



THE KIDSGROVE
SECONDARY SCHOOL

HEADTEACHER BULLETIN

Friday 26th of May 2023

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I am not sure where the weeks are disappearing to but what a brilliant half term it has been. Although short, this half term has been jam packed with numerous events and examples of students demonstrating our Core Values of leadership and initiative.

The way in which the students have engaged in learning, extra curricula and enrichment opportunities has once again been brilliant to see. They genuinely make us proud.

The year 11 students have been focused and resilient in facing their final examinations. It is amazing to see them relishing this challenge. The official leaving date for Year 11 students has been set as Friday 16th of June 2023. It is vital that students remain in school until this date, as class teachers are working with students around important revision activities and delivering lessons based around examination technique. Thank you to all parents/carers that are supporting their children by supporting the school in meeting this expectation. We are confident that this will pay dividends come the GCSE results day in August.

We will be holding a special Year 11 leavers assembly on Monday the 19th of June and we are all looking forward to the Year 11 Prom in July. It will be great to celebrate their KSS journey over the last five years.

When we return after the half term break we will be looking forward to finalising the Year 9 option choices. The students have until Friday the 2nd of June 2023 to submit their choices. Mrs Castrey will then work with the subject leads to finalise the key stage four offer for 2023-2025. Thank you to all students and parents/carers that attended the Year 9 face to face parents/options evening last week. We had a 92% turnout which was great to see and it was such a lovely and positive atmosphere.

A real highlight this half term has been the student writing group organised by Mr Baldwin.

On Monday, we invited students from the Kidsgrove Primary School and parents/carers into the school for an official book launch event. The student writers were able to share their very own novel that was written over a four day intensive workshop delivered by the 'White Water Writers' programme. We are extremely proud that we now have published writers within our school community and the book is even available to buy on Amazon. A huge well done to everyone involved.

Finally, a thank you to all the year 7 parents/carers that attended the online parents evening last night. The attendance to this was excellent and it was a great opportunity for staff to celebrate the amazing progress the year group have made.



Yours faithfully,
Mr S Frost

Upcoming Events:

- May Half Term - Year 11 Revision sessions taking place in school
- Friday 2nd June 2023- Deadline for Year 9 option choices
- Monday 5th June 2023 - Students return after the half term break
- Monday 12th June 2023 - Year 10 Head student applications open
- Friday 16th June 2023- Year 11 leaving date
- Monday 19th June 2023 - Year 11 leavers assembly
- Wednesday 21st June 2023 - Head Student Interviews
- Tuesday 27th June - Enrichment Day



PROUD TO
BE
KSS



#DigitalByDesign



Kidsgrove
Learning Campus
INSPIRE INNOVATE CREATE



Shaw
Education
Trust

Headteacher Reward Lunch

A huge well done to all of the students invited to the fifth Headteacher reward lunch of this academic year. I was joined by Mrs Pearce from the Shaw Education Trust who spoke to the students about why they had been selected for the reward. We are extremely proud of all of the students nominated for their resilience and dedication towards their studies.

We even have one student in Year 7 who has achieved more than one thousand positive points this academic year so far. Well done to Liam! An incredible achievement and a great ambassador for our Core Values.



