



HEADTEACHER BULLETIN

Friday 23rd of June 2023

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Dear Parents/Carers,

As you have probably seen from my communication home previously and from our social media posts, that we are extremely proud of our recent Ofsted report. To be judged as a 'Good' school in all areas of the inspection framework is a remarkable achievement. The report is down to the hard work and support of lots of people but I would like to take this opportunity to thank you as parents/carers for the support you have shown the school in recent years. I was delighted to receive emails from parents/carers once the report was shared and your own pride in the Ofsted judgement shone through. It is genuinely a team effort and the support also of the Shaw Education Trust has been invaluable.

Rest assured that the journey towards outstanding is already underway and we are taking the areas for improvement from the report and throwing all of our collective energy at improving the school further.

I was personally delighted that Ofsted recognised the impact of the iPads. As these have become embedded into school life it is easy to forget the investment and the innovation around the use of digital technologies. We will develop their use even further over the months and terms ahead. The students have even been creating digital montages based on the Ofsted report in recent digital skills lessons!

Over the next few weeks we have lots of events taking place and we cannot wait to share with you the photographs and testimonials from staff about the upcoming enrichment day and sports day in particular. What was commented on by Ofsted was how much we are able to offer with a proportionally smaller staff body than most schools. This has never been a barrier as we work tirelessly to make memorable learning moments for our students.

Year 10 started their first window of mock GCSE examinations this week and we have been very impressed at how focused they are, even in recent warmer weather. We have really high hopes for this year group and the results they will achieve in August 2024. We are also electing new Head Students next week, thank you to all students that put themselves forward for these important positions.

The year 9 options process has gone swimmingly and the vast majority of students have got the choices that they wanted. We cannot wait to start teaching the new courses on offer such as Engineering Manufacture, which will begin in September 2023.

On this note there will be extensive works being undertaken over the summer break as the school receives further investment from the Shaw Education Trust to improve the facilities that we are offering. KSS will have a new state of the art catering room built, along with an exciting engineering space. I will look forward to updating you on the developments over the next few weeks, this is another exciting chapter for KSS as we move towards outstanding.



Upcoming Events:

Tuesday 27th June 2023 - Enrichment Day

Wednesday 28th June 2023 - Head Student Interviews

Friday 30th June 2023 - Sports Day @ Northwood Stadium

Friday 7th July 2023 - Year 11 Prom

Yours faithfully,
Mr S Frost



Ofsted

As mentioned on the first page, it is with great pride that we share the news of our 'Good' Ofsted judgement.

As you travel past the school you may have noticed our new banners that cover our school railings. There are more banners to come and we look forward to showcasing these very soon.

The banners symbolise what an amazing achievement the Ofsted report is and we are looking forward to working towards our next phase of improvement together.

The bulletin includes some snippets from the report itself, so look out for these as you read the pages ahead.



Attendance



KIDSGROVE
SECONDARY SCHOOL

Pupils are proud to attend Kidsgrove and staff enjoy working there.

OFSTED 2023

Ofsted
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Shaw Education Trust

www.kidsgrovesecondary.org.uk



National School Attendance Award

2022/23 Spring Term



Kidsgrove Secondary

Top 25% of similar FFT Secondary Schools in England



Enrichment Day - June 2023

We are very excited for our final Enrichment Day of the year next week. It will be a non uniform day for a £1 donation collected on the way into school.

Students have been able to opt into events offered by staff based around our core values of leadership, organisation, resilience, initiative and communication. It is going to be a great day and we can't wait to share the photos and testimonials with you in the next Head Teacher's Bulletin.



ENRICHMENT DAY

Tuesday 27th
June 2023



Coming Soon



The Big Bounce



Outdoor Games



Team Building

Puzzles and Board Games



The Bake Off Challenge



Football Training



Camp Craft



Tote Bag Printing



Super Mario Kart Tournament



Escape Room

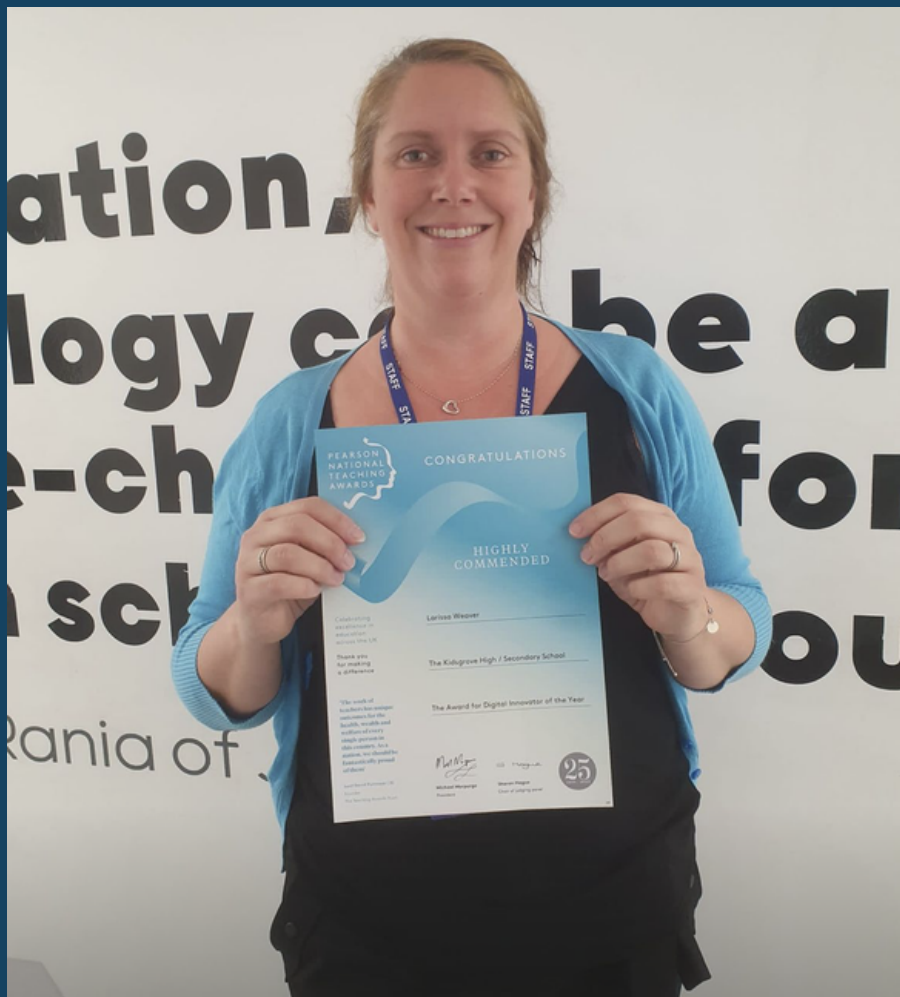


Animaker



Teacher of the Year Nominee

I am delighted to share that Mrs Weaver (Assistant Headteacher) was nominated for a national teacher of the year award recently. It was with great pride that I was able to present Mrs Weaver with a certificate to recognise her nomination for digital innovation. Her work with embedding the use of iPads has been remarkable and its great for amazing colleagues like her to be recognised formally for their hard work and innovation.



A banner for Kingsgrove Secondary School. On the left is the school's crest, which is a shield with a red and white diamond pattern, topped with 'KIDSGROVE' and 'SECONDARY SCHOOL'. In the center, a group of five students in school uniforms are smiling. Overlaid on the banner is the text 'There is a culture of everyone being valued.' and 'OFSTED 2023'. On the right is the Ofsted logo with the text 'Ofsted Good Provider'. At the bottom center is the website address 'www.kidsgrovesecondary.org.uk'. In the bottom left corner is the Shaw Education Trust logo.


