THE KIDSGROVE SECONDARY SCHOOL

HEADTEACHER BULLETIN

Friday 21st of July 2023 Follow us @ https://www.facebook.com/KidsgroveSecondary

Dear Parents/Carers,

As I write to you one final time for the academic year it serves as a great time to reflect on the achievements made by all of the students and staff here at KSS over the last three terms.

What a remarkable year it has been! The past 38 weeks have gone by in a flash and along the way there have been issued hundreds of thousands of positive achievement points, countless praise postcards posted home, numerous reward events, trips and Headteacher reward lunches. These have all been a reminder of the amazing students that we work with day in, day out.

This year, we held the first KSS Sports Day at Northwood stadium, created our very own published fictional novel and hosted a brilliant digital tournament, organised by our very own digital champions. These are just a few events in a long line of personal development themed enrichment experiences. I have not even mentioned the four enrichment days that have been jam packed with careers information, healthy relationships advice and healthy eating information to name just a few key themes.

If you wish to look back on the previous Headteacher Bulletins as a reminder of the key events that your child has been involved in over the past year, please click on the following link:
https://kidsgrovesecondary.org.uk/parents/recent-communications/newsletter

The pinnacle of the good news stories this year has been the fact that the school achieved a 'Good' judgement in all areas of the inspection framework when Ofsted visited us in April 2023. It was incredible to read The Sentinel article that reported the outcome in such a positive way for our school community. This was such a proud moment for everybody connected with the school!
If you have not read the article it can be found at the web address below:

https://www.stokesentinel.co.uk/news/stoke-on-trent-news/remarkable-rise-once-struggling-north-8577647#ICID=Android_StokeSentinelNewApp_AppShare

So to draw this year to a close, thank you once more for your continued support. We are so lucky at this school to have a set of parents/carers that work with us so closely and in such a constructive and positive way. This really does make such a huge difference and why the culture at KSS is so positive and strong.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a relaxing and safe summer break. We will see all students return on September 6th 2023 for our new start time of 8.35am. There will be reminders about the new school year shared via our Facebook page throughout August and if any parents/carers have any queries over the holiday, please email communications@kss.set.org as this will be monitored by our support staff team.



Yours faithfully,
Mr S Frost

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday September 5th 2023 - Year 7 Students Only
Wednesday September 6th 2023 - All Students Return
Friday 15th September 2023 - School Photographs
Saturday 16th September to Tuesday 19th September 2023 - KS4 Poland Trip
Tuesday 19th September 2023 to Thursday 20th September 2023 - Year 9 Spanish Forest Schools Event
Saturday 23rd September 2023 - Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Expedition

What a Year!

If a photograph summed up the 2022-2023 academic year this is it!

Thank you for all of the support of everybody involved in our wonderful school community.

Wishing you all a relaxing summer break.







Head Students

We are delighted to announce that the following Year 10 students have been selected to be members of the KSS Senior Student Leadership Team for 2023-2024.
After an applications process and formal interviews the students below secured the key leadership positions:

Head Students
Cameron and Emmie

Deputy Head Students
Chloe, John, Logan and Amber

Senior Prefects
Lillie, Owen and Madelyn
Well done everyone!







Prefect Team

Congratulations to our newly appointed Prefects!

The role of a prefect is important in school as they act as role model to other students and take on key responsibilities.

All applicants had to apply in writing and were then interviewed by our Senior Prefects for the role.

Joining Lucy, Izzy, Caitlin, Tilly, Demi and Tyler are:
Ruby, Jess, Shyla, Nevaeh, Lilly, Ryan, Josh T, Gracie, Alesha, Emily, Macy, Josh B, Angel, Ashley and Fox.

The student leadership team look forward to working with you all!





Headteacher Reward Lunch

Well done to all of the students invited to attend the final Headteacher reward lunch of 2022-2023. The students were selected for having zero negative points for the whole of the academic year which is a remarkable achievement and the perfect embodiment of our Core Values. Amazing work everyone!



Headteacher Reward Lunch







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

PROUD TO BE KSS

KS3 Update



A message from Mr Till...

Well done to our Year 7s who have embodied our core values and made a fantastic start to their journey at Kidsgrove Secondary School. Year 7 end the year leading the whole school achievement points table, with this particular cohort receiving the highest number of achievement points to date - the bar has been set very high.



We have the Year 7 & 8 residential trip occurring in the summer term 2024, it would be wonderful to take as many of our students on this experience as possible. More details will follow in September of the new academic year.

Congratulations to all the Year 7 & 8 pupils that achieved 100% attendance and zero negative points over the entire academic year. It was great to see so many of you at the Headteacher's reward lunch, receiving the recognition you deserve.

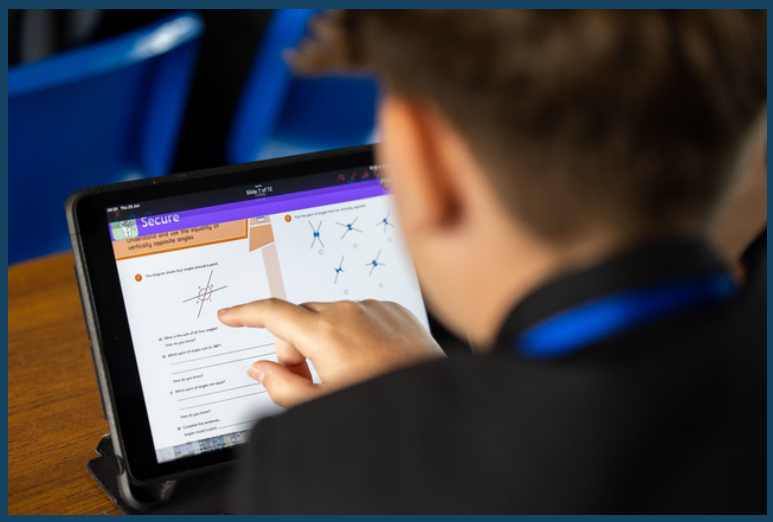
KS3 Update



A message from Mr Till...

It has been a pleasure to welcome Year 6 pupils from all of our feeder primary schools through our doors as part of transition week. Pupils had the opportunity to meet their form tutor and experience lessons, whilst meeting new peers. A special mention to Amber and Amy who shared their Year 7 experience with all parents and pupils at the Year 6 transition evening.









As part of transition we have been visiting staff and students at our local primary schools. It has been wonderful to share ideas about how to best support our new cohort with starting secondary school. We look forward to collaborating further with all of our local primary settings and developing the Kidsgrove Learning Campus alongside Kidsgrove Primary School.

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Year 10 Mock Exams



A message from Mrs Postlethwaite

Over the last two days, Mr Frost and I have had the pleasure of meeting every student in Y10 to hold individual Mock exam results meetings.

The five minutes spent with each student were invaluable and allowed us to support, encourage and celebrate with individuals whilst looking at next steps and bespoke plans.

Every single student was on time, engaged actively in conversations about the next 12 months and took on board the advice given. An absolute credit to themselves and our wonderful school.

The next round of Mock exams will be before Christmas and we are looking forward to inviting you into school in November to see how you can best support your child through their final year.





Y10 Work Experience

A message from Mrs Postlethwaite...

Mrs Weaver and I were lucky enough to visit our Year 10 students at the beginning of the month as they embarked on their week of work experience. We were so proud to hear from employers about the amazing work ethic and values displayed by our students in their settings. We know from talking to students that this week had a huge impact on their ideas for the future and it has been fantastic to hear about everything they got up to.
Well done Year 10 for representing the school and yourselves so well. You're an absolute credit to us and we are very **#proudtobeKSS**













