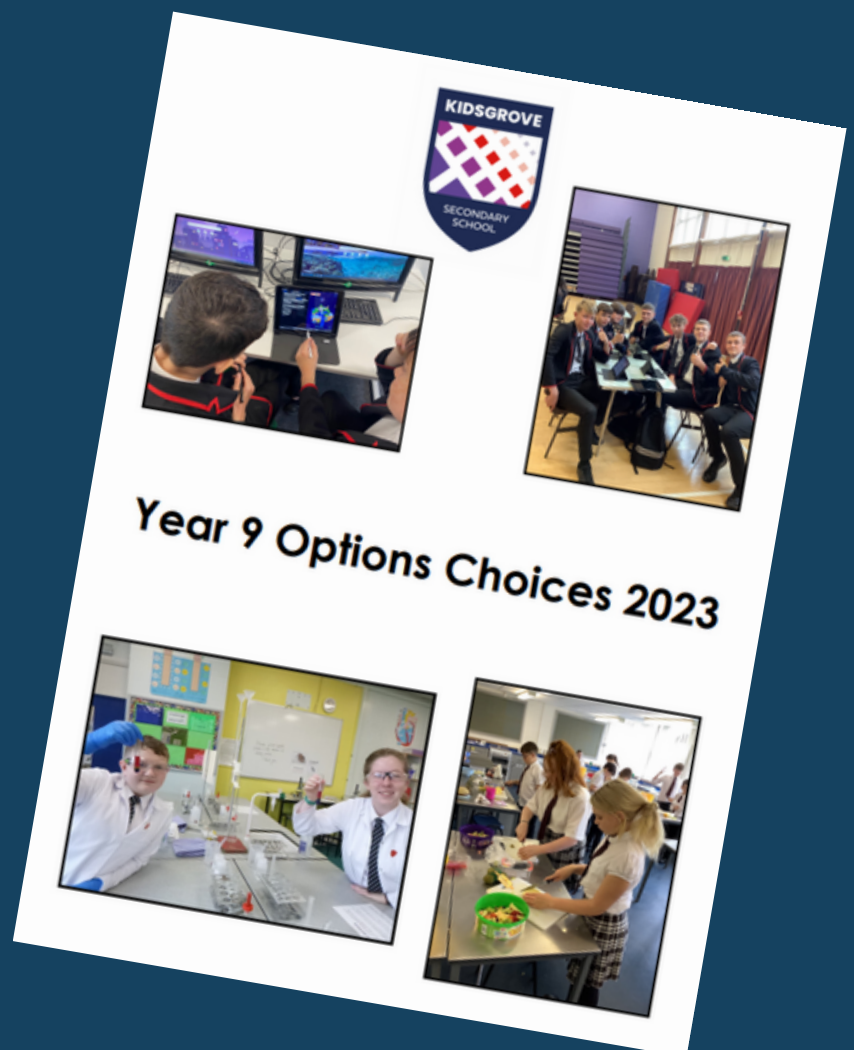
Attention year 9.

A reminder that 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.



Geography

Year 11 Geographers went to explore Dove Dale on Wednesday as part of their GCSE studies.

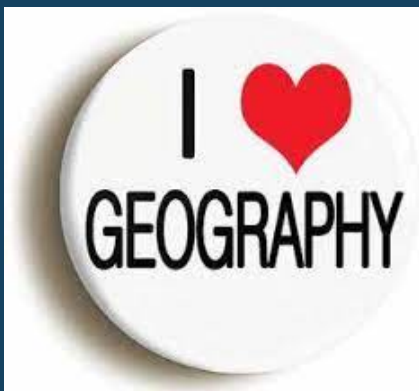
Thank you to Mrs Weaver, Mr Till and Ms Tucker for taking the group to explore and gather vital information for their GCSE studies.



Geography



Geography



Art

A message from Ms Mason...