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

Uniform

A message from Mrs Postlethwaite...

From September 2023, the old red KSS uniform and black/white tartan skirt will no longer be worn in school, and all students will need to wear the new blue uniform regardless of year group. The only exception to this is current Year 10 students who will be in their final year in September. These students will be allowed to continue to wear their old red uniform if it still fits. If you need to replace any uniform, please do so by purchasing the new blue uniform. All other year groups should be in the new blue uniform.

I have updated the uniform document and this has been recently emailed home.

Smart Uniform does have a savings scheme and layaway service to support families and they also have a stock of pre-loved items in store. If you need any uniform support, we are also happy to help in school.



Prom 2023



You are invited to

KIDSGROVE SECONDARY SCHOOL

Prom Night

Dress to impress

July 7th | 7:00 - 11:00 PM

Alsager Golf Club



Uniform

Summer uniform

As you are aware, we have recently relaxed our uniform for the final few weeks of term to ensure students are comfortable in the hot weather. We are going to write this into the uniform policy for September so that students will be able to wear tailored black shorts instead of trousers and will be able to attend school without a blazer from May half term each year. If you have any feedback on this change, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Shoes

Just a reminder ahead of preparing for September that school shoes need to be a shoe rather than a boot or trainer. I am aware that some shops including Clarks make shoes that they market as 'sneakers' which would not be suitable. Please contact us if you wish to check any style of shoes before you buy. As always, Nike, Converse, Lonsdale and other sports brands are not suitable as school shoes.

Jewellery

Please could I ask for your support in ensuring that the only jewellery worn to school is a pair of studs. Any nose studs need to be clear. We have had a large increase in students getting piercings during school time which they then state cannot be removed for 6 weeks. Please support us with our high expectations by checking for jewellery as your child leaves for school or returns home.

Eyelashes and False Nails

We appreciate that students may wish to have false nails and lashes, especially in preparation for a school holiday. Unfortunately these are not suitable for school and we ask that if allowing your child to get these on, an additional appointment is scheduled to have these removed before students return to school in September.

We are incredibly proud of our school community and thank you for supporting us with our high uniform expectations. Please contact us if you need clarification on any aspect of uniform.



Ofsted Quotes



KIDSGROVE
SECONDARY SCHOOL

Pupils are proud to attend Kidsgrove and staff enjoy working there.

OFSTED 2023

Ofsted
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www.kidsgrovesecondary.org.uk



KIDSGROVE
SECONDARY SCHOOL

Staff and leaders work together in their shared commitment to constant improvement.

OFSTED 2023

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KIDSGROVE
SECONDARY SCHOOL

big things can happen

Leaders' clear values and vision for the school are universally shared.

OFSTED 2023

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KIDSGROVE
SECONDARY SCHOOL

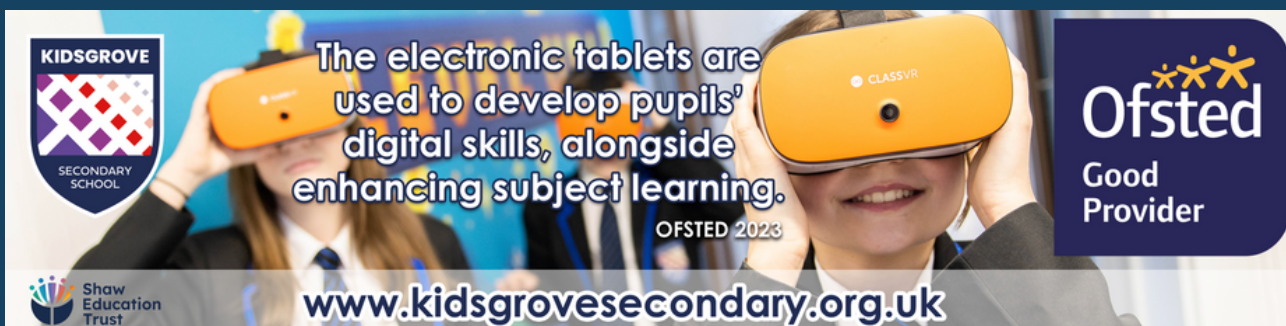
There is a culture of everyone being valued.

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KIDSGROVE
SECONDARY SCHOOL

The electronic tablets are used to develop pupils' digital skills, alongside enhancing subject learning.

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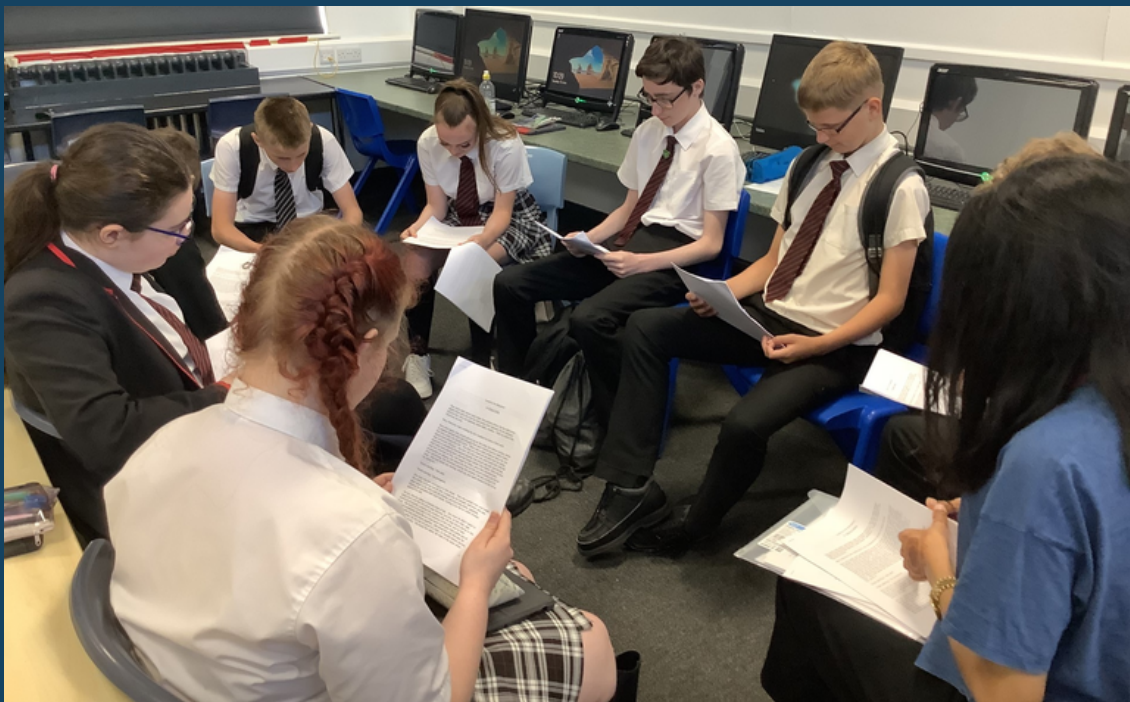
www.kidsgrovesecondary.org.uk

English

A message from Mr Baldwin...

What better way to start the day than with a group reading session? Well done to the group of Y9s who engaged in the dark but humorous suspense story 'Lamb to the Slaughter' by Roald Dahl.

Remember, reading is the easiest and quickest way to strengthen your brain, develop and enhance your vocabulary as well as encouraging a better night's sleep.