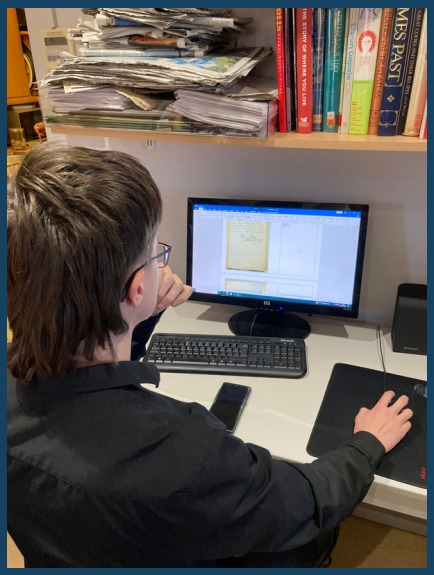
Y10 Work Experience







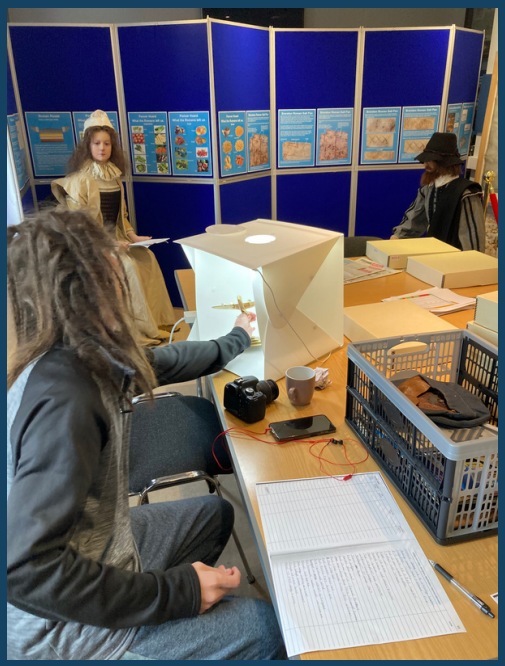












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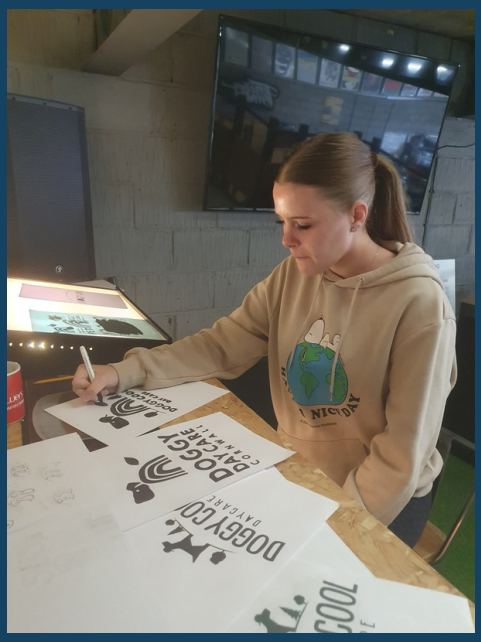
Y10 Work Experience

















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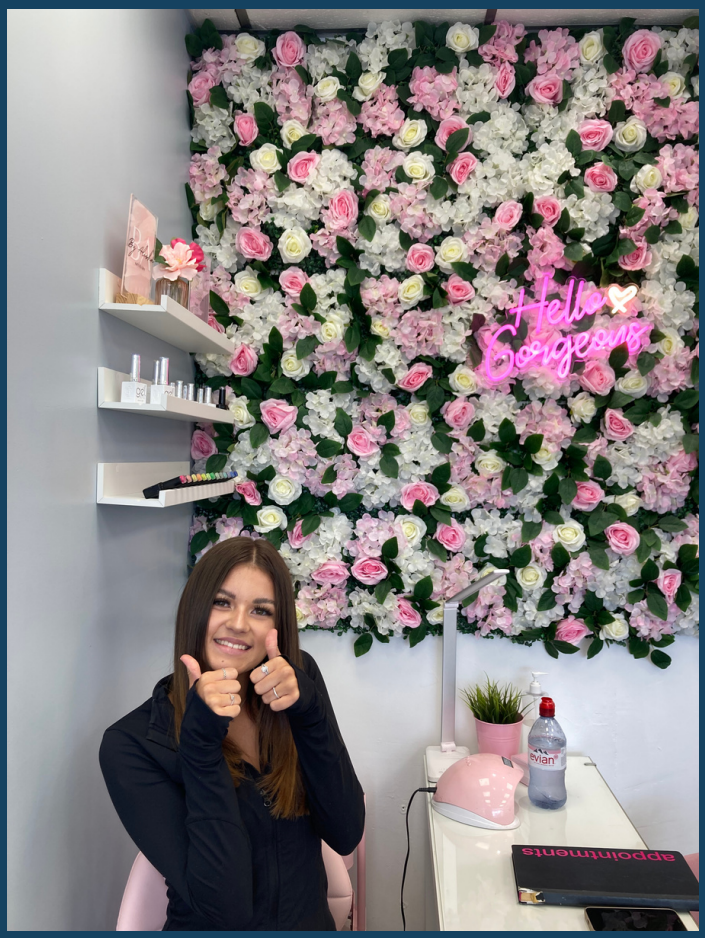
Y10 Work Experience









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Personal Development

A message from Mrs Weaver...

What a year it has been for our Personal Development provision. Through assemblies, form time activities, speakers and visits, lessons and enrichment days, we have continued to develop and grow the opportunities for our students whilst ensuring it is dynamic and focused on what our students need to, and want to know.

During the last Head Teacher's Bulletin, I introduced our final enrichment day of the year. To thank them for their positive engagment, students had the opportunity to opt into particular activities. The student's behaviour and attitude was great and a huge thank you to the staff arranged the wide range of activities the students could choose from.














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New Term, New Start Time

A reminder that from September 5th 2023 onwards we will be operating a new start time of 8.35am.
The students will continue to collect a bagel from reception and access the school equipment shop.
Thank you in advance for everyone's support with this change.
Through this change we have met the Department for Education's expectations of a 32.5 hour school week for our students.







KS4 Football Team

A huge well done to Year 10 who took part in a competitive Staffordshire School's Football tournament on Friday.

The squad played some great football in what were awful conditions. There were some great debut performances and some lovely goals scored.

Mr Frost and Mr Till were very impressed as we nearly secured second place.
We cannot wait until the Year 11 season begins in September.
A special mention to Joshua and George who stepped up to play from year 9!

Well done everyone!



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Achievement Assemblies

The final day of the year achievement assemblies are always the best. It is amazing to celebrate the consistent brilliance of our students across the whole 38 week academic year.
Well done to every student that was nominated for an award.



Achievement Assemblies





Achievement Assemblies





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Achievement Assemblies





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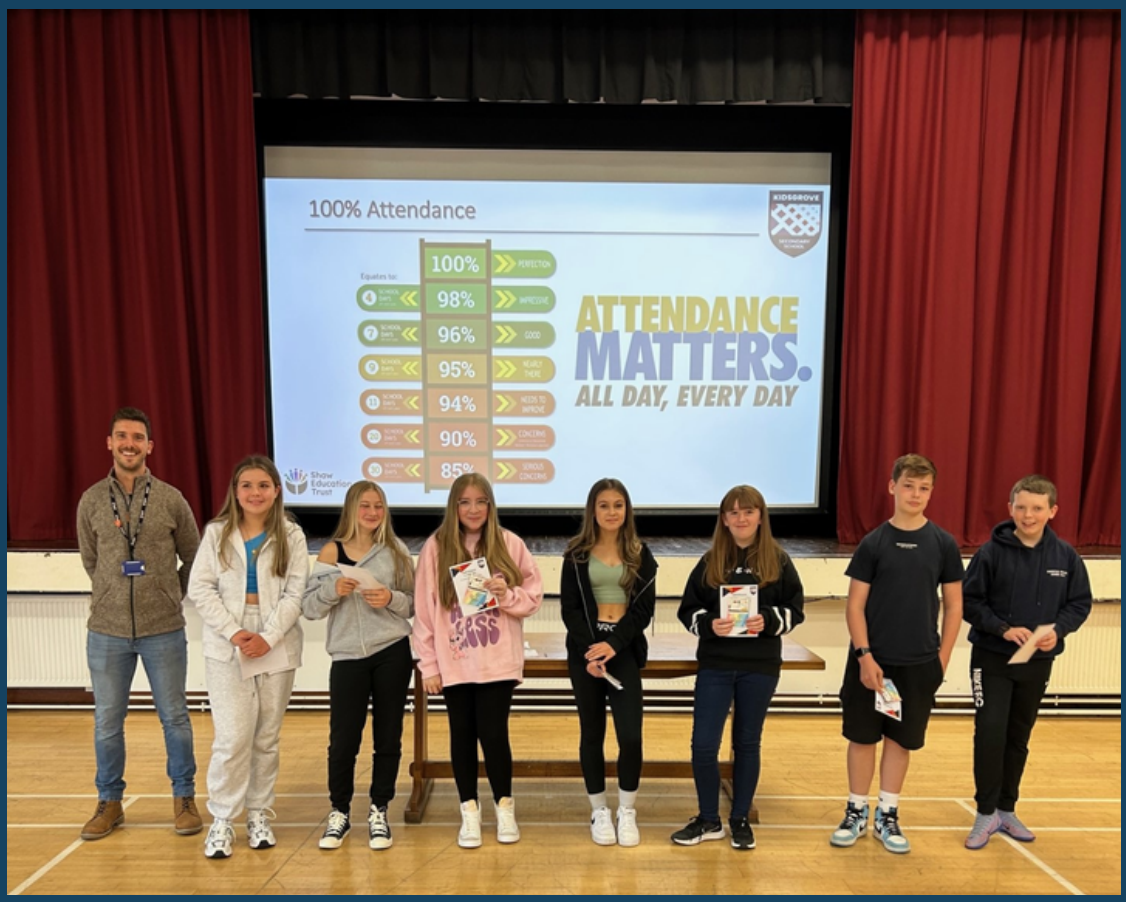
Achievement Assemblies