English

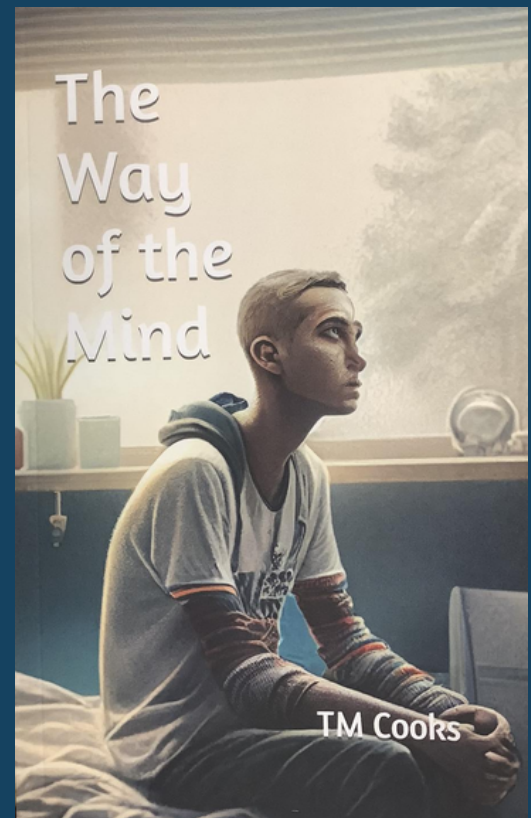
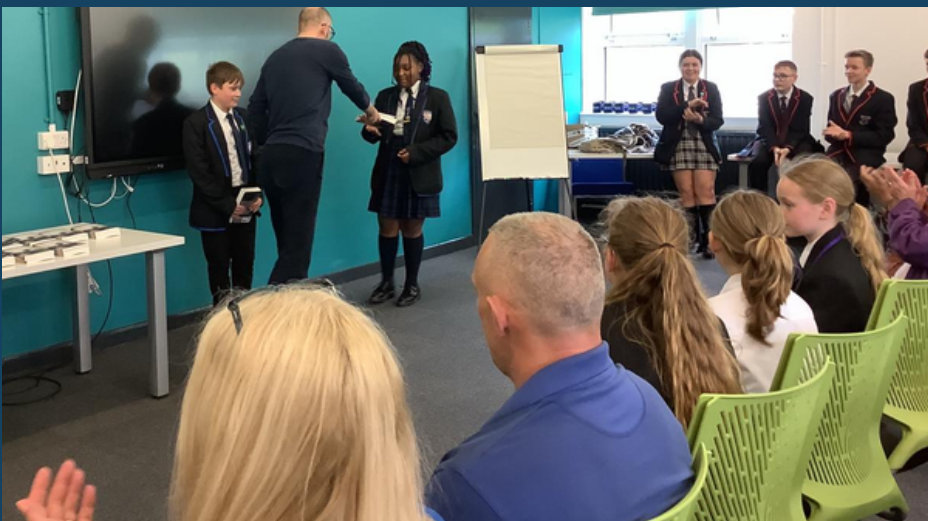
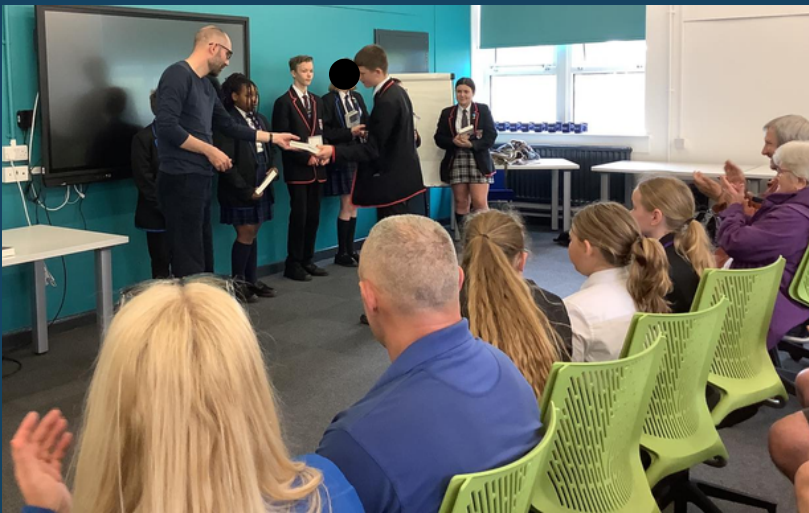
A message from Mr Baldwin...

This week we saw our incredible team of writers receive their very own copies of their very own book. With parents/carers and Kidsgrove Primary's Y6 in attendance for a book signing event, which was a great success. It was a special moment to share with our students and it was clear to see how proud everyone in the room was.

To become a published author is no mean feat and we are all delighted to finally see the finished product.

Finally, big shout out to Tommy and Neveah for the amazing introductory speech at the beginning - you both did fantastic!

Well done once again to you all and thank you to parents for coming in to celebrate with us.



KS4 Update

A message from Mrs Postlethwaite...

Year 9

There has been a real buzz in the air with Year 9 this half term. From the re-setting of the year group to start transitioning to KS4 to the amazing options evening, students are incredibly focused and looking forward to their next stage at KSS. I have been really impressed with the fantastic questions and independence shown by our Year 9 students this term as they make some tricky decisions about which pathway to take at KS4. We look forward to confirming Options choices with students soon.



Year 10

As always, Year 10 continues to impress me with their dedication to their studies. I have been amazed with fantastic work in lessons and how many students have volunteered to support at school events. These leadership and initiative skills will stand them in good stead for the upcoming Prefect selection process. Keep your eyes peeled for more information coming soon.

Just a reminder that students still need to secure Work Experience placements for their week of work experience at the beginning of July. If you need any support with this, please let us know.



KS4 Update

A message from Mrs Postlethwaite...

Year 11

I've been really pleased with how hard Year 11 have been working over the last couple of weeks. We are now almost half way through the GCSE examination series and I am sure the students are looking forward to half term.