A banner for Kids Grove Secondary School. On the left is the school's crest, which includes a shield with a cross and the text "KIDSGROVE SECONDARY SCHOOL" and "Shaw Education Trust". In the center, a quote reads: "Staff and leaders work together in their shared commitment to constant improvement." Below this is the text "OFSTED 2023". On the right is the Ofsted logo with the text "Ofsted Good Provider". At the bottom right is the school's website: www.kidsgrovesecondary.org.uk. The background of the banner shows a group of students and staff members.

Car Park Safety

Please can parents/carers avoid parking in the disabled spaces at school as we do have parents and students that have a blue badge and should have access to those spaces.

We also ask that you do not stop on the zebra crossing on the school car park or do 'U turns' in the school gates entrance. Thank you for helping to keep our students safe.



Personal Development

Our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh training is underway. Our Y9s have chosen the volunteering, skill and physical activities they are going to carry out and have begun to plan out their targets.

We are looking forward to seeing their progress at our weekly meetings! Our next steps are developing our expedition skills ready for September.

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



Navigation Session

6th July



Route Planning Session

13th July



Camp Craft and Countryside Code

7th September



First Aid Session

14th September

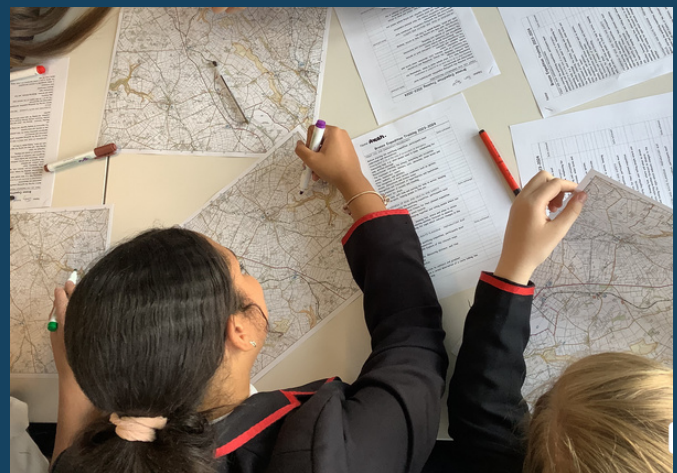


Food Provisions and Packing

21st September



Kit Collection



Personal Development

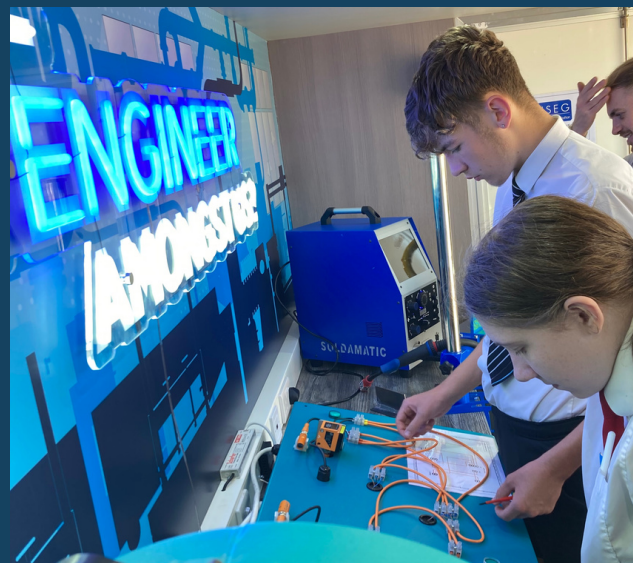
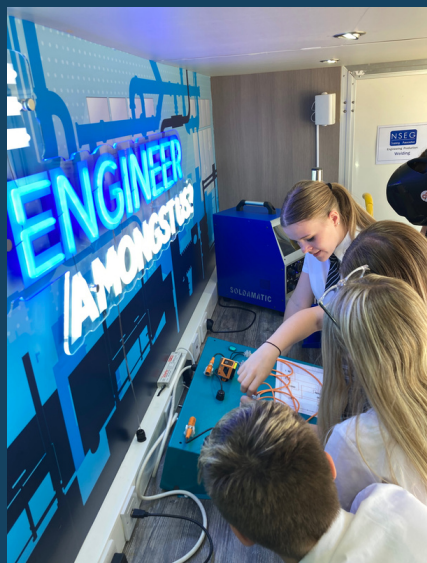
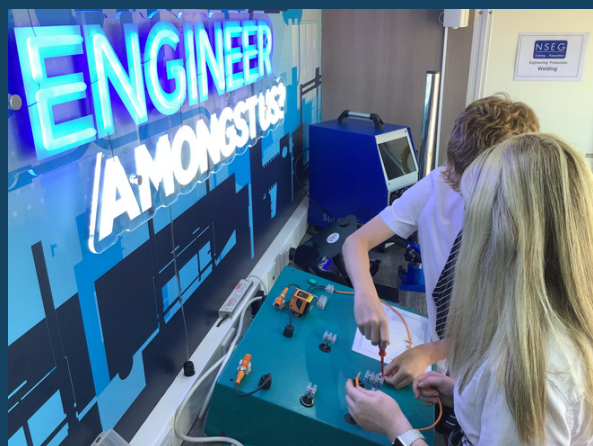
To quote the Ofsted inspection, "the quality of the 'PDEV' personal development curriculum means that pupils learn about and revisit important topics, including healthy relationships, equality and careers in an age-appropriate way". This was great news and a testament to the engagement of our students and the delivery by our staff and visitors who support the programme! Alongside our fortnightly lessons, form time activities and additional workshops, our Enrichment Days have been a big success this year.



North Staffs Engineering Group Visit

To support our students to make the right post-16 options, it is important that we offer a range of opportunities in a variety of different career disciplines. Last week saw the return of one of our past students, Harry, who now works for the North Staffs engineering group. He visited us with his engineering van which enabled students to try out activities such as virtual welding and circuit work.

Our Y10 students engaged well in the activities and gained insights into what apprenticeships and careers might look like in the engineer field.



Higher Horizons - Creating a Sustainable Life on Earth Project

As part of their 'Creating A Sustainable Life On Earth' (CASLOE) project, thirteen of our Y10 students visited Reaseheath College

Students engaged in a variety of activities which included estimating the carbon footprint of objects or events, a tour of the vertical farm hydroponics and greenhouses and then finished the day by delivering their presentations to an auditorium full of students from other schools.

Our students demonstrated our LORIC values amazingly and Mrs Postlethwaite was incredibly proud of them for pushing themselves out of their comfort zones.

Despite the project nearly being completed, we are very excited to carry forward some of the fantastic ideas that the group have come up with in terms of sustainability... Watch this space!



English

A message from Mr Baldwin...

Our partnership with Higher Horizons continued to go from strength to strength as 32 Y7 students engaged in a Flash Fiction and Comic Arts event. Each and every student participated brilliantly, and it was amazing to see the links between literature and art come alive.

Big shout out to Charlie-John who wrote a brilliant story and accompanying comic it was a privilege to watch you grow in confidence throughout the event.

Well done to everyone who took part!



Staff and leaders work together in their shared commitment to constant improvement.
OFSTED 2023



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Attendance

KSS



ATTENDANCE

**WHOLE SCHOOL
ATTENDANCE YEAR
TO DATE
93.70%**

NATIONAL AVERAGE 90.8%

**BEST
FORM
7HM**

95.88%

BEST HOUSE



WEDGWOOD

**WELL DONE TO THE
17 STUDENTS WHO
HAVE NOT HAD A
DAY OFF THIS
ACADEMIC YEAR!!**

Kidsgrove Secondary School
Attendance Matters

#StopTheDrop





Sports Day



Next week 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!