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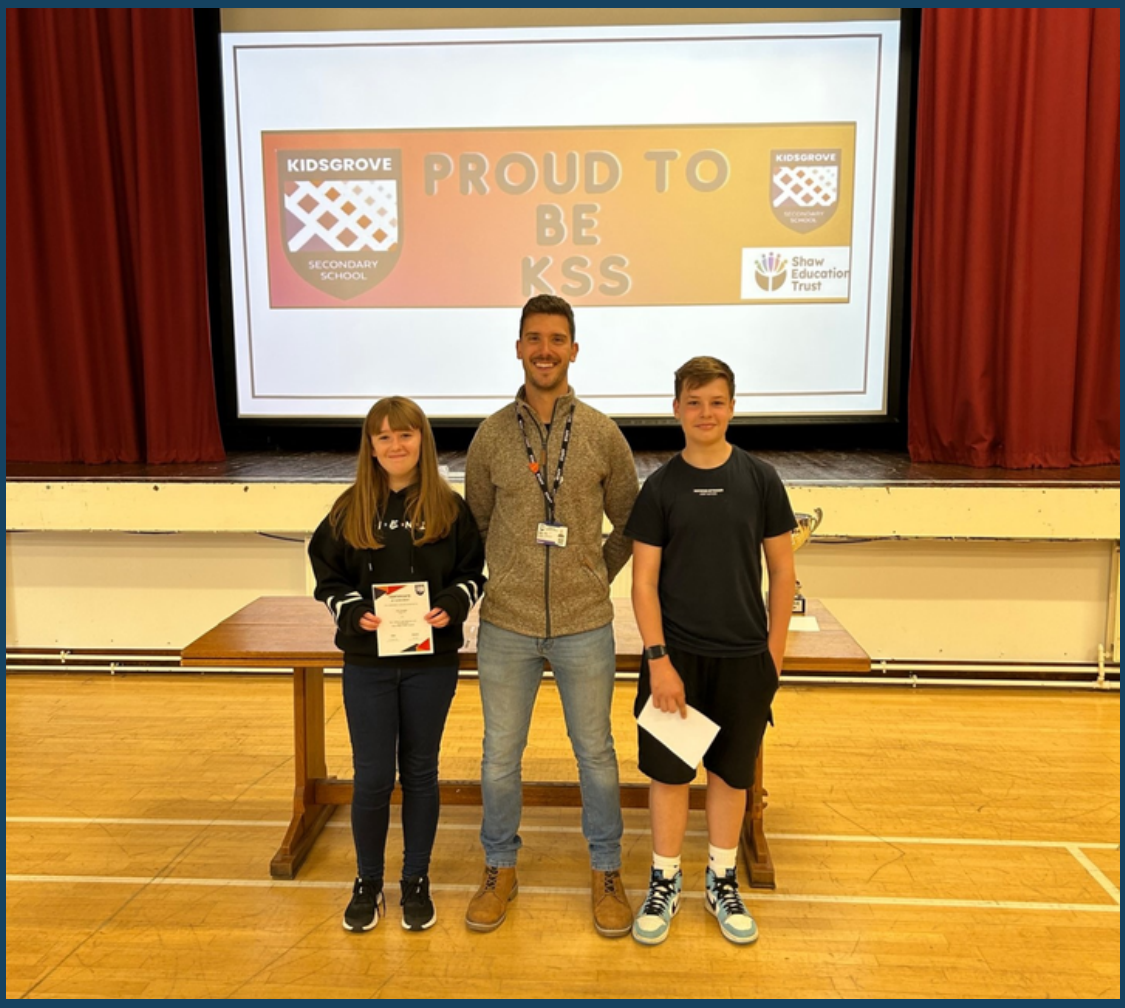
Achievement Assemblies





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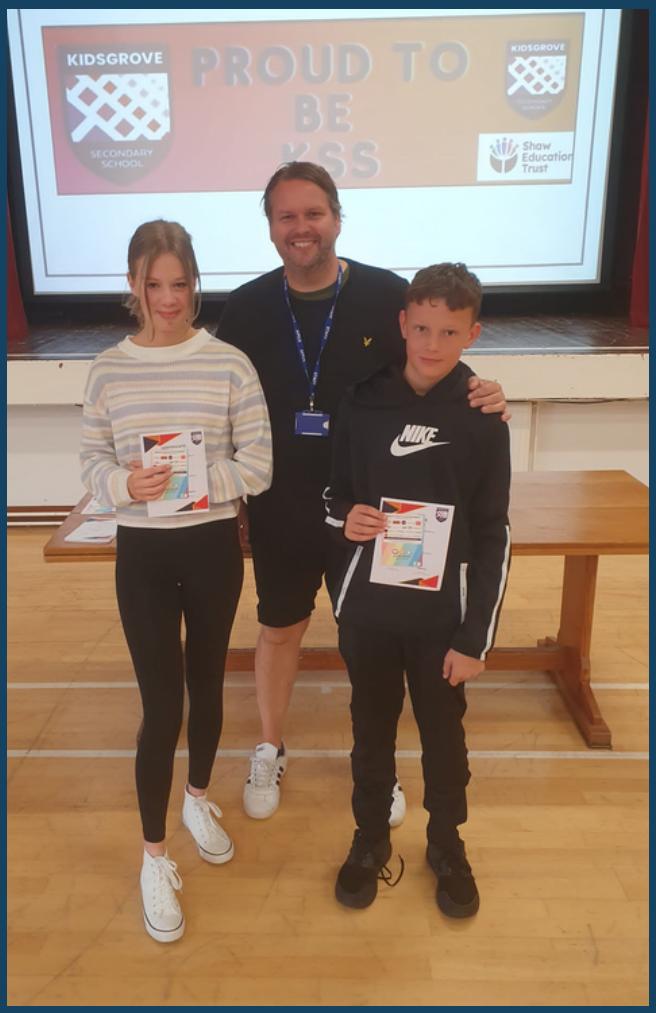
Achievement Assemblies





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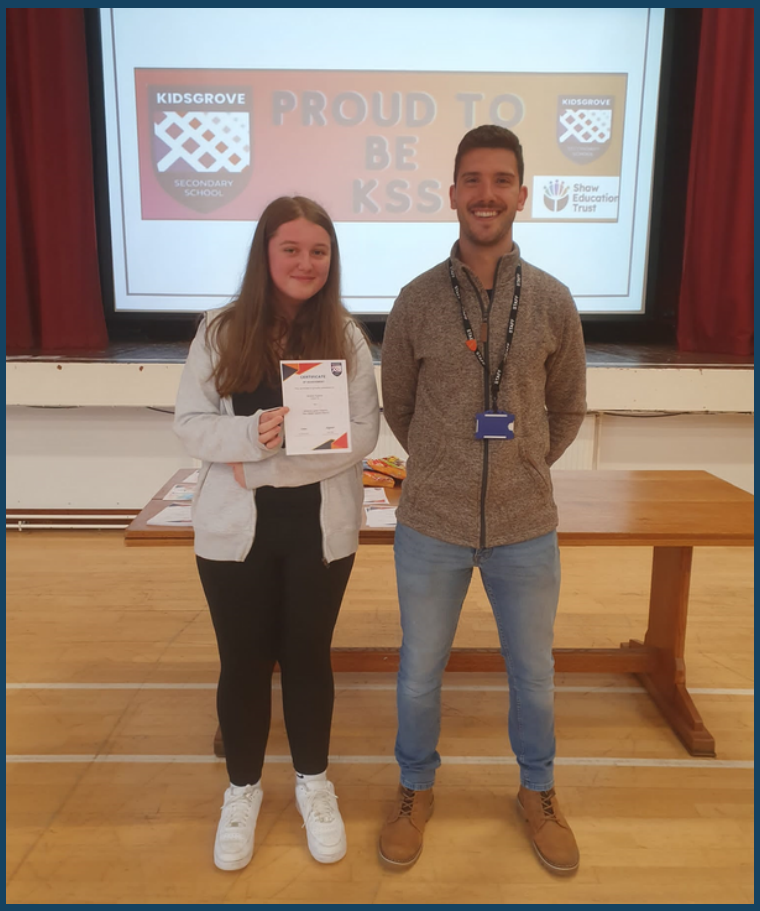
Achievement Assemblies





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Achievement Assemblies





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Attendance

KSS

ATTENDANCE

WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE 91.20%

NATIONAL AVERAGE 90.8%

BEST FORM 7HM 95.70%

BEST HOUSE



WELL DONE TO THE 19 STUDENTS WHO HAVE NOT HAD A DAY OFF THIS ACADEMIC YEAR!!



Saturday Open Morning
September 30th 2023



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Attendance


KSS
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 = MC²
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


Kidsgrove Secondary School
Attendance Matters
#StopTheDrop
KIDSGROVE
SECONDARY SCHOOL

Art

A message from Ms Mason...

Year 7 have been developing their outcomes inspired by African Art.
They have been exploring pattern and colour through both their drawings and 3D masks, building their knowledge of the elements of Art.





Art

A message from Ms Mason...

Year 8 have been exploring the art of Graffiti and what makes this style unique. We have used both digital, drawing and painting processes to create our own examples of this art finally creating a real piece of graffiti on pieces of wood.