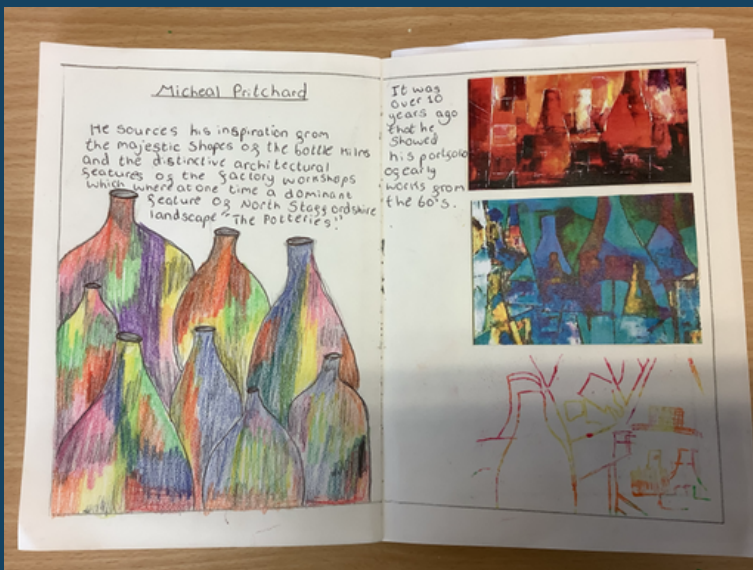
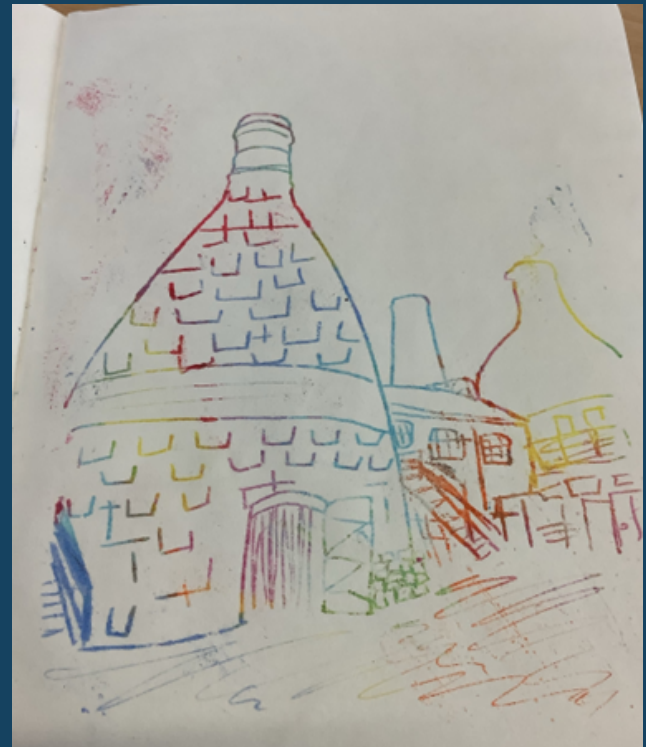
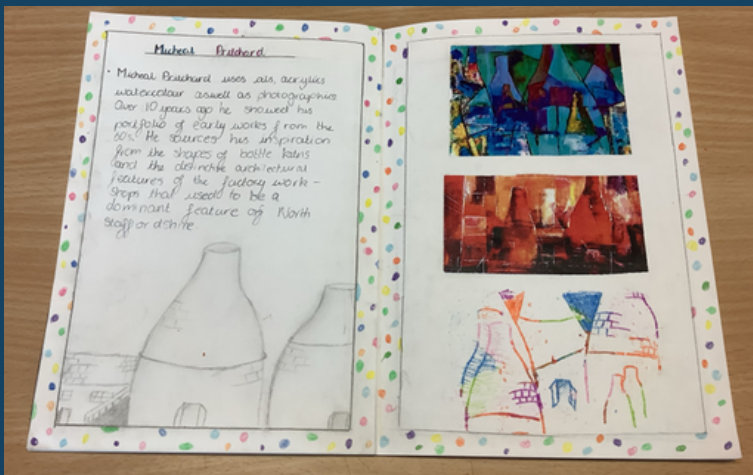
Year 7 have now completed their heritage project 'The Potteries'.

We have looked at local artist Michael Pritchard as our starting point. His work is heavily influenced by the bottle kiln structure and or industrial heritage in the area as well as vibrant colours.

Through this project we have covered the formal elements of line, shape, form and colour to create the students own artworks inspired by our local history.

The students have studied the artist creating an artist research page. They have also used the processes of observational drawing, sgraffito, digital collage and clay sculpture to respond to the artists work.

Well done Year 7!



Art

A message from Ms Mason...

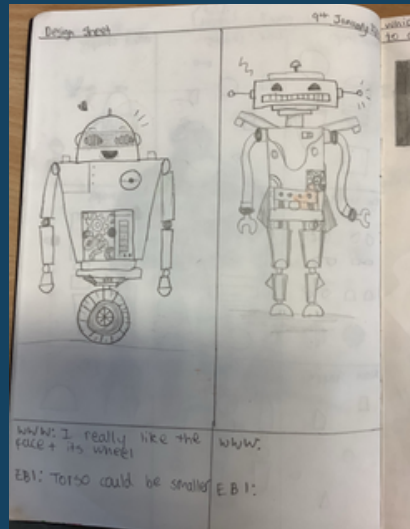
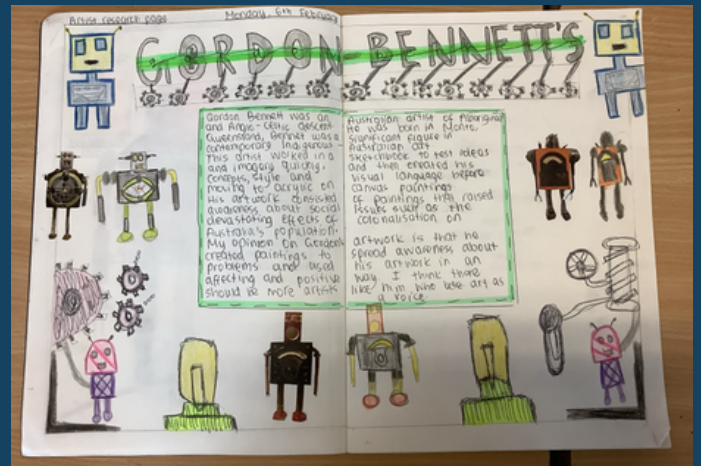
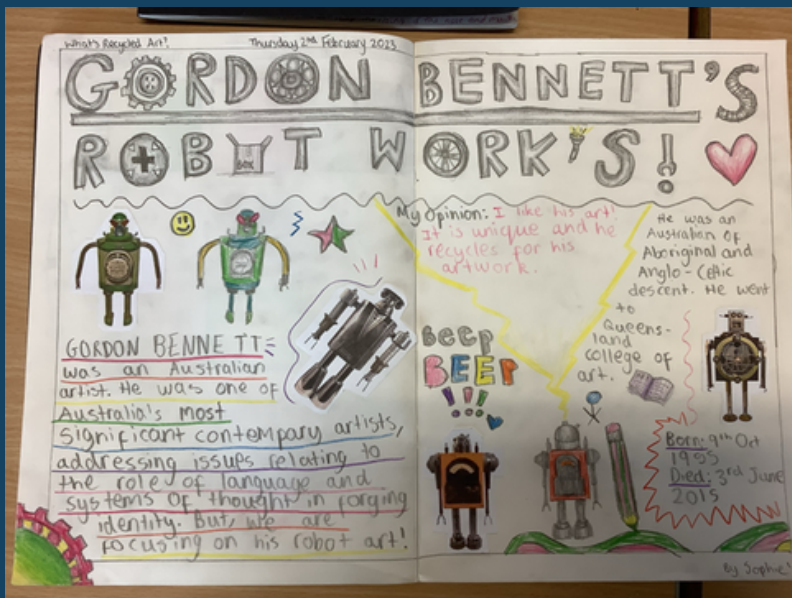
Year 8 have almost completed their Robots project.