KIDSGROVE SECONDARY SCHOOL

There is a culture of everyone being valued.

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PE

A message from Mr Till..

Mr Frost and Mr Till took 15 of our Y10 and Y9 pupils to NSCG Newcastle College Campus to take part in the Newcastle School's U15s mixed Football tournament.

The event involved an introduction to the campus and presentation about Post-16 pathways. We also managed to see some KSS alumni who are studying at the college.

A special thank you to the staff from Gordon Banks Sports Centre who were so accommodating in the heat, plus the Newcastle College Students and Andy Griffin Football Academy for officiating the event.



PE

A message from Mr Till & Mrs Castrey...

A huge well done to all competitors involved in the Newcastle Schools District Athletics Championships. The PE Department took 27 juniors (Y7 & Y8) and 28 seniors (Y9 & Y10) to their respective events. The behaviour and conduct of our pupils was exemplary. Congratulations to those pupils that qualified for the County Championships in their athletics discipline.



Technology

A message from Mrs Bryan...

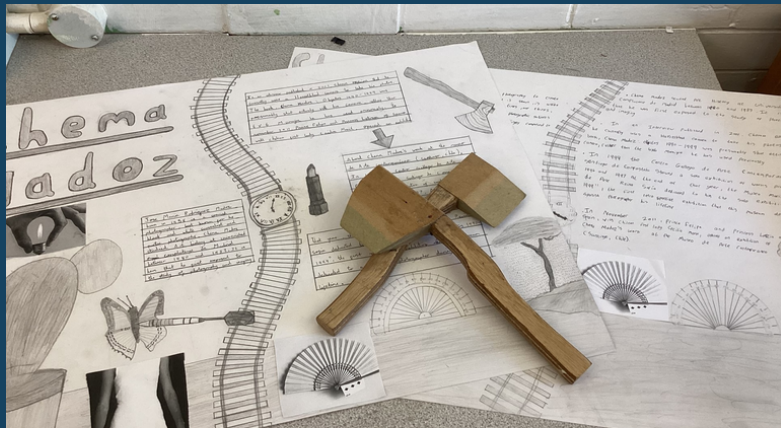
In 3D Design Year 10, we have been looking at a range of different artists and interpreting their art into 3D pieces. They have studied Joseph Cornell and Ian Murphy and have produced some stunning artist research pages.

A Dyson Engineering Design pack arrived in school this week and Years 7-9 will be learning about what a design engineer does and studying how the Dyson Air Multiplier works and the design process behind it.

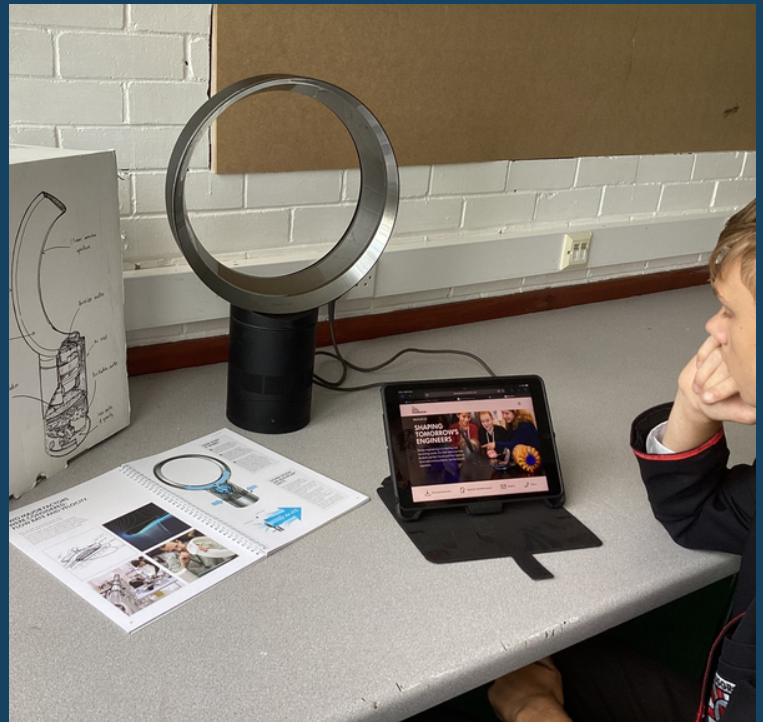
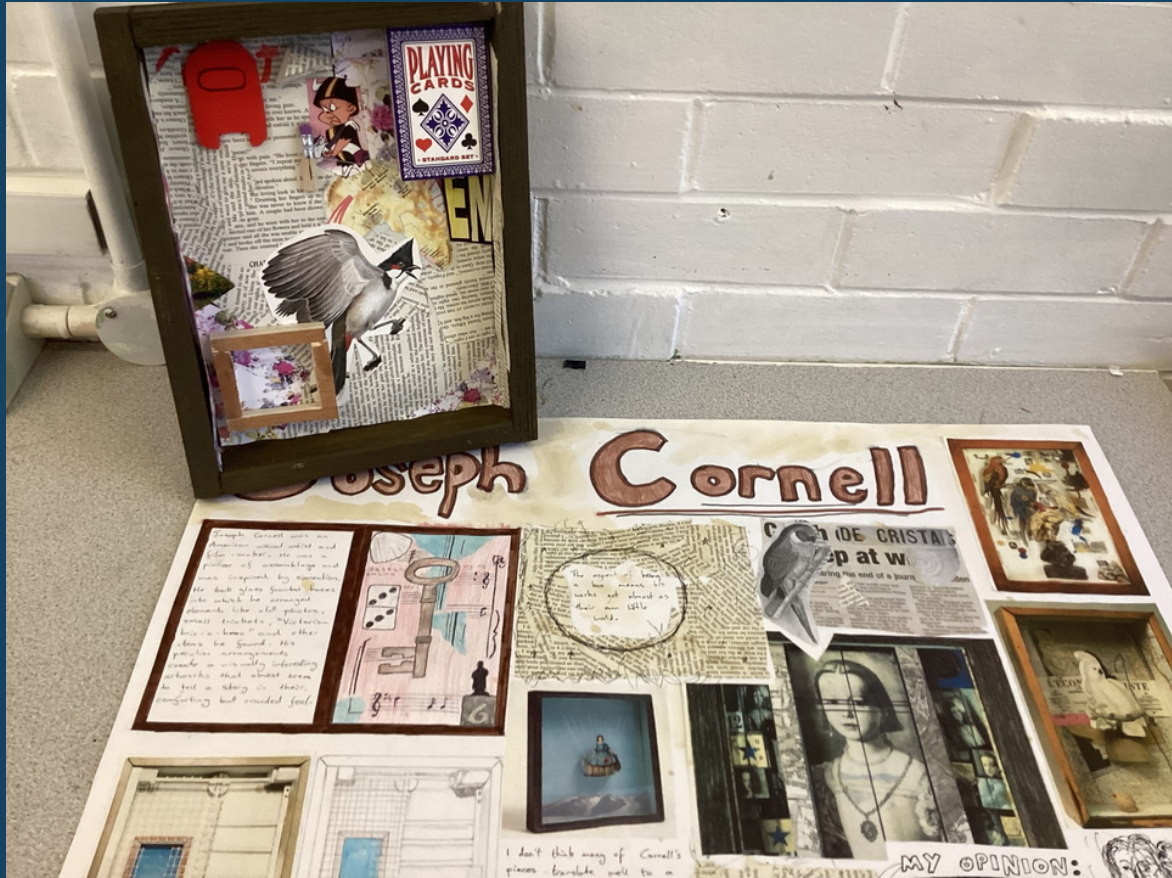
7K and 7S have been hard at work in the workshop completing the glasses stands, displaying great LORIC values, using tools and equipment for the first time, with some wonderful outcomes.