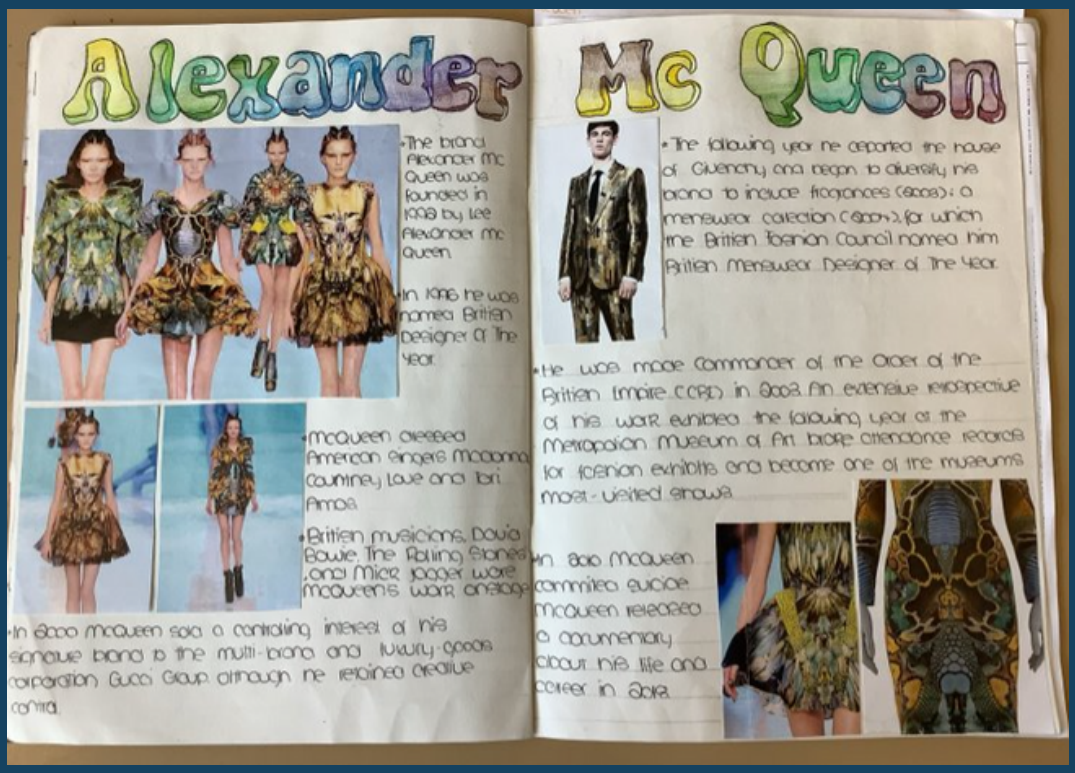


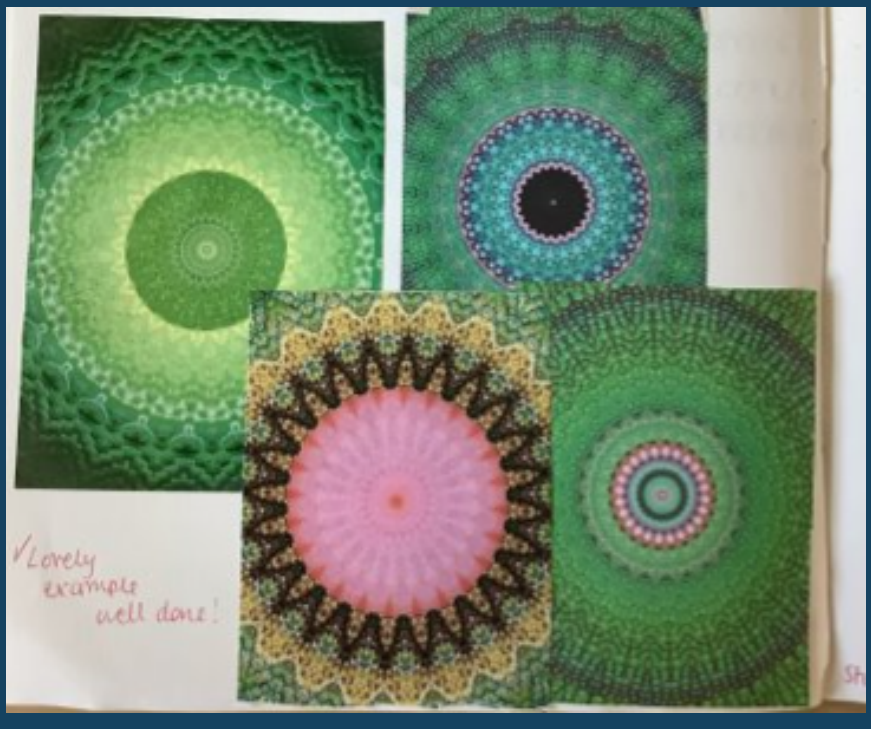


Art

A message from Ms Mason...

Year 9 have been continued to be inspired by nature looking at the work of fashion designer Alexander McQueen.
We have looked at careers in fashion including designer, fashion illustrator and Surface Pattern design.
Using digital process students have created their own patterns.
Using collage techniques, students firstly created a garment design by cutting and placing images of natural patterns on a template and then drew their final design into their sketchbooks.





English

A message from Mr Old...

Sparx Reading - coming September 2023

I am thrilled to announce the arrival of Sparx Reader, which will be launched with students from years 7 to 10 in September 2023.

What is it?

Sparx reader is reading, comprehension and vocabulary programme that gets all young people reading regularly to help improve their Literacy.

Year 7-10 students will be set homework each week on Sparx Reader. Students are set the task of reading a book of their choice on the platform each week. There will also be the opportunity to use this during form time reading sessions.



English

A message from Mr Old...

Mini-saga creative writing contest

Big congratulations to Sam (Year 9) for his winning entry to the mini-saga creative writing contest, with the 'Unsolved' theme.

This was the winning story.

Title: Strangely Familiar

Richard woke feeling like a zombie. His head hurt and he had a pain in his back. “What a party!” He thought.

As he moved silently through the house, he could hear crying. “What is going on?” He asked as he appeared in the living room. None of his crying housemates would look at him so it must be bad!

“He’s dead!” Mary whimpered. “Who’s dead?” He replied, but nobody answered.

On the floor in the kitchen was a body. The victim, with a bleeding head and a knife in his back, somehow looked strangely familiar.

Thanks again to all students who entered and to those who entered their stories to be published in the book out this Autumn. Watch this space for further updates!

MINI Saga





Maths

A message from Mrs Frost...

What an incredible academic year it has been in the maths department and thank you so much to all students that have joined us on the exciting journey of change. I feel we have so many amazing students to celebrate and some fantastic achievements.

Mrs McDermott, Miss Ayers and I are continually blown away by the efforts put in by students to their lessons, their weekly Sparx homework and also the numeracy puzzle. Over 2000 student entries have been submitted for the weekly numeracy puzzle since it began at the start of last term, a huge well done and thank you to you all.
To celebrate the end of a brilliant academic year, we thought we would share with you a variety of activities recently enjoyed by all year groups, including the lovely visitors we have had from Years 5 and 6.

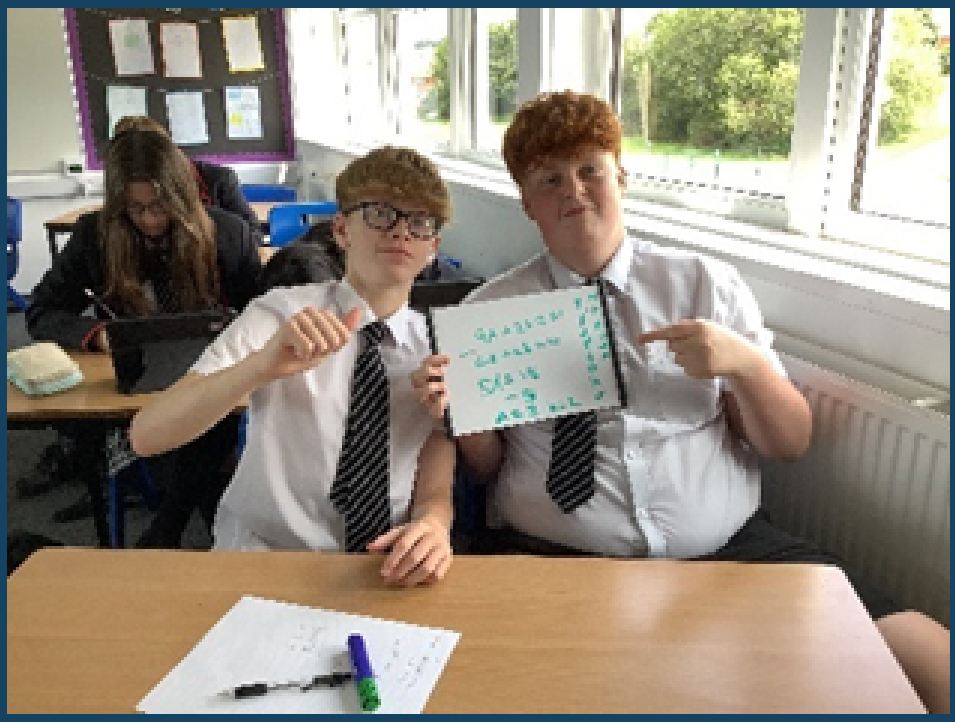


Maths

A message from Mrs Frost...