This project began by exploring the book *The Iron Man* and the characters within the story.

We have explored the work of Gordon Bennett and his robot works to look at the process of creating art from found objects.

From here the students have designed their own robot character which they have then brought to life by building their designs from junk.

Their final task is to now create a story board of their final character explore story telling and character design as a career path.



Art

A message from Ms Mason...

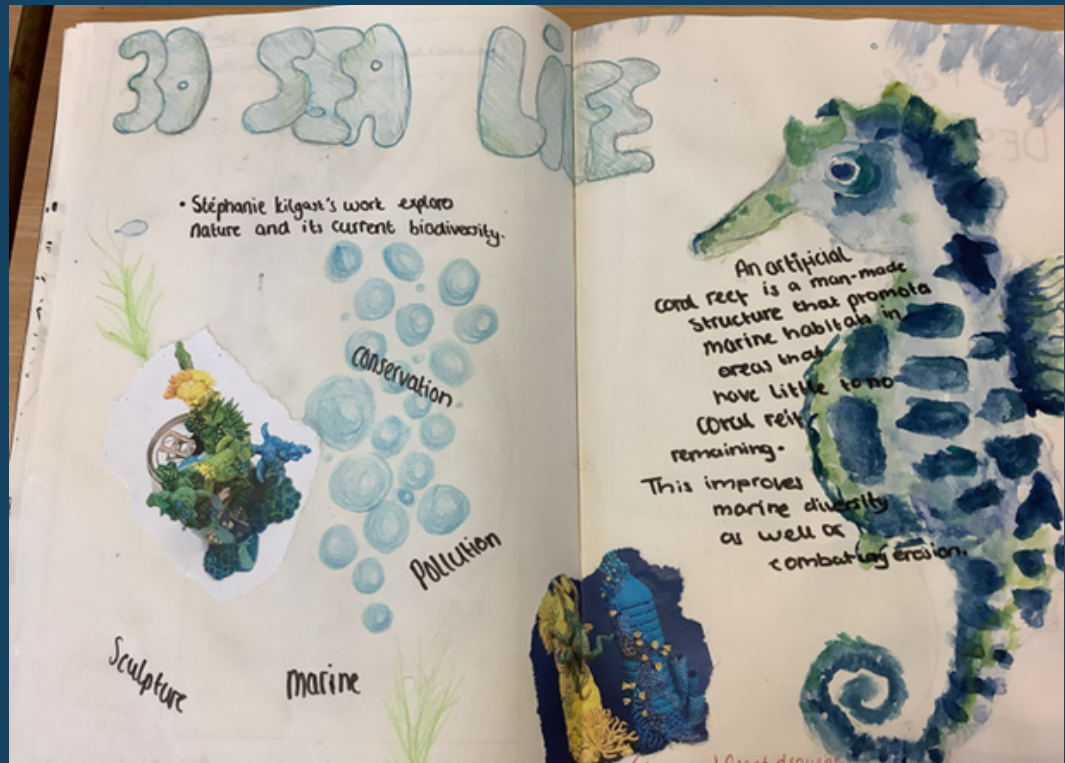
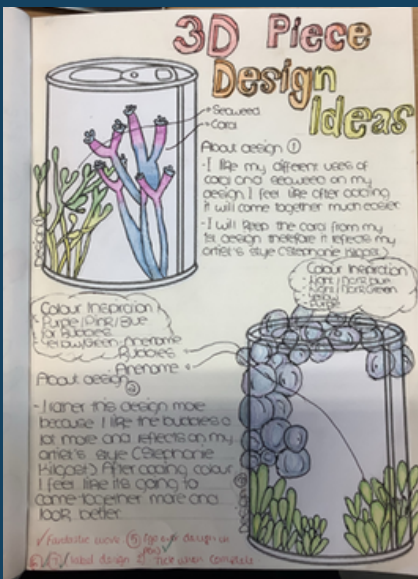
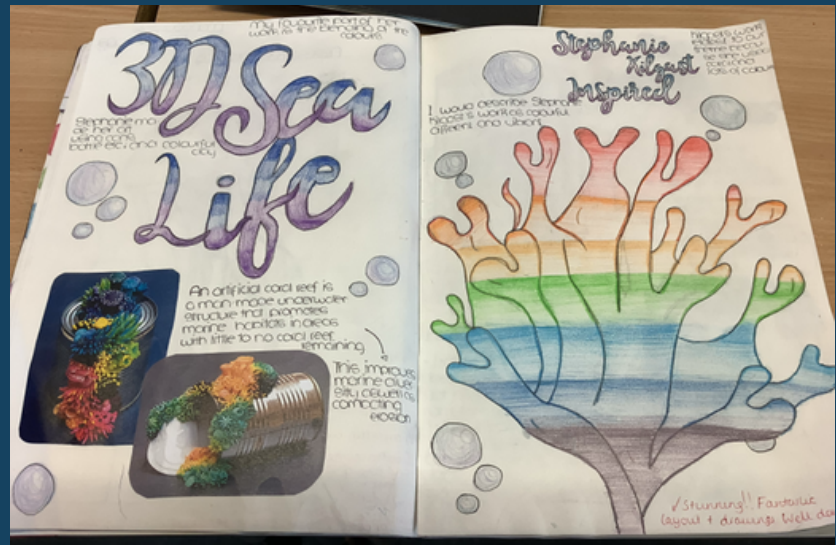
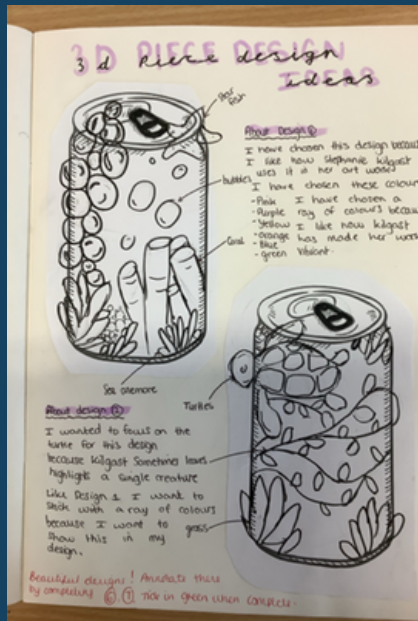
Year 9 has been working on their Marine Life project.