Technology



Technology



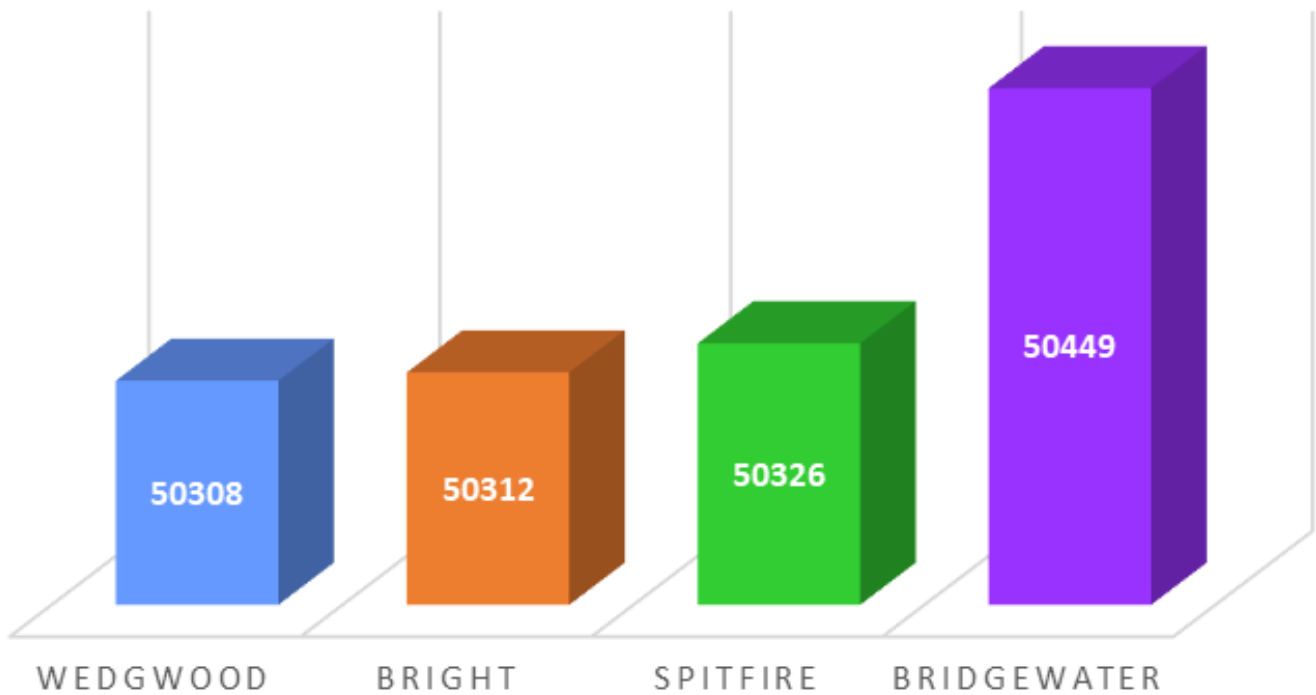
Technology



House Update

The term 3 competition is still going strong and with only a week before the sports day event its really close between all of the house. There are less than 160 points between first and last place. Each lesson and each positive point really does count as we approach the final few weeks of the school year. Good luck everyone!

TOTAL HOUSE POINTS



Maths



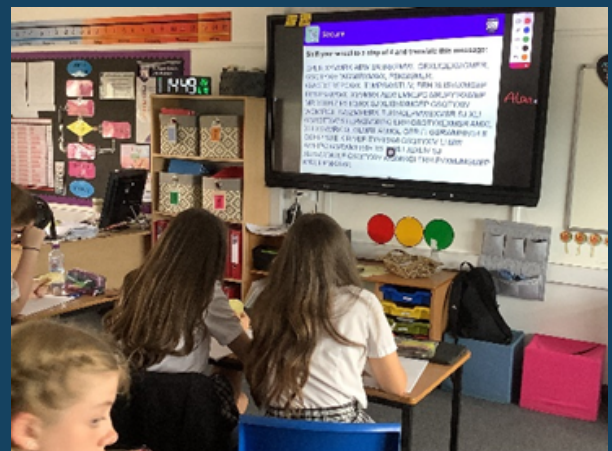
A message from Mrs McDermott...

Year 8 students have been learning about Caesar ciphers in maths. They were posed with the cross curricular question;

“What do Apple computers, World War 2 and Pride have in common?”

Students made their own cipher decoder and used it to decipher messages about Alan Turing and his role within World War 2 which was when he invented some of the earliest computers to crack a lot of the codes used by the Nazis. They also discovered Alan Turing was a gay man, who was arrested in 1952 due to homosexuality being illegal in the United Kingdom at this time. In 2017 the UK Government introduced ‘The Alan Turing Law’ which grants a pardon to people convicted for their sexuality.

As an additional challenge some students went on to decipher the binary coded message on our £50 notes, which feature Alan Turing, it reveals Turing’s date of birth.

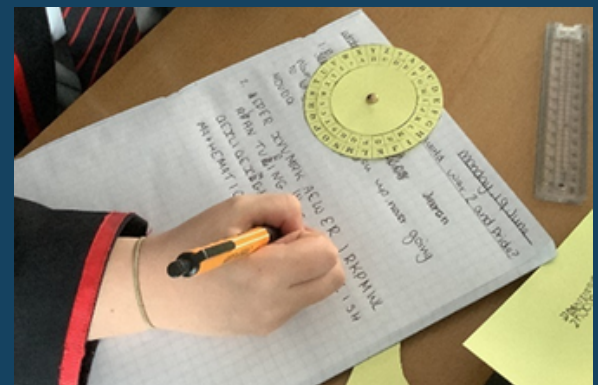


A **Caesar cipher** or **shift cipher** is a simple substitution cipher where the text is shifted a number of times up or down a known alphabet.

A ‘shift of 5’ means that you move each letter down 5 places. So A goes to F (5 letters higher).

HELLO becomes MJQQT.

You can use a cipher wheel to help you crack these codes.



PROUD TO BE KSS

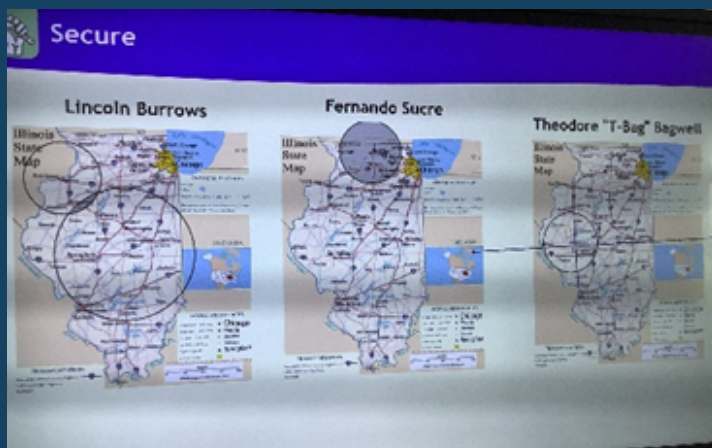


Maths



A message from Mrs McDermott...