We have a number of additional sessions running over half term to supplement the sessions in class and we look forward to seeing students there:

Date	Time	Subject/ Teacher
Tuesday 30 th May	10am-12pm	Geography (LW)
	12pm-2pm	Technology (SB)
Wednesday 31 st May	10am-12pm	English Language (MO)
Thursday 1 st June	10am-12pm	Maths (HM)

Plans are in full swing for the Leavers Assembly on Monday 19th June and the Prom on Friday 7th July and we are looking forward to celebrating the end of school with students at these two key events.

Could I please take this opportunity to thank all parents/ carers for their ongoing support throughout the final part of your child's journey with us.



PE

A message from Mr Till...

Year 8

Both Year 7 & 8 have been learning about javelin throw technique as part of their athletics scheme of work in PE. Year 7 have developed their execution phase (throw), with Year 8 learning about the preparation/approach phase of the movement, adding in steps prior to the throw. Both year groups have demonstrated outstanding maturity and impressive analysis of their own and others' performance. Well done KS3!

EXECUTION PHASE

PREPARATION/ APPROACH PHASE



Year 9 Options



A message from Mrs Castrey...

Thank you to everyone who attended the Y9 options evening. It was fantastic to see so many of you there and be able to have those valuable conversations about your child's future.

Your child now has until Friday 2nd June to submit their option choices. Please do not rush this. Take the time to read through the options booklet again and ask more questions with subject teachers.

The QR codes are below that will take you to the options forms.

Y9 Options (Ebacc options)



Y9 Options (Non Ebacc options)



If you require any assistance filling in the options form or have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

PATHWAYS

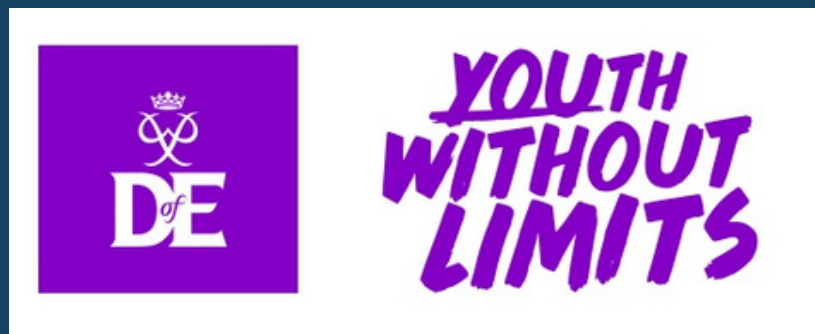


Personal Development

A message from Mrs Weaver...

This half term has seen fantastic engagement from our students through our Careers Job of the Week during Form Time, PDev lessons in curriculum time and attendance to the after school extra-curricular clubs we offer.

We have also been working alongside Higher Horizons to offer a variety of different experiences to students with visits to Keele University, a published book 'The Way of the Mind' and a webinar with sustainability professionals to discuss strategies of 'Creating a Sustainable Life of Earth'.



Next half term our Y10 CASLOE Students will be visiting Reaseheath College and some of our Y10 students will be participating in 'Future Creatives' at Staffordshire University so lots more to come.

This week has also seen the launch of our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award to our Y9 students.

This is an exciting opportunity that ties in brilliantly with our school values and involves our students volunteering, taking part in physical activities, developing a skill and learning how to navigate, route plan and use camp crafts which will culminate in an overnight expedition.

The deadline for the Bite Size Planner return is Wednesday 7th June.



Personal Development

D of E - After School Sessions

Each session is 15:05 on Thursday after school in Room 9. Attendance is compulsory.



8th June



Support on Enrolment

15th June



Introduction to DofE

22nd June



EDofE Login Session

29th June



Route Planning Session

13th July



Camp Craft and Countryside Code

7th September



First Aid Session

14th September



Food Provisions and Packing

21st September



Kit Collection



PROUD TO BE KSS



KS3 Update

A message from Mr Till...

Year 7

Well done to the Year 7 students that completed their Level 3 Bikeability course. The level 3 cycling proficiency training develops advanced skills such as: adjusting riding position for terrain, riding alongside other cyclists, navigating more complex roads, responding confidently to changes in situations and bike maintenance. The instructors were so impressed with our students' conduct and response to feedback.



Thank you to all parents/carers that attend the Year 7 Parents' evening. The event was well attended, with staff very excited to share what pupils have been achieving in lessons, and providing advice regarding next stages of development. I am incredibly proud of how well Year 7 have taken to secondary school life, continuing to relish academic challenge and personal development.



Achievement Certificates

Due to the Year 11 examinations taking place, we have not been able to hold our traditional half termly achievement assemblies this week. As an alternative, we have invited students into the Headteachers office to receive their certificates.