We began the project looking at sea life conservation focusing on the damage being done to our coral reefs.

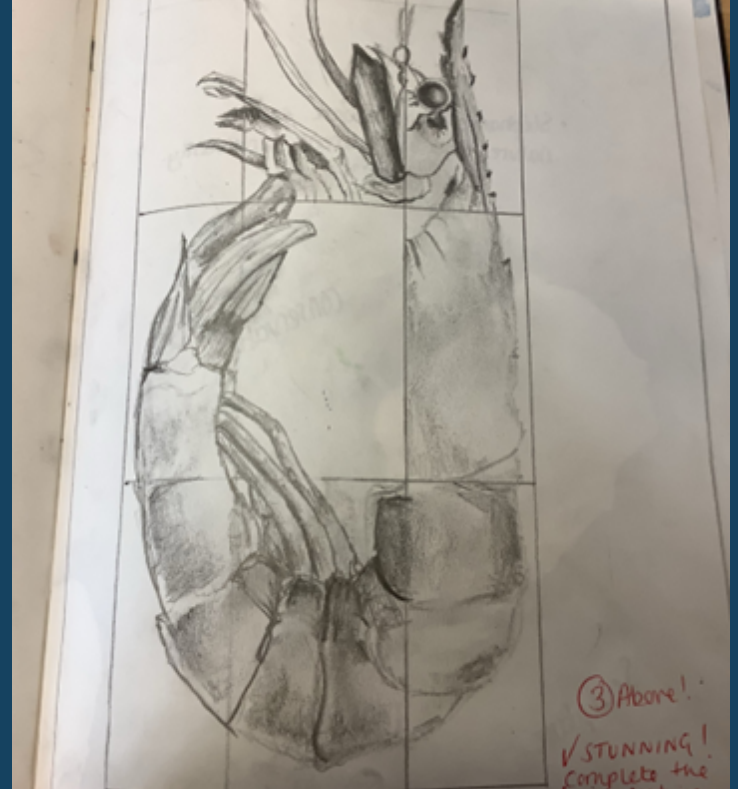
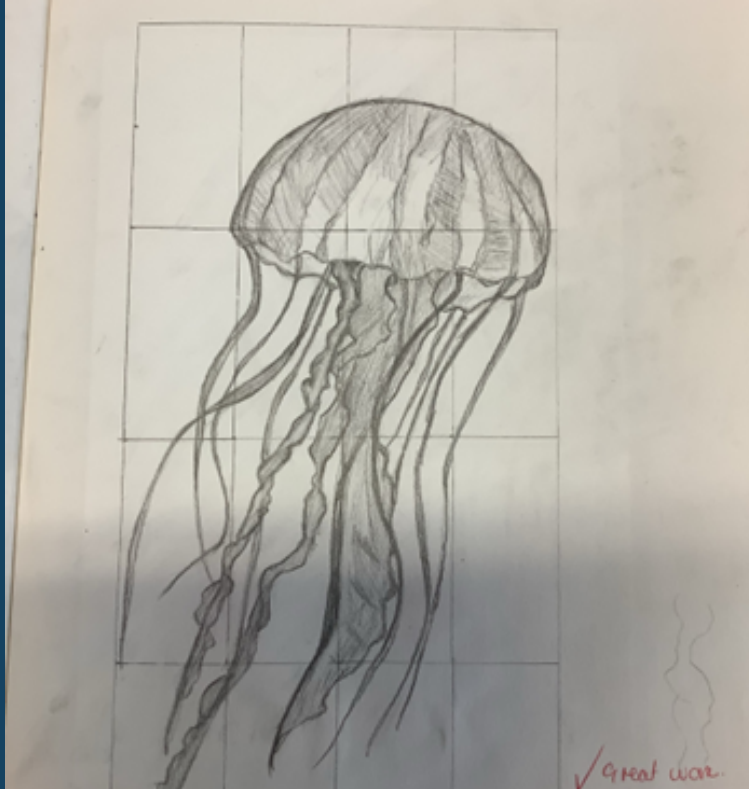
Students have explored drawing sea life with a mixture of tools and presented their research alongside the work of artist Stephanie Kilgast.