Year 10 were given the challenge of helping to catch main characters from the popular TV series Prison Break this week. They were given a set of clues and a map to help them pinpoint characters hideouts. Using scale drawings and loci, they diligently worked through the clues to locate relevant areas on the map and pass on the information to the authorities. Well done year 10, LORIC values in plain sight during this activity, particularly resilience.



Thank You

The photograph below sums up our site supervisor Mr Harris, who is proudly displaying his gift from a Year 11 student. There has never been a quote more true than this one!. Thank you Mr Harris for your hard work day in and day out!



Attendance

YEAR 11 2018-2023 ATTENDANCE



100%

AMELIA. H

100% FOR 5 YEARS!!

99%

MACY.C

ALISHA. H

AARON. H

SEAMUS. D

EMILY.G

98%

LUCAS. R

LUCAS.M

CHARLIE.R

JACK. L

LYDIA. H

**HUGE WELL DONE TO THE ABOVE
YEAR 11 STUDENTS.**

**HUGE ACHIEVEMENT TO MAINTAIN SUCH
HIGH ATTENDANCE RECORDS OVER 5
YEARS**

Kidsgrove Secondary School

Attendance Matters

#StopTheDrop





Reminder



science PROJECT



Year 7 Volcanoes



Calling all year 7

Don't forget that with Mrs Grice-Lowe and Miss Baker in science in the coming weeks you are making volcanoes. You need remember your equipment to make them -

1. A small plastic drinking bottle
2. Newspapers
3. Cardboard

7K your deadline is 05/07/23
7S your deadline is 29/06/23



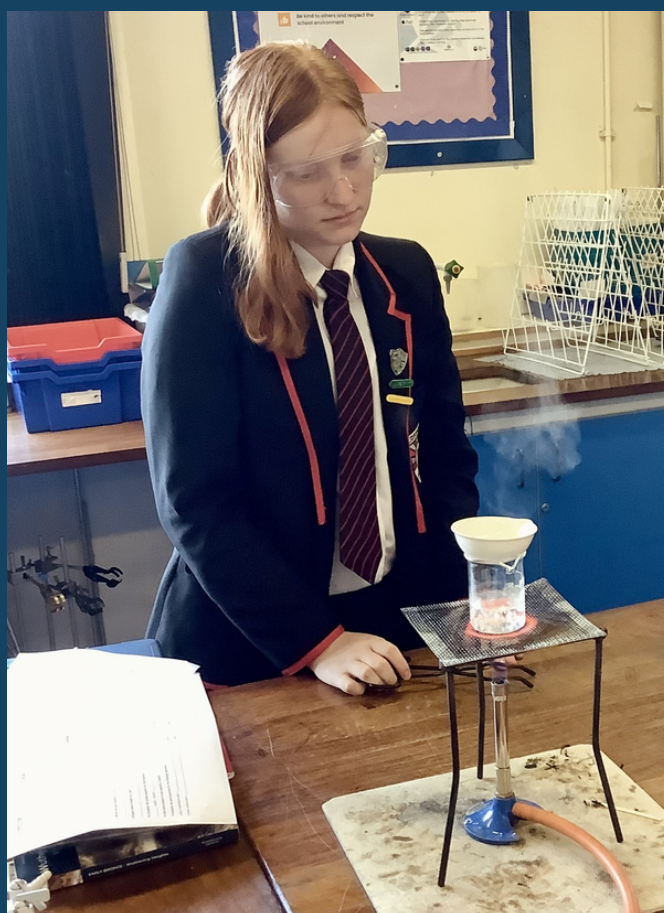
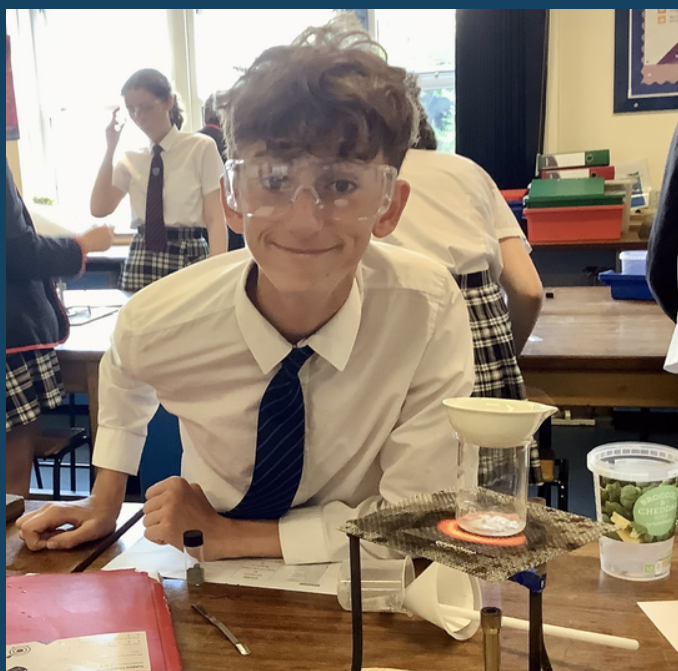
Science

A message from Ms Baker...

Year 9 have been making salts from metals.

Using Zinc (Zn) powder and Sulfuric Acid they have mixed the two together and have filtered the liquid from the solid. After heating the liquid they filtered they will soon start to the zinc sulfate crystals.

Well done Year 9!



Head Students



A thank you to the students from Year 10 that have applied for the position of Head Student for the academic year 2023-2024.

The candidates wrote to myself and Mrs Postlethwaite to express their interest in the positions available and we are looking forward to welcoming students to a formal interview on Wednesday.

This will be great experience and we will be delighted to announce on our Facebook page the successful applicants.

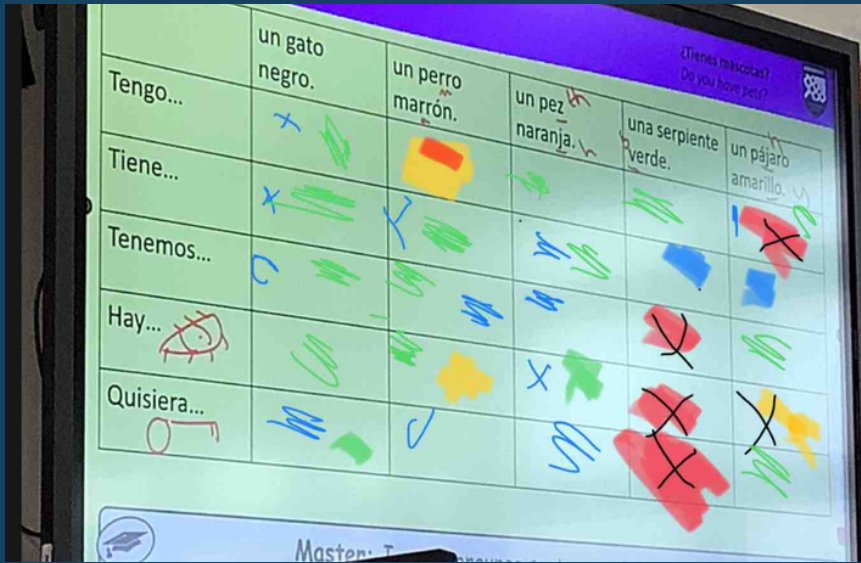


Spanish

¡HOLA!

A message from Ms Hud...