Well done to every student nominated by their teachers and the senior leadership team.

We start with Year 7.



Achievement Certificates Year 8



Achievement Certificates

Year 9



Achievement Certificates Year 10



Enrichment

APR-JUL

EXTRA CURRICULAR ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

EVERYDAY

Lunchtime 13.30-14.00		Reading club	Open to all	Reading Room - Mr Baldwin
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MONDAY

Lunchtime 13.30-14.00		Computing club	KS3	Room 15 - Ms Morrell
		Choir and Rehearsal rooms	Open to all	Music - Mrs Evans
After School 15.05-16.05		Cooking club	Open to all	Technology - Mrs Bryan



TUESDAY

Lunchtime 13.30-14.00		Computing club	KS3	Room 15 - Ms Morrell
		Puzzle club	Open to all	Room 12 - Mrs Frost
After School 15.05-16.05		Football Training	Y7 and Y8	Astro/Field - Mr Hilditch

WEDNESDAY

After School 15.05-16.05		KS4 Basketball	KS4	Gym - Mr Till
		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 - Ms 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
		Pride Club		Room 14 - Miss Ayers
		Keyboard club/Rehearsal rooms	Open to all	Music - Mrs Evans
After School 15.05-16.05		GCSE composition and Rock Band	Open to all	Music - Mrs Evans
		Trampolining	KS4	Hall - Mrs Castrey



KIDSGROVE SECONDARY SCHOOL

Attendance

KSS



ATTENDANCE

WHOLE SCHOOL
ATTENDANCE THIS
HALF TERM
92.48%

NATIONAL AVERAGE 90.8%

BEST HOUSE



BRIDGEWATER

**BEST
FORM
7HM
95.71%**

215 students currently
qualify for the big summer
reward trip. 90% attendance
required during 10 week
period. 7 weeks remaining
for those who have dipped
below.

Kingsgrove Secondary School
Attendance Matters

#StopTheDrop





Sports Day



This year we are holding our Sports Day at Northwood Stadium. This will be an incredible event involving the primary school as our first Kidsgrove Campus Sports Day.

FRIDAY 30TH JUNE



Parents/ carers are welcome to come and watch.

There will be an ice cream van, so let's hope the lovely weather continues.

A letter will be sent home soon regarding the final details.

We can't wait to see our students shine!



Attendance



KKS ATTENDANCE

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school, we ask that all absences are reported daily by 8:30am by calling
01782 948267

$E = MC^2$

We ask that medical appointments are made outside of school hours where possible. If not possible, we ask for an appointment card in advance or on return to authorise absence.

Children have 13 weeks holiday a year and leave should be restricted to school holidays except in exceptional circumstances. Holiday forms can be collected from reception and returned with any exceptional circumstances in writing.

#ATTENDANCEMATTERS #PROUDTOBEKSS

Maths



A message from Mrs Frost...

I am sure you will have all seen via your email inbox and through conversations with your children that we have officially launched Sparx Maths with all students in Years 7-10 and we love it! Sparx will be the online platform for weekly homework with all students and is also a useful tool that we will use in lessons at times.

What makes Sparx so fantastic is the fact that it takes account of our schemes of learning and all the content that students have already covered as well as what they are currently learning. Sparx is also personalised to each learner and will get to know their strengths and weaknesses, ensuring there is the correct support and challenge for each student.



Maths

Sparx is automatically set on a Monday at 3pm and due at 9am on a Friday. Staff are monitoring all students that complete it early and rewarding them with positive points on ClassCharts to recognise that they are demonstrating one of the Core Values of Organisation, so please keep an eye on their ClassCharts account. We would really appreciate your support in ensuring that students meet the deadline each week and encourage them to do it early so that they can ask us for support in advance if they need it.

Students earn XP points for completing their 'Compulsory Homework', but there are plenty of others ways to get more points, including with the 'XP Boost'. Please see below the leader boards from last week (the term to date is the same as the week due to it being week 1) and keep an eye out for them each week on Facebook.



Maths

Sparx Maths

22nd May 2023



Best in Year


Year 7: Alfie |
Year 8: Reece Jones
Year 9: Neveah
Year 10: Molly

Best Class

8K1

Sparx Maths

Leaderboard



Last week

1	Reece
2	Evan
3	Holly
4	Alfie
5	Leah

This term

1	Reece
2	Evan
3	Holly
4	Alfie
5	Leah



Science



A message from Ms Baker...

Year 7 students in physics lessons are learning about mass and weight and how weight can change depending how much gravitational force is attracting an object.

They are showing brilliant engagement in Science lessons. Well done to Year 7.



Technology

A message from Mrs Bryan..