They have now designed their own artist inspired sculpture that will be created just after Easter.

Well done Year 9!

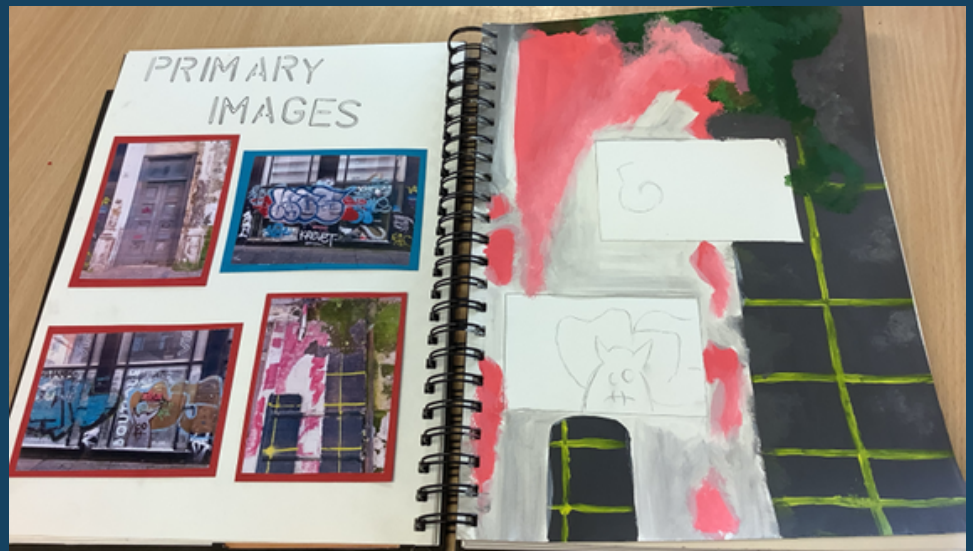
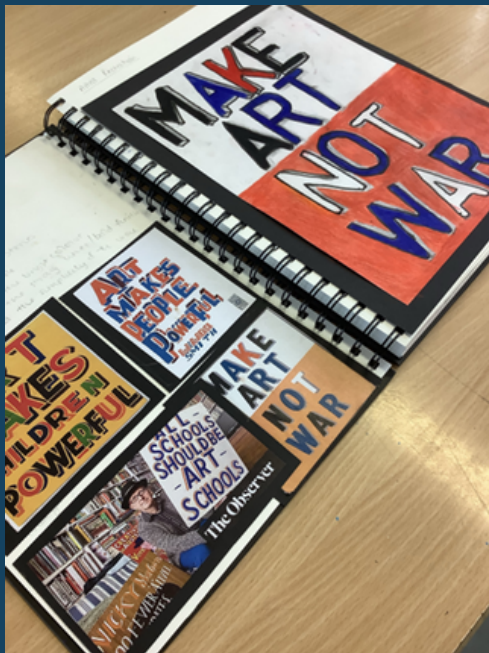


Art



A message from Ms Mason...

Year 10 are conducting their initial developments. This is James artist research and he is now moving onto some development drawings looking at graffiti.



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 adaptive teaching strategies. In this bulletin we are showcasing our work on supporting students with 'Tips for Sleep' and '3 ways to reset your mental health'.

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SLEEP WELL, LEARN WELL

TIPS FOR SLEEP

Here are some tips to help you get better sleep.

EXERCISE

Movement is a great way to exert the body and allows better sleep at the end of the day.

READ

Try reading a book or magazine to relax your mind instead of watching screens.

LIMIT SCREENS

Before getting ready for bed, put your phone away an hour in advance.

JOURNAL & SKETCH

The process of clearing your mind can be very therapeutic.

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3 WAYS TO RESET YOUR MENTAL HEALTH

01. FIND THE RIGHT SOCIAL BALANCE FOR YOU

Ensuring you're getting enough time for your own self-care and connecting with people you care about.

02. ENGAGE IN LIGHT EXERCISE REGULARLY

Consider allocating a bit of time to take a walk or activity of your choice. Prioritise this time to get some fresh air.

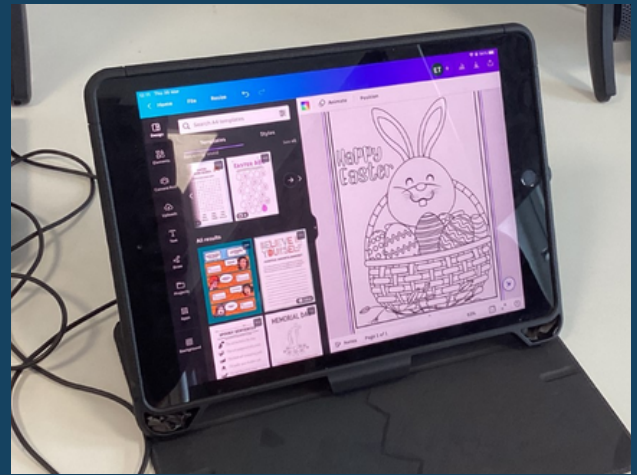
03. SPEND YOUR DOWN TIME DOING THINGS YOU LOVE

It could be something like drawing or getting creative, reading, or writing down your thoughts and feelings in a journal

Computing

A message from Mrs Morrell...