Year 10

In maths, Year 10 are preparing for their final year with us and their next steps into further education or apprenticeships, by developing their LORIC values. They showed amazing resilience, initiative and organisation in learning how to solve simultaneous equations, then leadership and communication in supporting each other to progress to the next steps. Phenomenal team effort Year 10, well done!







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Maths

A message from Mrs Frost...

Year 9

Year 9 recently got to compete in teams to undertake a relay substitution activity. Unfortunately, we were not as lucky with the weather as we would have liked to have been, however this did not dampen the enthusiasm of the students.







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Maths

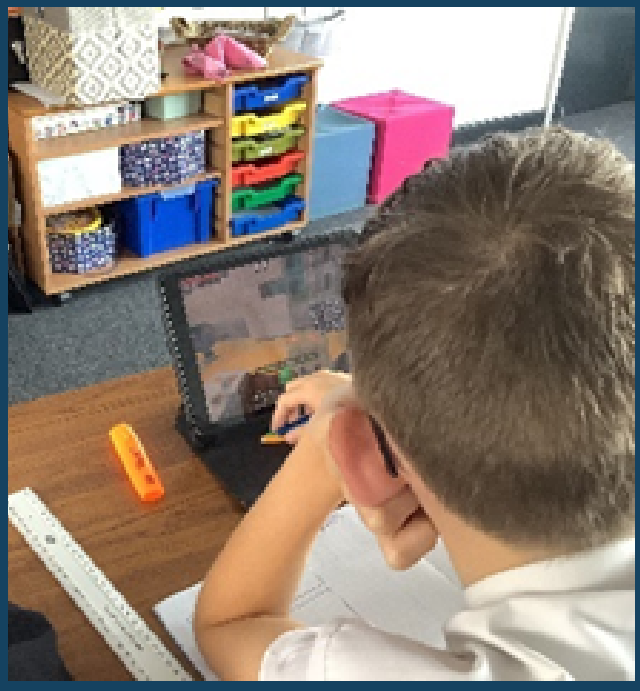
A message from Mrs Frost...

Year 8

Year 8 have been using Minecraft Education financial worlds to develop their understanding of financial vocabulary, investigate careers and salaries in the job arena, and practice managing finances by earning, saving and spending money. Within the simulation, students were met with decisions and challenges based on real-world scenarios.







Maths

A message from Mrs Frost...

Year 7

Year 7 have been using Minecraft Education worlds to explore parallel and perpendicular lines, acute, obtuse, reflex and right angles, along with key angle facts. They have then used this knowledge to design and execute a plan to build a bridge that a boat can sail under.







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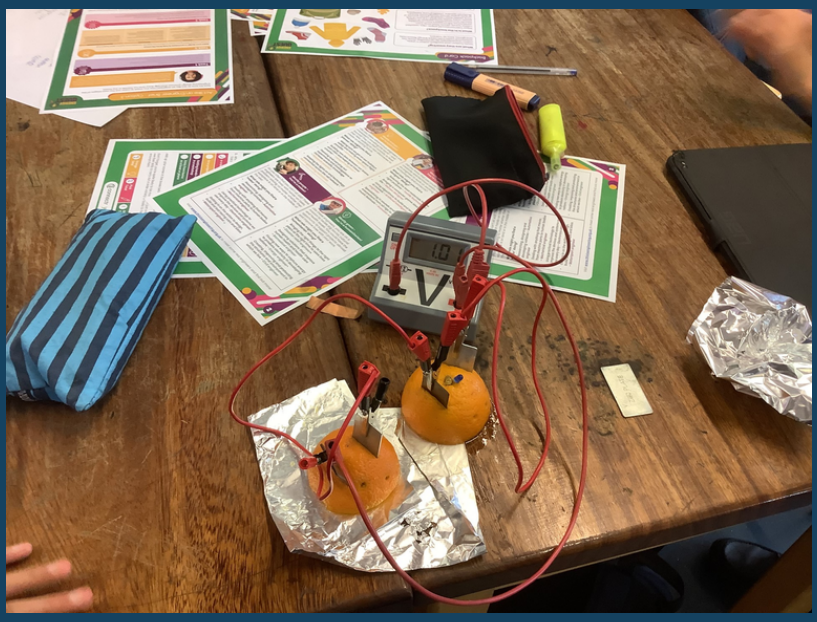
Science

A message from Dr Ma...

On Monday, 10 July 2023, all Year 7 students were involved in an 'Energy Quest'!
The face-to-face, interactive workshop uncovered engineering skills the students didn't know they had! Students were challenged to 'save the day' by utilising practical engineering skills to find a solution to help a group of young people in danger.









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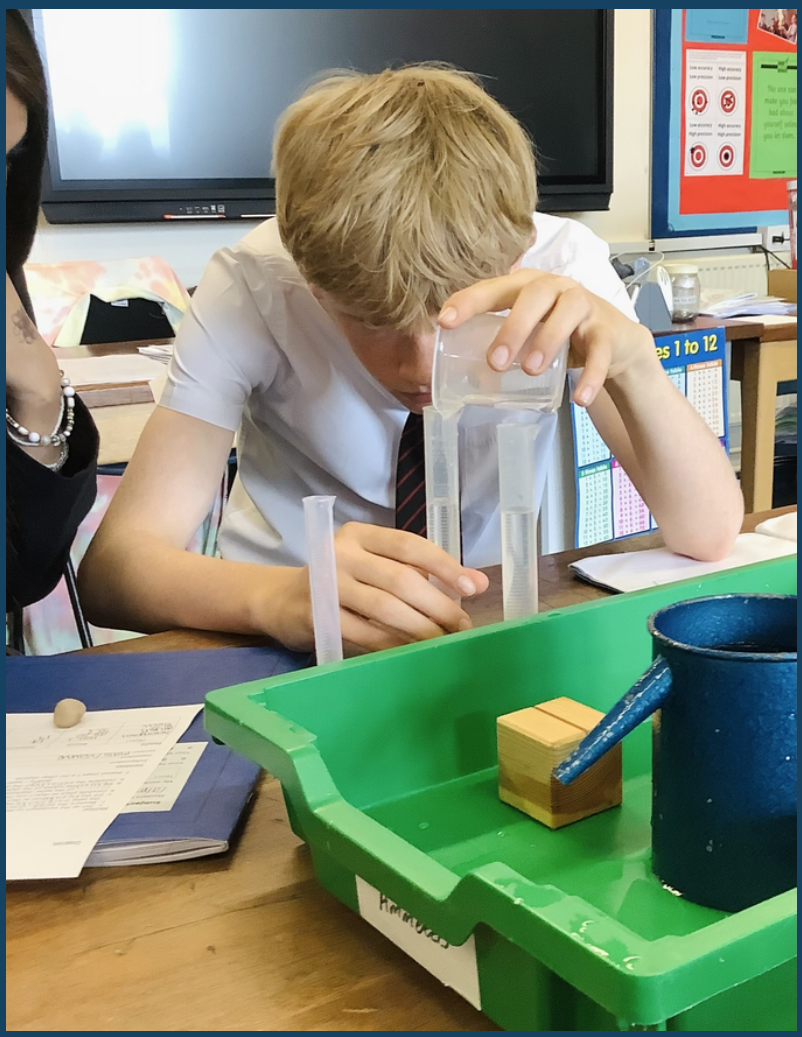
Science

A message from Ms Baker...

Year 9 measuring density in physics this morning with Dr Ma, using Eureka cans they place regular and irregular shaped objects in Eureka cans full of water and measure the volume water that is lost.
This measurement together with the mass of the object they can work out the density of the object.