In Design Technology we have had a busy half term. Year 10 have been working hard on producing some wonderful birdboxes and glasses stands. Year 11 have produced some wonderful results for their final NEA project. I am so proud of the all the hard work the students have put in, especially Year 11 showing excellent LORIC values, especially resilience working with materials and tools that they have not used before. Due to the outstanding success of the Glasses stand, Year 7 will be making their own during their Technology lessons after half term.



Technology



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

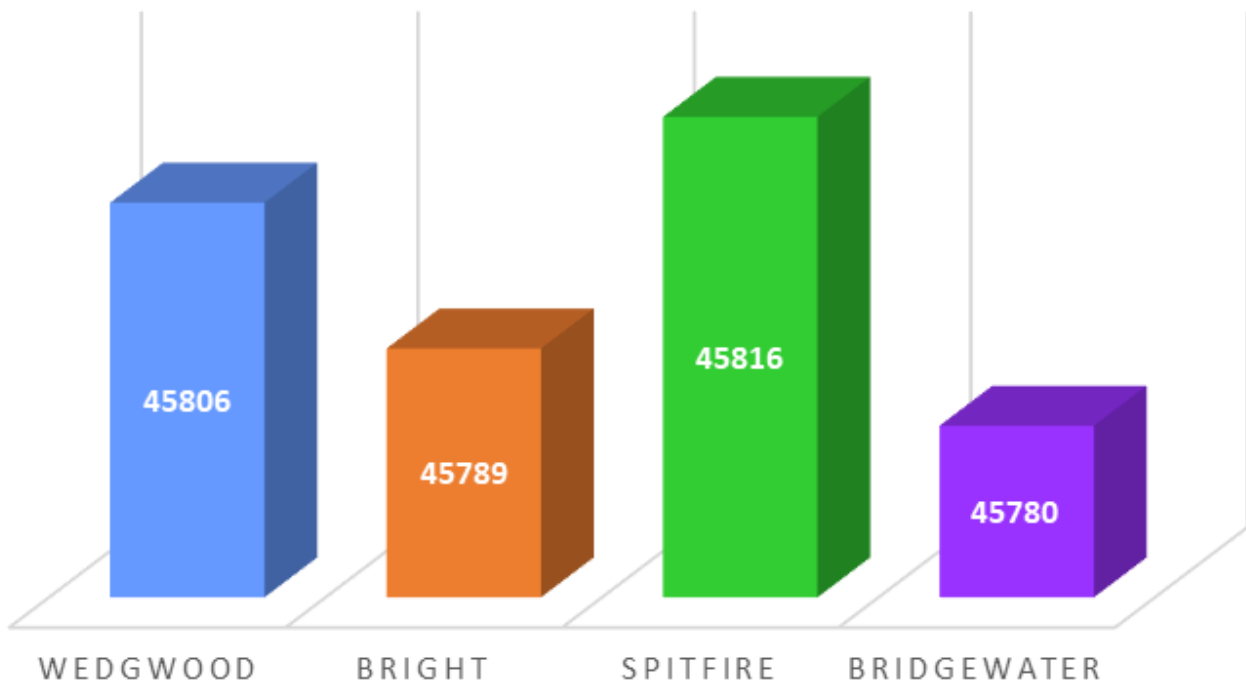
House Update

The term 3 competition is going from strength to strength!

We have a feeling that the sports day on June the 30th could make or break in the race for first spot as we approach the end of the academic year.

Below is an update on the points so far:

TOTAL HOUSE POINTS



Digital Strategy

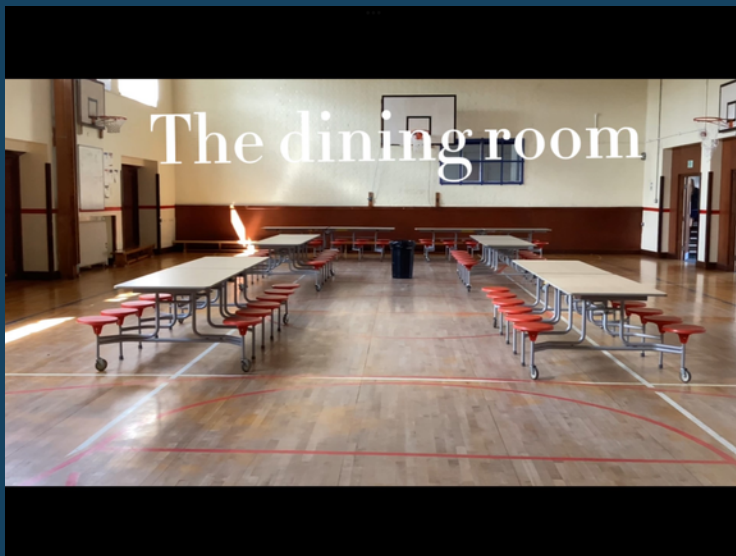
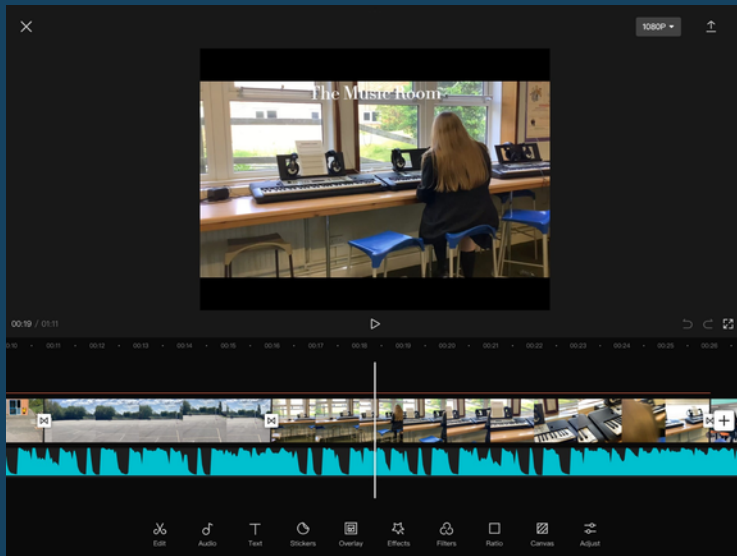


A message from Ms Hud...

In year 7 digital skills lessons, we have been shooting and editing videos for our upcoming KSS YouTube channel.

Please see some images below of the students being really creative.

It has been a great opportunity for students to get out and about around the school building to gather material for their digital creations.



English

A message from Mr Baldwin...

9S have been learning about the American Dream and life on a ranch as a migrant worker by reading *Of Mice and Men*.

They explored on VR headsets, the ranch from the novel. Year 9 got up close and personal with Candy's dog, one of Lennie's puppies, a horse, and the inside of the bunkhouse where they found the gun that eventually killed Lennie.

Lots of fun was had to celebrate a classmate's birthday and next lesson they will transfer their learning and ideas into their own ranch on Minecraft further using technology to support and enhance English literature




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



KIDSGROVE
SECONDARY SCHOOL

PROUD TO BE KSS

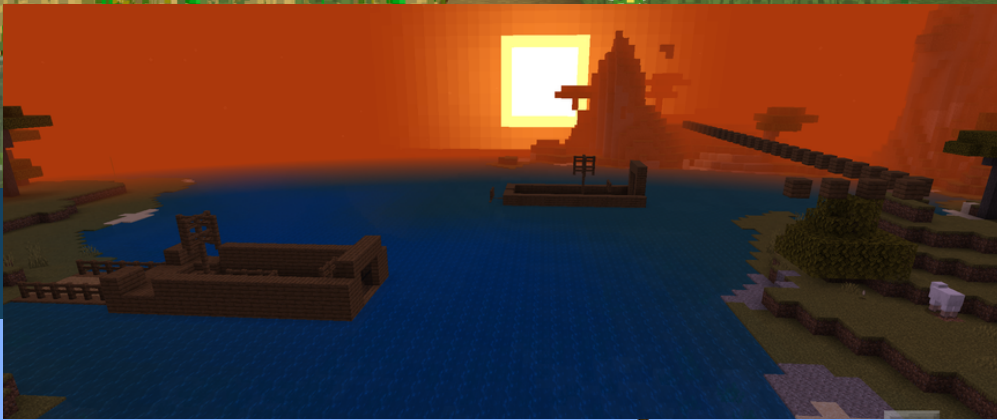
KIDSGROVE
SECONDARY SCHOOL

Shaw Education Trust

History



The year 8's have been looking at slavery in lessons this half term. They have shown good knowledge and understanding of the triangular slave trade and the awful conditions as the slave ships sailed along the middle passage. The students have been using Minecraft to bring the topic to life which has enabled us to utilise adaptive approaches to a hard hitting topic. Well done to all students but especially to Ollie, Jack and Laighton for the work so far.



Summer Reward Trip

The votes for the reward trip have been counted and the winning trips selected by the students are:



MONDAY
17TH JULY

Students get to choose which trip they would like to attend.

Choices should have been made by Wednesday 24th May.