In their last computing lesson before the Easter break, the students in Year's 7, 8 and 9 were allowed to choose a task to practise some of the skills that they have learnt over the previous half term. Students were able to use their creative skills to create games in scratch, puzzles on puzzel.org, cards on Canva and lots more – great work!



CREATE AN ONLINE PUZZLE ABOUT EASTER AT [PUZZEL.ORG](http://puzzel.org)

CREATE AN EASTER GRAPHIC CONTAINING ANYTHING RELEVANT TO EASTER

CREATE / DECORATE AN EASTER EGG

CREATE AN A4 MAGAZINE ADVERT FOR EASTER GIFTS

WATCH THIS VIDEO AT [youtube.be/EHzrP5Mag](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EHzrP5Mag) & MAKE AN EASTER CARD

MAKE AN EASTER BUNNIES ANIMATION IN WICK EDITOR wickeditor.com/editor

CREATE SPRITES AND CODE AN EASTER ANIMATION

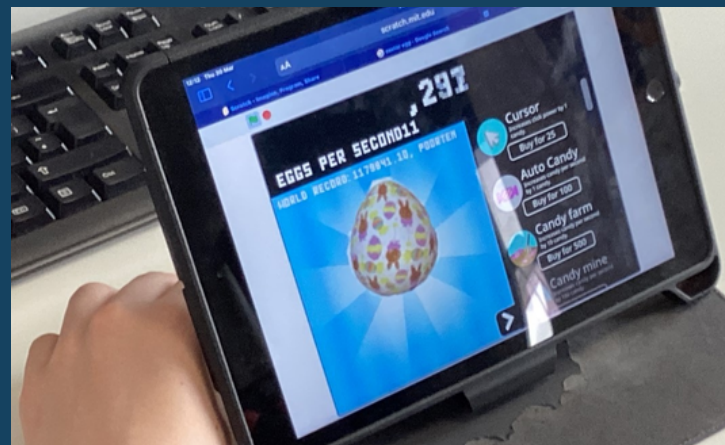
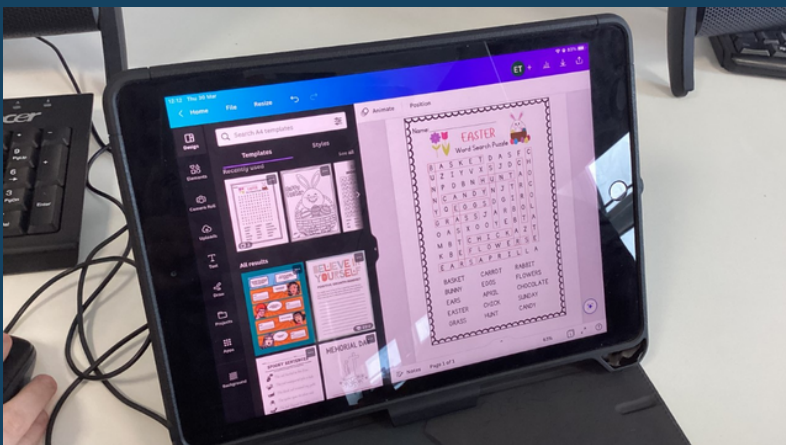
CREATE A PRESENTATION ABOUT HOW EASTER IS CELEBRATED AROUND THE WORLD

CREATE A VIDEO SHOWING WHAT EASTER EGGS ARE AVAILABLE THIS YEAR

DESIGN A SOCIAL MEDIA POST THAT HIGHLIGHTS THE IMPORTANCE OF IT

CREATE A FACT HUNT WHERE USERS SEARCH FOR EGGS & THEME IT FOR EASTER

IF YOU NEED ASSETS, WHY NOT TRY [PIXABAY.COM](http://pixabay.com)? THERE'S A SHORT VIDEO AT [youtu.be/8ElcND42XM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ElcND42XM) TO LEARN HOW TO USE IT!



Achievement Assemblies

An huge well done to all of the students that received certificates in Thursdays achievement assemblies. It was great to see such a significant number of students recognised for their excellent attitude to learning and their growth mindset. It was also fantastic to give out hundreds of Easter Eggs to the students with 100% attendance this half term. Well done everyone.



Achievement Assemblies



Achievement Assemblies



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Achievement Assemblies



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Education
Trust**

Achievement Assemblies



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**Shaw
Education
Trust**

Achievement Assemblies



Personal Development

A big thank you to 'BronnieMusic' for coming into KSS to talk to us about Mental Health.

The students thoroughly enjoyed the performance and discussing mental health issues that arise as a teenager.

We were also visited by Cam from 'Oddballs' who discussed with Year 11 students testicular cancer and the work 'Oddballs' are doing.



Technology

A message from Mrs Bryan..

In Food Technology and Hospitality and Catering we have been practising our basic skills, producing some wonderful food like pizzas, flapjacks, scones, burritos, fajitas, brownies and curry. In Technology the Year 11's are busy with their final coursework pieces with some wonderful pieces of furniture being made, from chairs to bookcases. Year 10 have been busy creating their bird boxes and glasses stands.



Technology



Student Council

During this week the student council have been educating our parents/carers about the impact of idling cars. The students have been working alongside Kidsgrove Primary School students in asking parents/carers to switch off their car engines whilst they wait to pick up their children. Thank you to all of the wonderful parents that have complied with the students requests as we try and make the air quality in Kidsgrove the best it can possibly be.