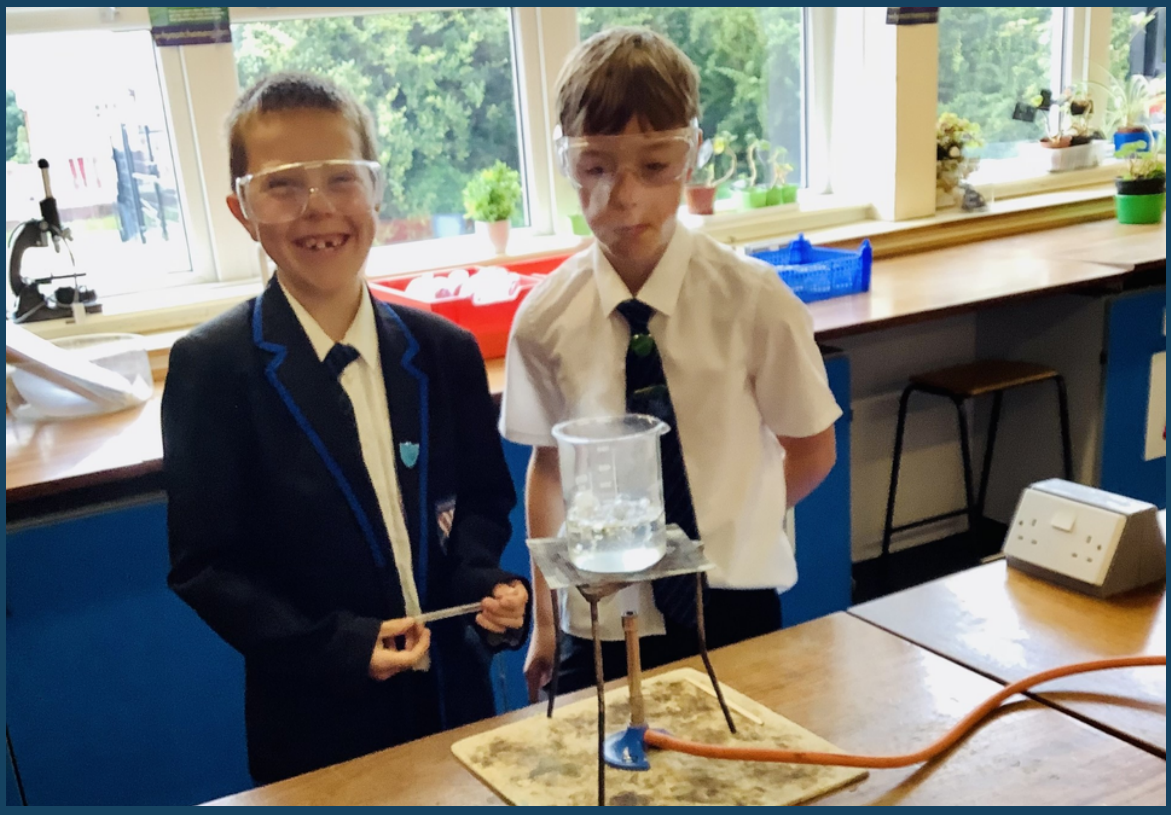
Science

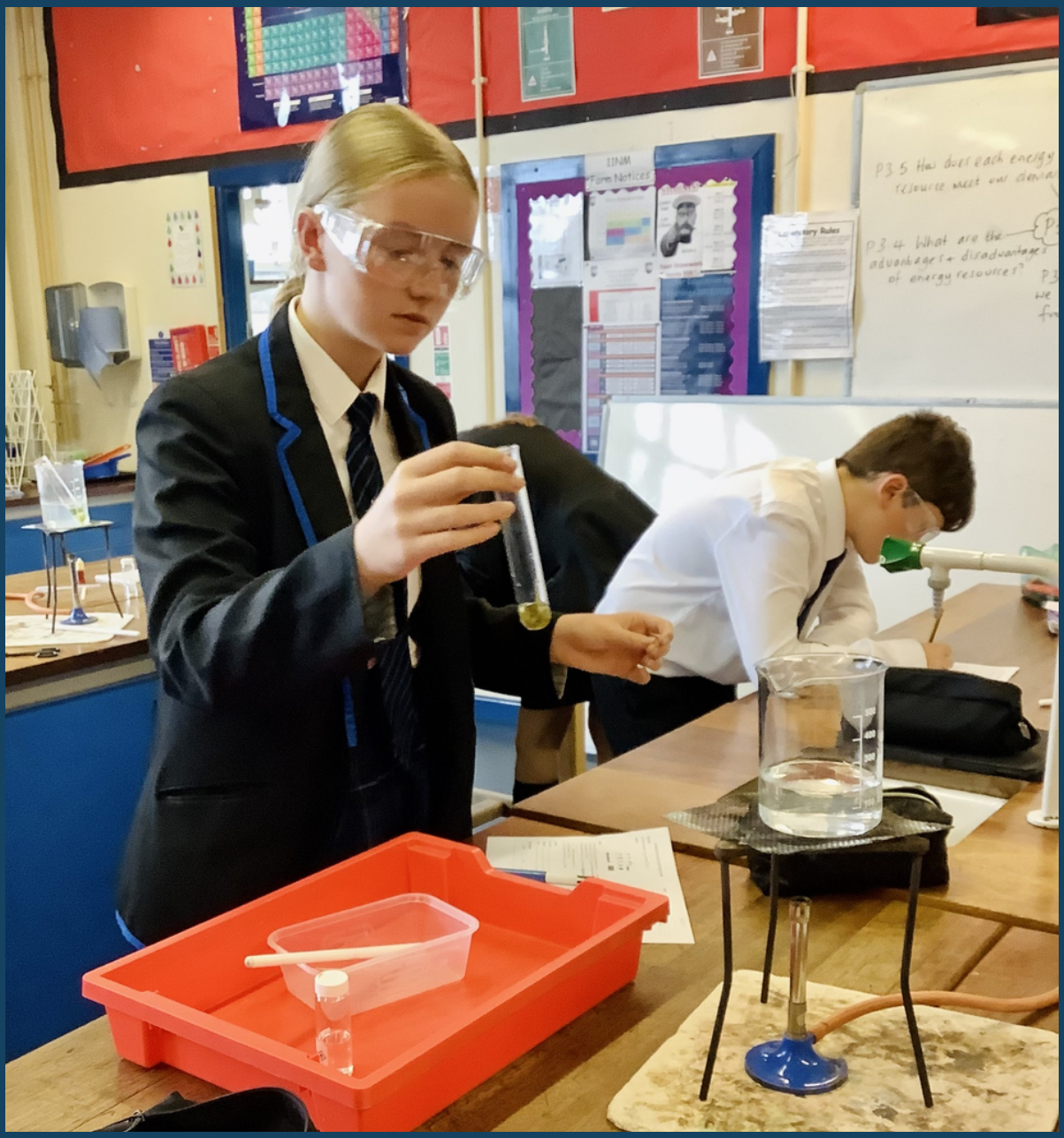
A message from Ms Baker…

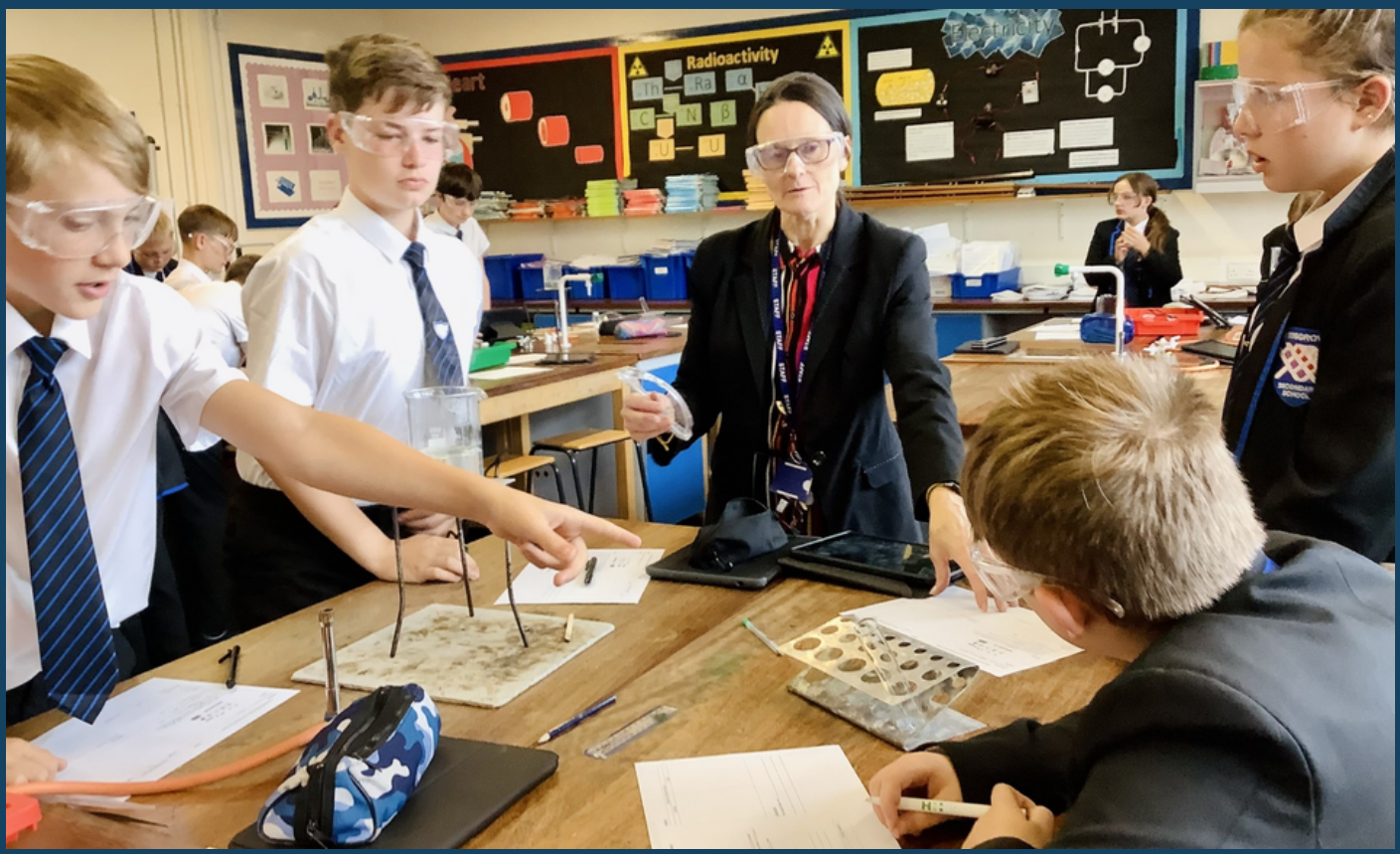
Year 7 with Dr Ma and Miss Baker have been testing leaves for starch. They do this by using iodine to see a colour change, using a method to follow, if starch is present the iodine on the leaf will go a dark blue/black in colour. Well done Year 7 for some brilliant work.