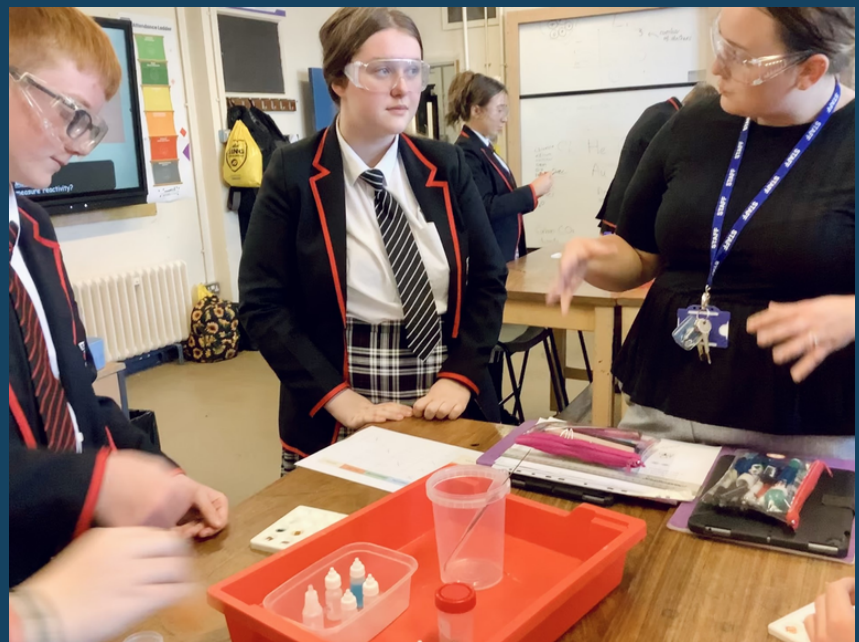
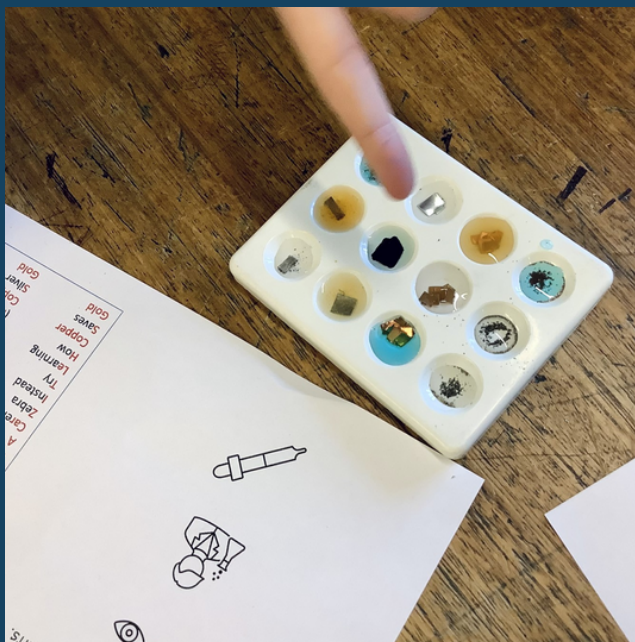
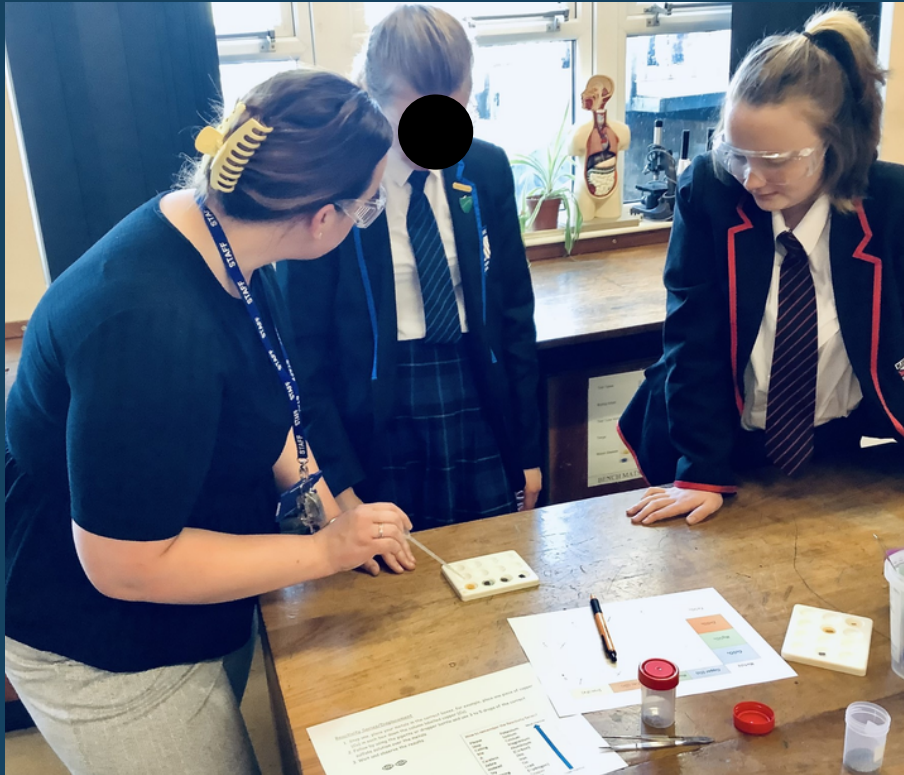
Once numbers have been collated, details of the trip will be sent out.