Student Council



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Shaw Education Trust

Student Council



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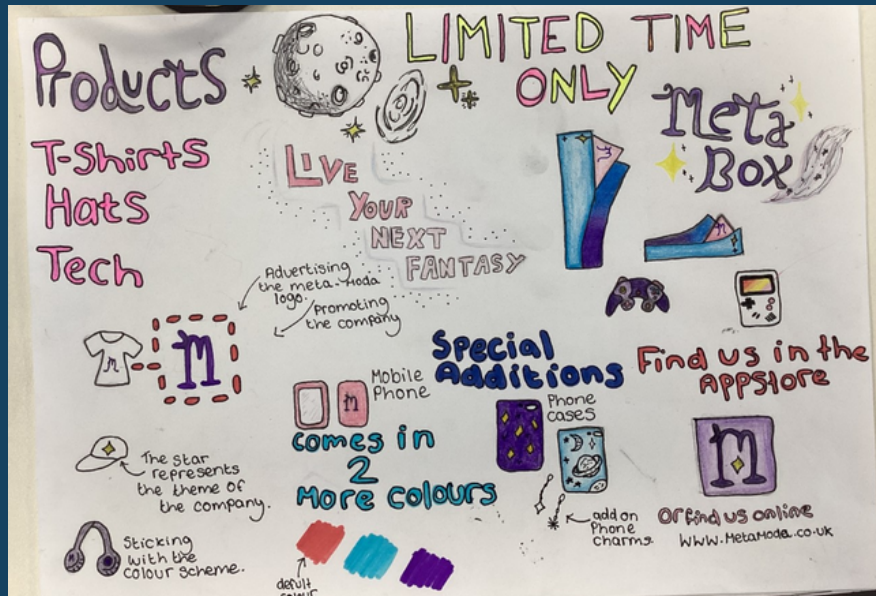
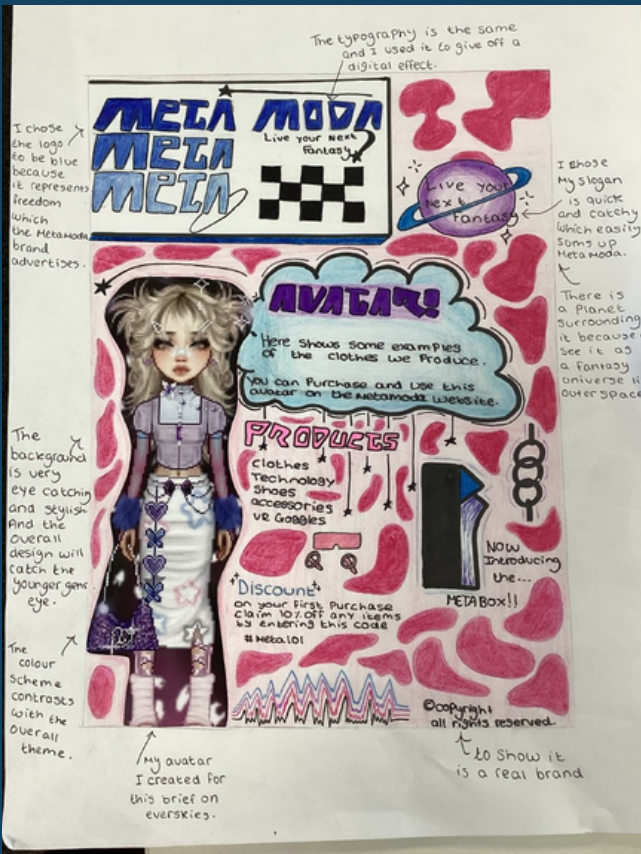
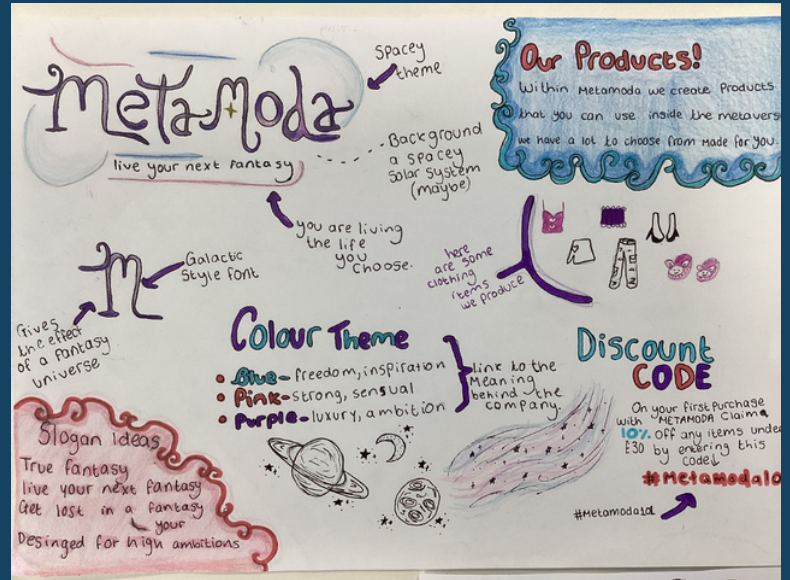
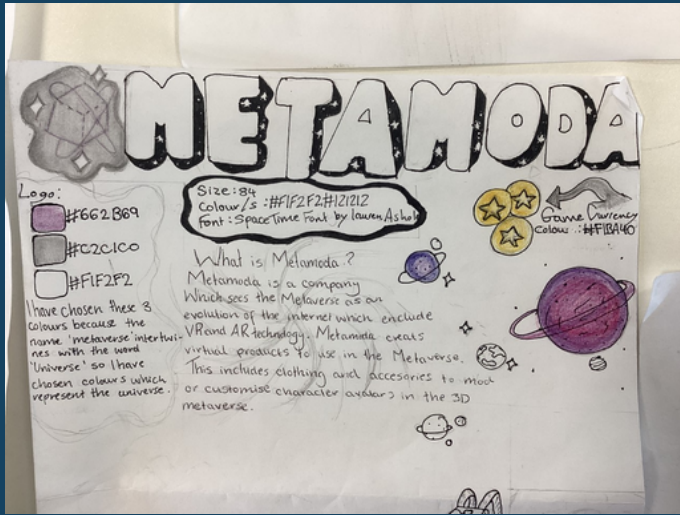