Year 7's have learnt so much in their first year of Spanish. They finished their year testing all of their knowledge on a written test, but they can also all speak Spanish really well. One of the benefits of the iPad is that they can send me voice recordings, so I can check everyone's pronunciation. We also practice speaking through games such as battleships.



Unit 5 Assessment: Year 7 Name: MAX

- ¿Cuándo es tu cumpleaños?
Mi cumpleaños es el día seis de diciembre
- ¿Cuántos años tienes?
Tengo diez años
- ¿Cómo te llamas?
Me llamo Max
- Describe tu aspecto yo, mi Tengo ojos azules y pelo rojo
Tengo ojos azules y pelo rojo
- Describe tu personalidad
Tengo un hermano simpático
- ¿Cuál es la fecha de hoy?
Hoy la fecha es el día de mayo
- ¿Tienes mascotas?
Tengo dos perros pequeños
- ¿Cómo es tu familia?
I have un hermano Ashley y una hermana y un padre.
Tengo un hermano Ashley y una hermana y un padre.

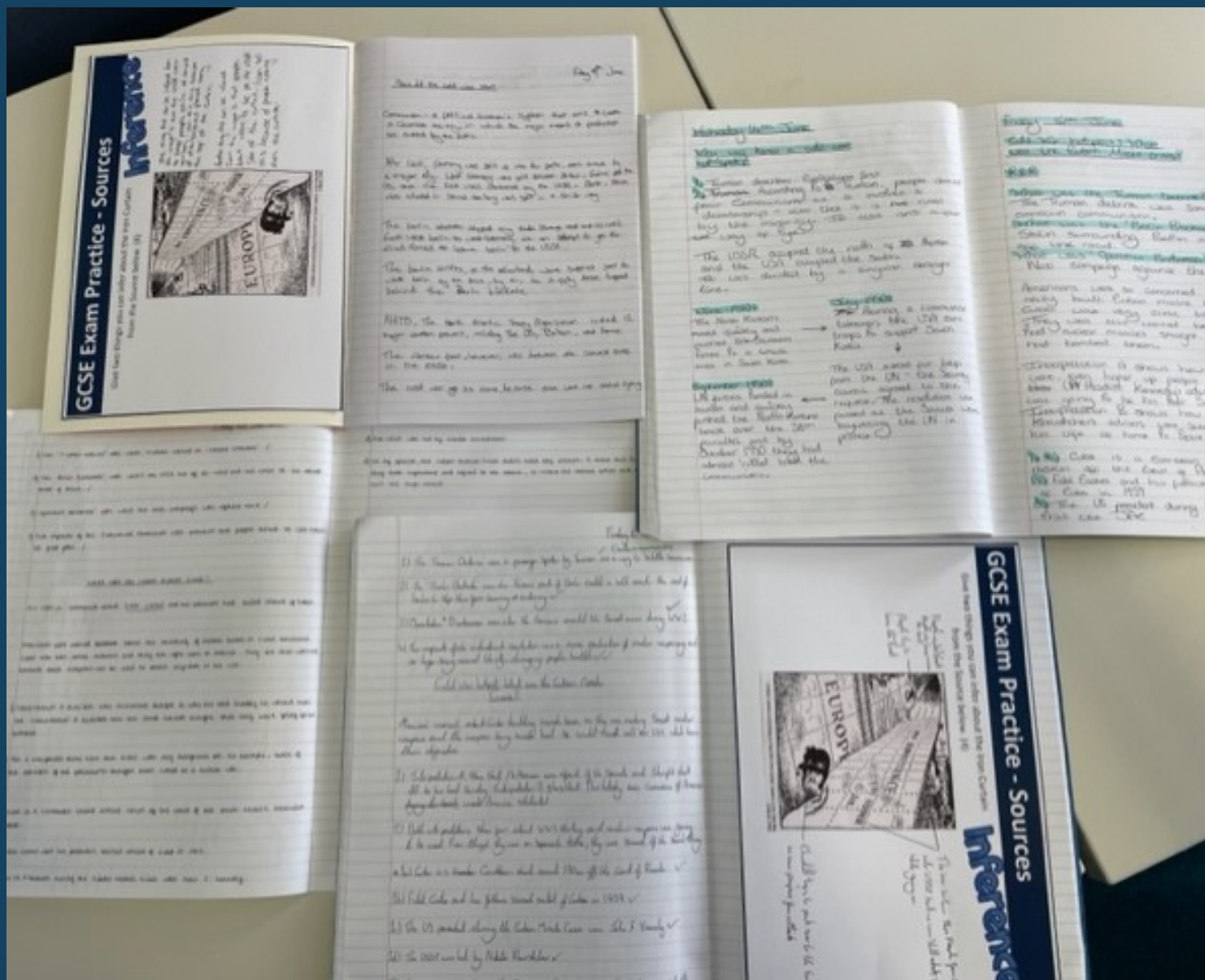
Unit 5 Assessment: Year 7 Name: Amber Smith

- ¿Cuándo es tu cumpleaños?
Mi cumpleaños es el día doce de mayo
- ¿Cuántos años tienes?
Tengo once años
- ¿Cómo te llamas?
Me llamo Amber. Mi hermano mayor se llama Kecci.
- Describe tu aspecto
Tengo el pelo rubio y los ojos azules. Tengo pecas.
- Describe tu personalidad
Soy divertida y tonta y cariñosa.
- ¿Cuál es la fecha de hoy?
Hay la fecha es el día de mayo.
- ¿Tienes mascotas?
Tengo una perra rosa y una gata amarilla.
- ¿Cómo es tu familia?
Me hermano mayor es simpático. Me madre es simpática. Me padre es simpático cariñoso.

History

A message from Mr Hilditch...

Our Year 7 History students have started a new module this half term looking at the theme of migration into Britain. This is designed to reinforce their knowledge of the country's historical heritage. They are currently studying the impact of the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings.



Spanish



A message from Ms Hud...