P31 How are our energy demands met ?
P32 How do we get energy
Our Expectations
Code of Conduct






Radioactivity

Technology

A message from Mrs Bryan..

Since joining the school in January, Technology has had a very busy Spring/Summer term. Key Stage 3 have produced some wonderful dishes form pizza to afternoon tea, displaying a wide range of skills. Year 7 had their first workshop experience and produced some lovely glasses holders. Year 11 produced some wonderful work in preparation for their GCSE practical exam and I was extremely proud with how hard they worked.

End of an Era.....
New beginnings, exciting futures, developing future engineers. The old Tech block has been retired to make way for new engineering workshops, CAD/CAM studios and new Hospitality and Catering facilities, paving the way for exciting new engineering programmes, STEM activities and future engineers and Hospitality and Catering specialists. We cannot wait for the new school year for exciting new facilities, new curriculum, and new projects.....Watch this space!!!!!







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Physical Education

A message from Mrs Castrey...

We are delighted to announce that we have achieved the School Games Gold Mark Award for the 2022/23 academic year.

The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.
We are extremely proud of our pupils for their dedication to all aspects of school sport, including those young volunteers, leaders and officials who made our competitions possible.

As part of our application, we were asked to fulfil criteria in the areas of participation, competition, workforce and clubs, and we are pleased that the hard work of everyone at our school has been rewarded this year.

We look forward to applying once again in 2024!



Digital Strategy

A message from Mrs Morrell...

Year 6 joined me in the IT as part of their transition day. They used a piece of software called The Wick Editor. The Wick Editor is a free online tool that allows you create animations. Year 6 had a go at making a character that they had made move across the screen or getting their own name to move around and change colour. They had lots of fun!







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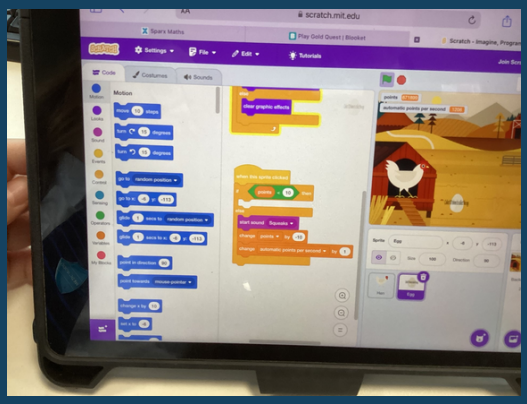
Computing

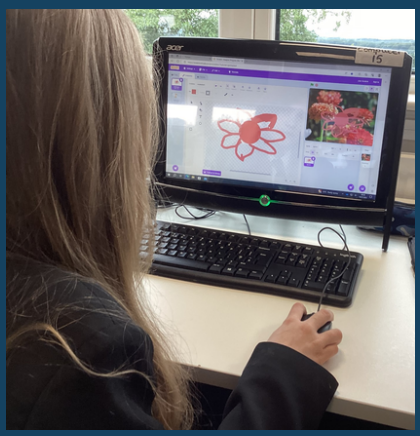
A message from Mrs Morrell...

During their last IT lesson of the term, Y7 have been using their programming skills to make their own version of the ever popular 'clicker' style game. They have created variables that keep score and allow the player to receive automatic points for certain things, added sounds, edited characters, and created backgrounds. Well done Y7!





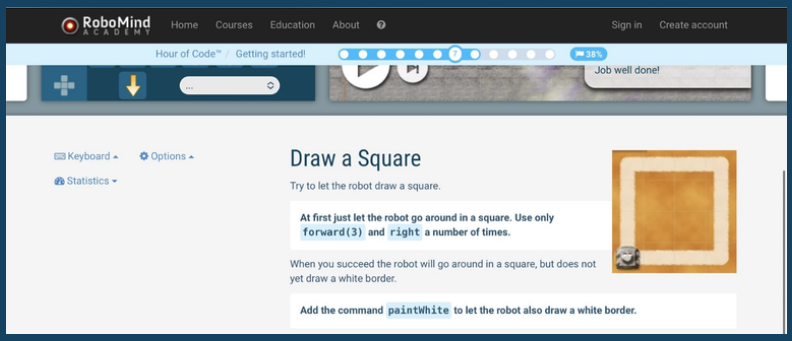




Computing

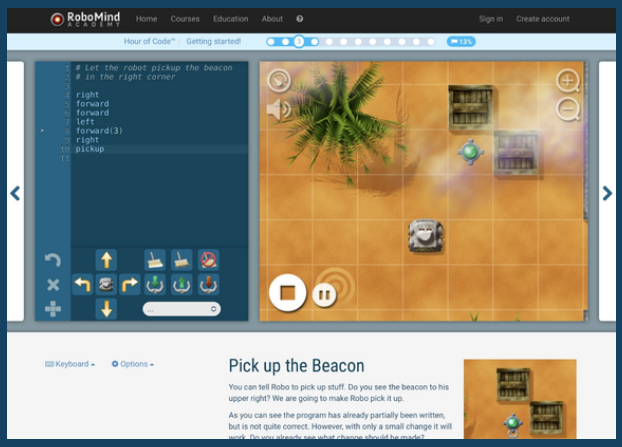
A message from Mrs Morrell...

Y9 have finished off the year by coding their very own robot to complete tasks. They have painted letters, made squares, picked up objects and made their robot dance- all whilst expanding their computer programming skills!
Great work Y9.