Shaw Education Trust

iMedia

A message from Mrs Morrell...

Year 10 iMedia have been producing some excellent work in preparation for the production of the final digital graphic on the computer. They have created amazingly detailed visualisation diagrams that are annotated to justify their designs. Next step is to bring these ideas to life using a piece of graphic design software called photopea. Amazing work Year 10!



House Update

The house competition for term 2 has ended.

Another close one as we enter the final leg in the summer term.

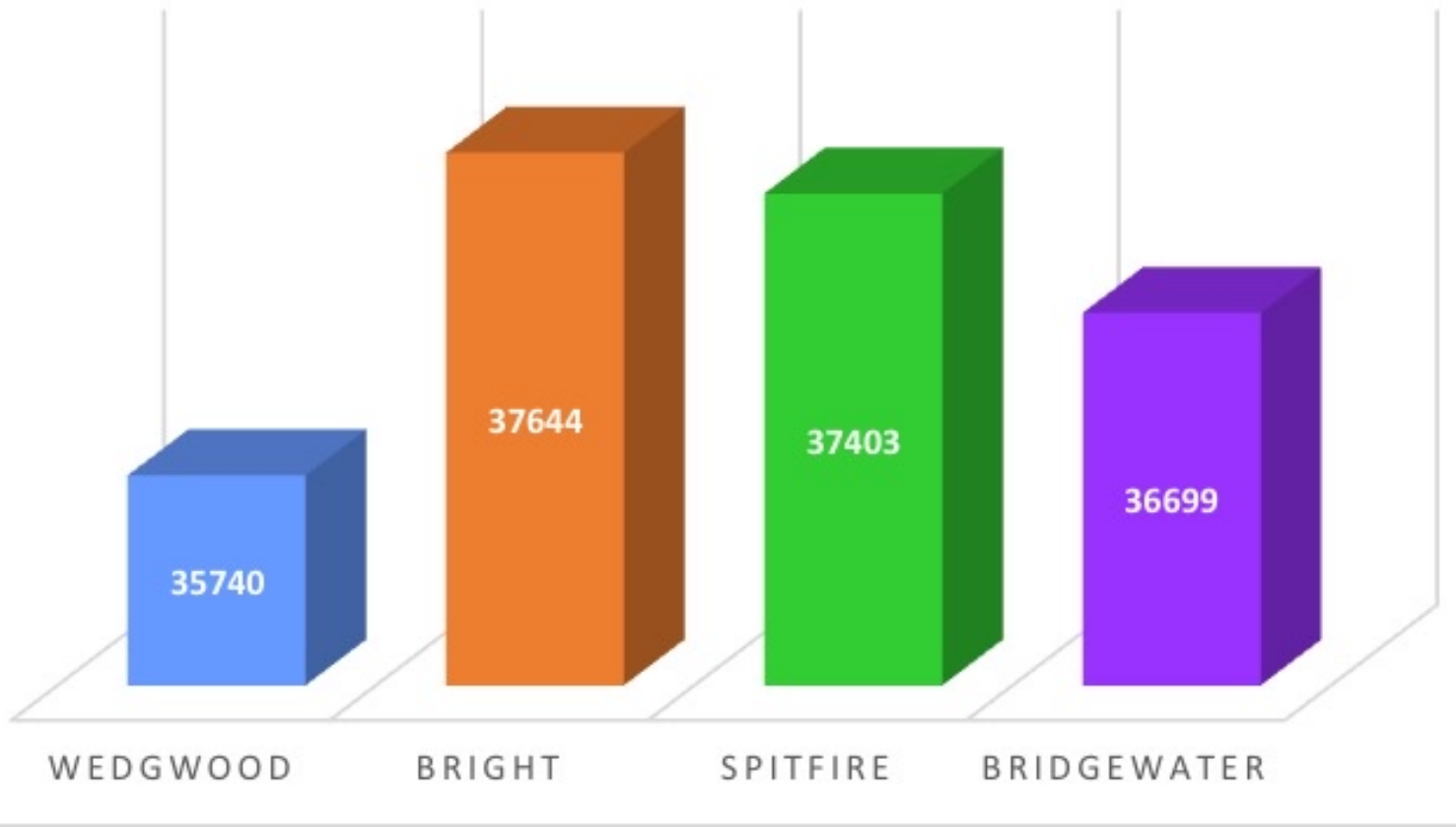
The final term will be crucial in terms of the leader board as we are holding the whole school Sports Day at Northwood stadium.

This will see all of the houses competing for points in the many exciting athletics events.

Well done to Bright House who have reclaimed the top spot!

Mark Bright himself will be very impressed I am sure.

TOTAL HOUSE POINTS



CORE VALUES



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