Science

A message from Mrs Grice-Lowe...

Some photos from a year 8 chemistry class with Mrs Grice-Lowe. They students have been looking at the displacement of metals using microscale techniques. The students had a great time using their research skills to develop their understanding of the topic.




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

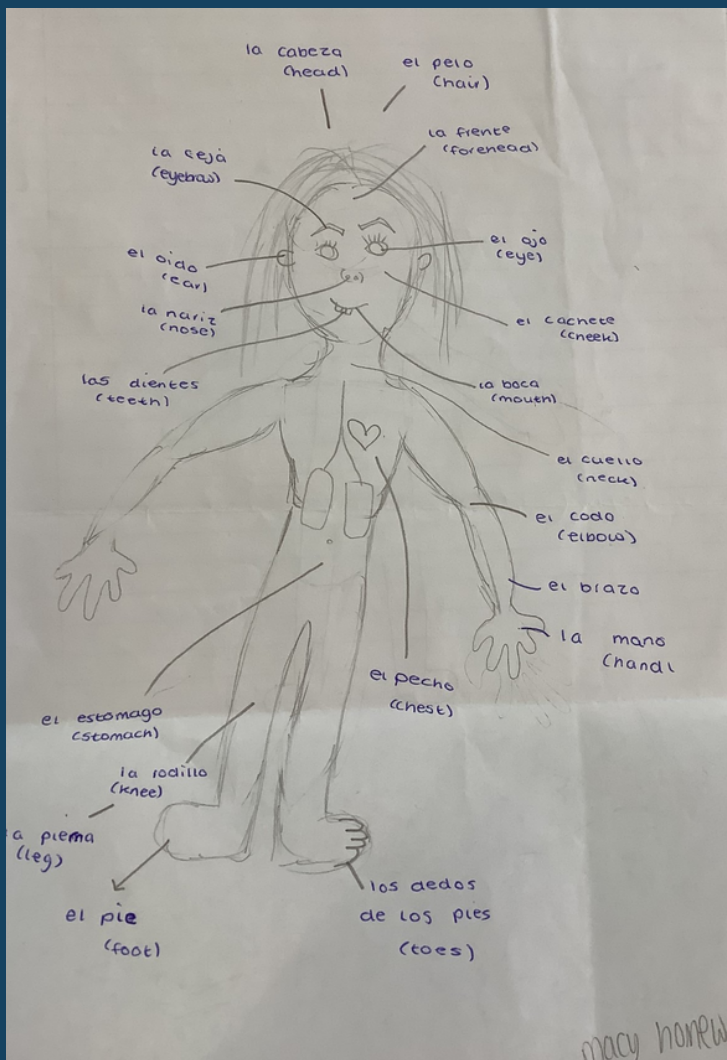
Spanish



A message from Ms Hud...

Year 9's have been learning about body parts in Spanish recently. They had to use this new knowledge, as well as revising colours, to draw a monster which had been described for them in Spanish.

A great effort Year 9!



Local Advisory Board



#proudtobekss

DO YOU WANT TO BE A PART OF OUR FUTURE?

WE ARE LOOKING TO BUILD A SMALL TEAM OF PARENTS, FAMILY MEMBERS AS WELL AS LOCAL RESIDENTS, ON A VOLUNTEER BASIS, TO HELP SHAPE THE BRIGHT FUTURE OF OUR RAPIDLY GROWING SCHOOL.



WHAT'S INVOLVED?

- Discover new ways of sharing our school with our local community; including showcasing the fantastic work that we already do, as well as plan new and upcoming events.
- Bring awareness to our digital way of learning.
- Draw on your knowledge and expertise to help to develop our school.
- Understand what currently works, what we can do better and enhance the amazing things we do already.
- Monthly meetings, either face to face or using Teams.

To register your interest in becoming part of our family, please email our office with your name, phone number and your current role (parent/ family member/ resident/ local business)

**BE PART OF
OUR FAMILY**

COMMUNICATIONS@KSS.SET.ORG