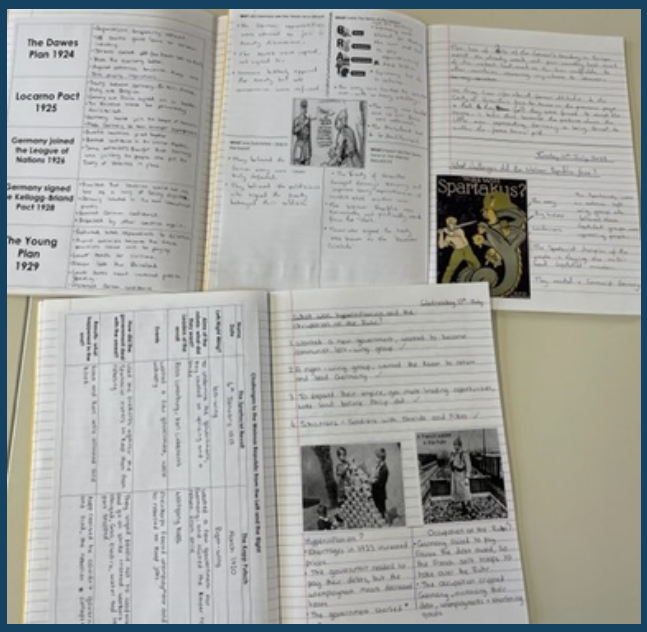


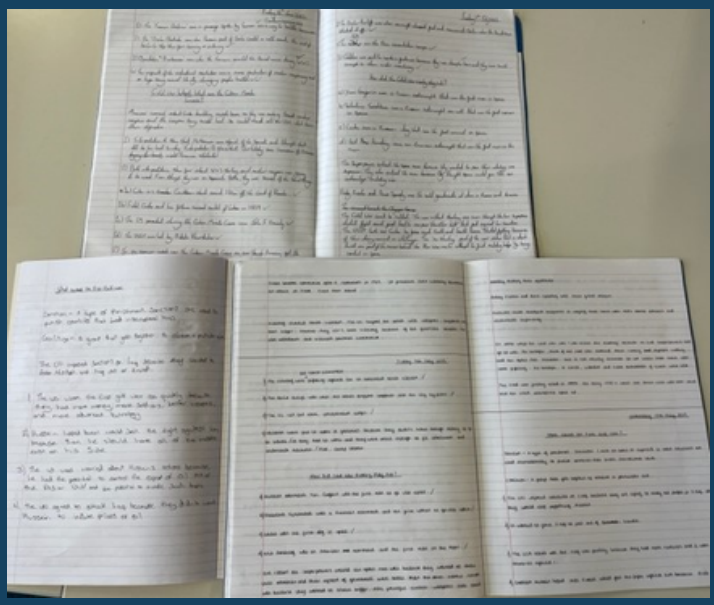


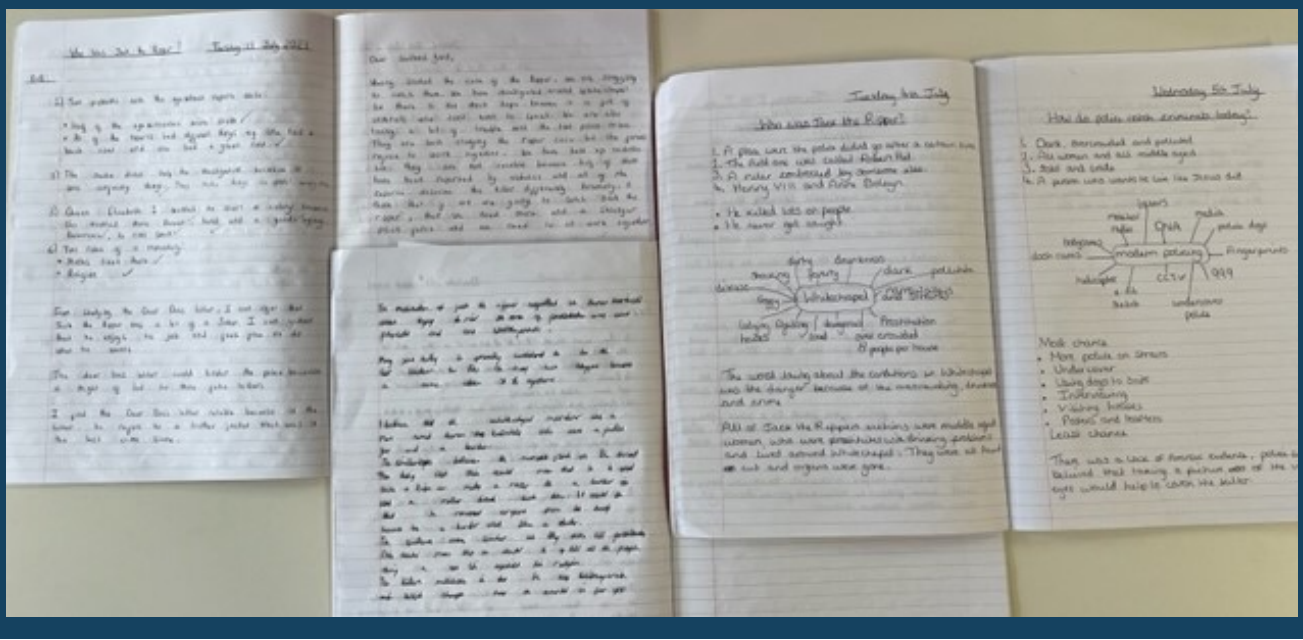
History

A message from Mr Hilditch...

Our History students have been rounding off a busy year with some of the most intriguing topics from our past. Year 7 pupils have been looking at the impacts of migration on the British Isles. In Year 8, learners have been investigating crime and punishment in Victorian Britain. This has included a case study on Jack the Ripper, with students evaluating evidence to develop their own theories about the unsolved crimes. Year 9 students have finished off their study of the Cold War and conflict in the Middle East by creating an infographic about the 9/11 attacks. Year 10 GCSE students have started their exploration of Weimar and Nazi Germany with an investigation of the problems facing the country following World War One.







Summer Reward Trip

At the start of the week, 80% of our students attended rewards trips to either the Trafford Centre or Drayton Manor Theme Park.
Students got to choose which trip to attend as a reward for positive behaviour and good attendance.
All students were impeccably behaved and had a great time!
We can't wait to see what reward trips the students can attend next year!









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

KIDSGROVE SECONDARY SCHOOL
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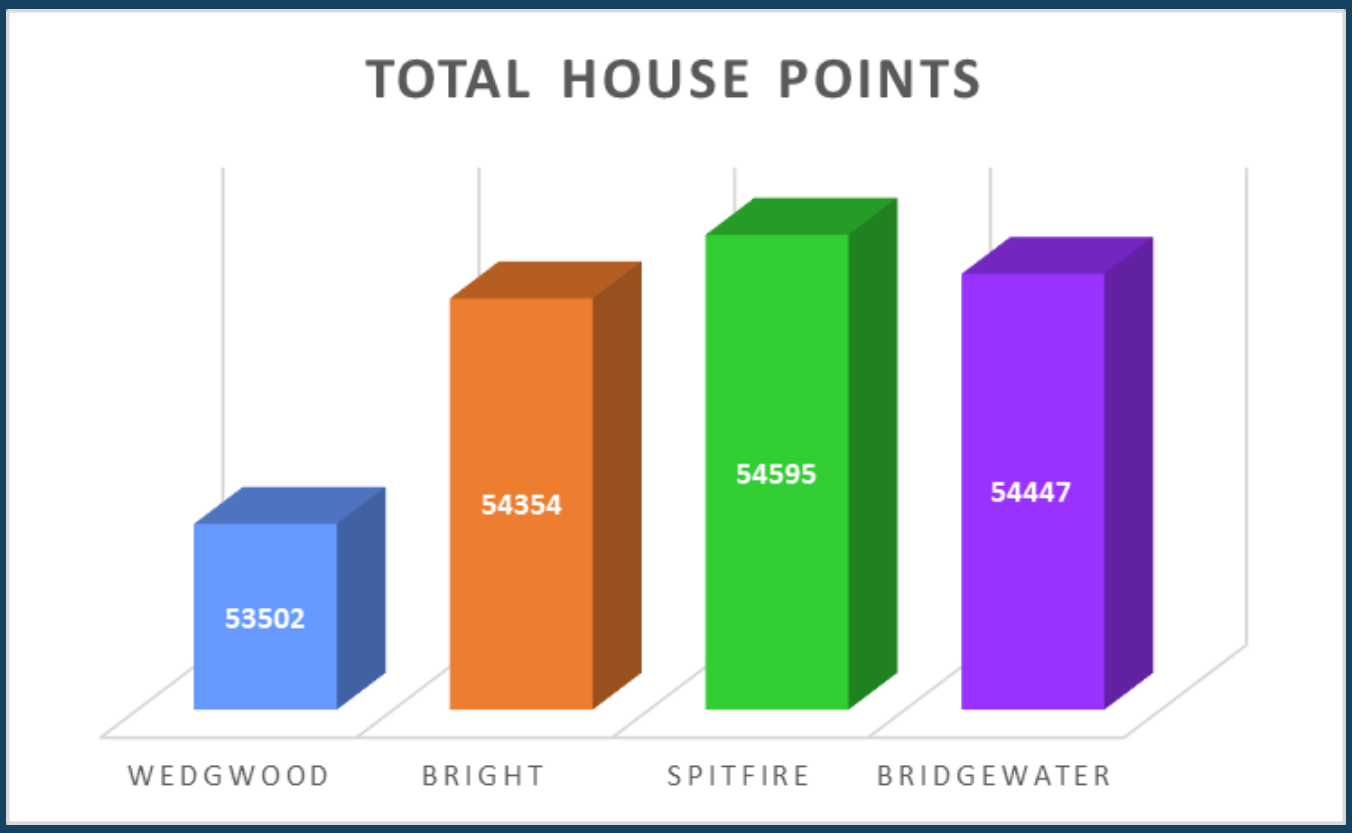
Shaw Education Trust

House Update

Below are the final House Totals for the year. This year's winners are..... (drum roll please). Spitfire!! Well done to everyone this year for making the competition so close throughout! The final standings were:

1st- Spitfire (54, 595)
2nd- Bridgewater (54, 447)
3rd- Bright (54, 354)
4th- Wedgwood (53, 502)









House Captains

A message from Mr Baldwin....

We are proud to announce our new KSS Student House Captains for 2023-2024!

Leading Bright with Mrs West is Bailey and George; accompanying Miss Baker in Wedgwood is Lucas and Ruby; Bridgewater alongside Mrs Hume is Lillie and Gracie; Mrs Beard's Spitfire is Leighton and Maddie.

The number of applications for the role was overwhelming so a huge congratulations to those students for being selected to represent their house next year.

To whet your appetite here is a quick sneak preview into next years wide range of competitions... Varying from swimming galas, football tournaments, chess games, designing Halloween costumes, conducting scavenger hunts and even eating competitions!!! Many many more too.

Finally, we would be interested in hearing your catchphrases for your house, to enter send your house captains your hashtag # ideas.

#ProudtobeKSS











Staff Spotlight

A message from Ms Baker our Science technician...

A person who never made a mistake never tried something new' - Albert Einstein

This quote has stuck with me throughout life, learning is a journey and we should never give up if we don't get things right the first time around. I'm a scientist and I'm always making mistakes, but we learn from those mistakes.
Aside from school where you all know me, I'm a cyclist also, I've crashed too many times to count, but if I gave up I wouldn't be here sharing with you all that I'm going to be representing Great Britain with Team GB - my crashes weren't failures they were learning points - not pull 'wheelies' on busy roads!

I hope you all have a fantastic Summer break!
Whatever you do, don't stop learning. I'll see you in September ready to go for plenty of science!

☀