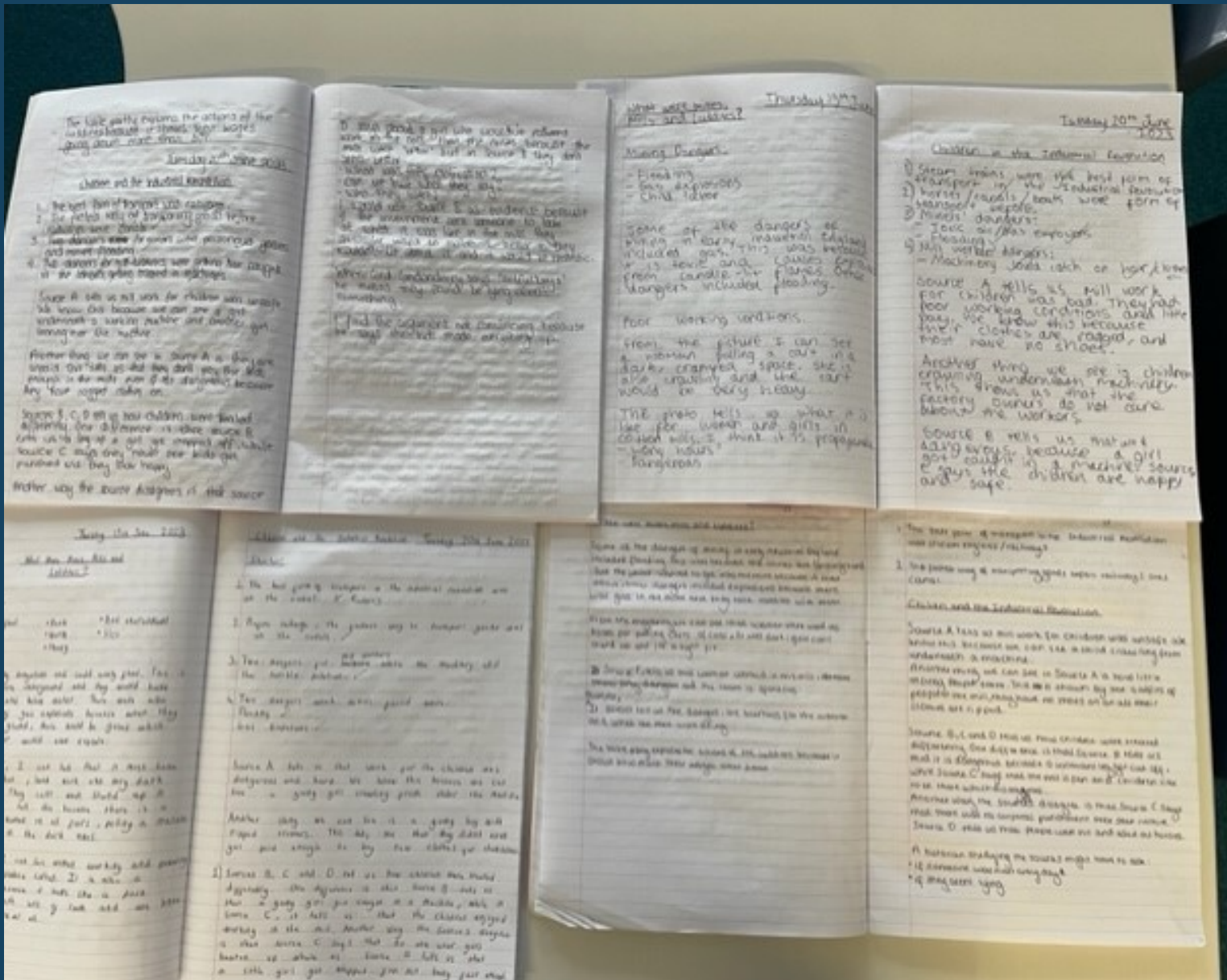
Year 10 Spanish have spent the year improving their speaking skills. Sometimes they do this in pairs, sometimes using the iPad and sometimes with the teacher one-to-one. Pictured is our favourite method- 'speed dating', where students have 2 minutes to have a conversation in Spanish with a classmate, then move on until they've spoken to everyone. They've finished up year 10 with their speaking mock, where they are tested on their conversational skills. Well done year 10, for an incredible improvement in confidence this academic year!



History

A message from Mr Hilditch...

Year 8 pupils are now investigating the Industrial Revolution. They are currently studying some of the negative impacts of this turbulent period before they look at the rapid growth of towns and cities. They will then focus on Victorian law and order with a case study on Jack the Ripper.



Poland Trip 2023

The Humanities trip to Poland planned for September 2023 is only twelve weeks away. Thank you to all parents/carers for making their final payments and we are already excited to take 46 Year 10 and Year 9 students to visit the wonderful city of Krakow.

The trip will be full of memorable experiences, non more so that a visit to the Auschwitz Memorial Museum and the Salt Mines.

I am sure it will be a trip to remember.

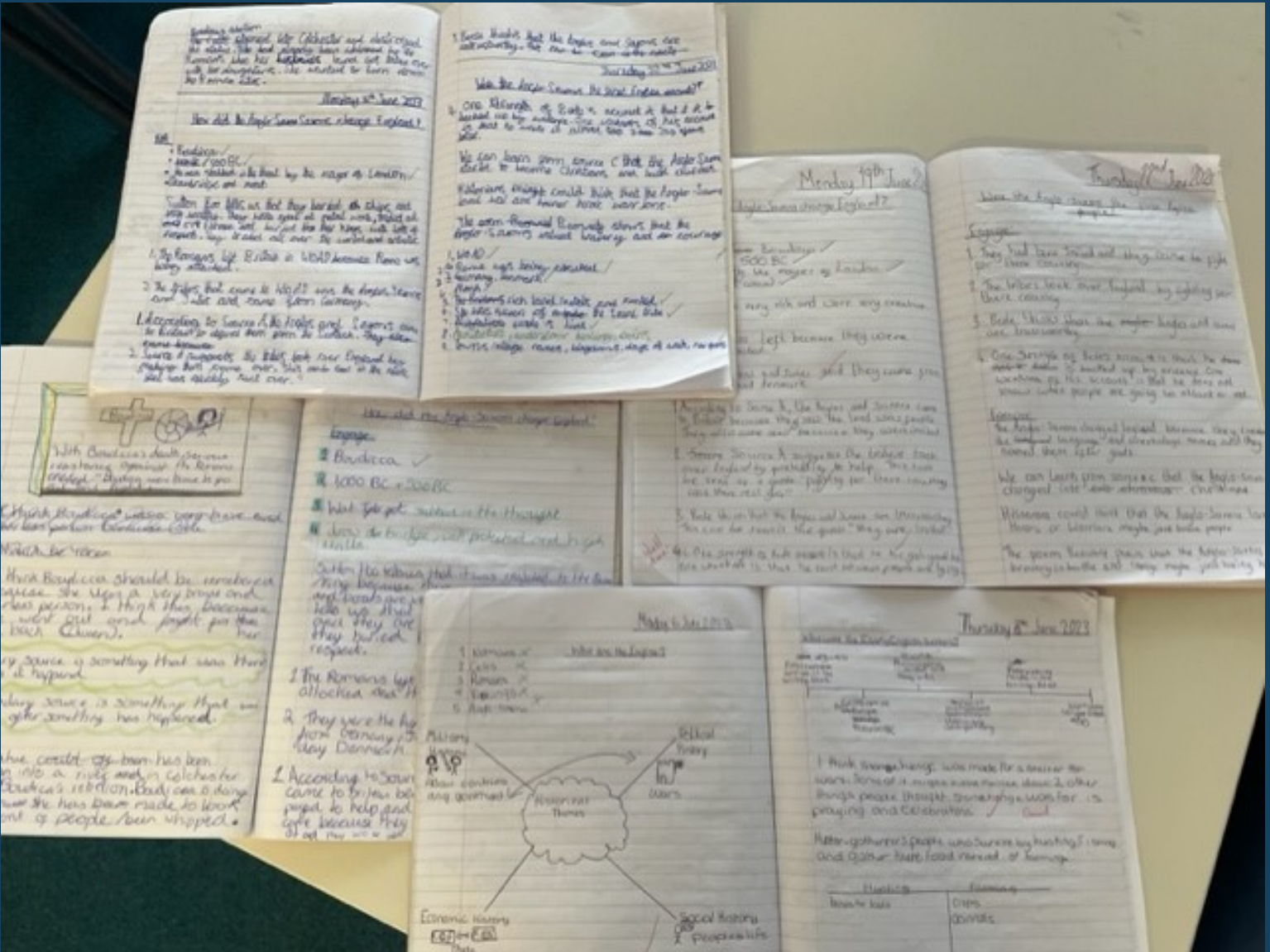
There will be a parent/carer information evening on Wednesday 12th of July 2023 to go through the finer details. We will look forward to seeing you there!



History

A message from Mr Hilditch...

Year 9 Historians are currently studying the Cold War and the ideological conflict between the USA and the Soviet Union. They have recently explored the Cuban Missile Crisis and will next turn their attention to the Vietnam War.



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.



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