

HEADTEACHER BULLETIN

Friday 22nd of September 2023

Follow us @ <https://www.facebook.com/KidsgroveSecondary>

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to a new school year and the first bulletin of 2023-2024!

Although we are only three weeks back, what a busy and action packed few weeks it has been.

We welcomed our new Year 7 students, who have made a strong start to life at KSS. We have been very impressed with how smart they look, how keen they have been to engage in learning and how great their attendance has been so far.

Since we have returned we have undertaken a conscious shift with students to ensure relentless focus upon their own academic success. The KSS journey has been amazing over the last few years and the way in which all aspects of the school has improved has been something that we are all proud of. The next step of our school improvement journey is for us to ensure that every student has a real academic ambition to achieve the best possible grades that they can in their final examinations. This is where parent/carer support can make a tremendous difference.

Mrs Frost and Mrs Postlethwaite have been working with our heads of subjects to shape a supportive programme for our Year 11 students. This includes weekly mentoring, form time interventions, after school sessions, early release of mock examination timetables and a comprehensive revision timetable. There is much more planned and we will share this with you in due course.

We are delighted with how the Year 11 students have returned after the break and we are confident that this will translate into academic success for this group in the summer of 2024.

In addition, the Year 10 students have also started their GCSE courses this term and they have shown real focus which has been really pleasing to see when I have popped into lots of lessons recently.

This term we have launched a new assessment strategy for all students, which will see two progress reports being sent home to parents/carers (one in February and one in July). All students will sit formal 'performance assessments' twice per year for all subjects in the school hall. This will enable us to see how the students are performing compared to their classmates, the year group but also against other schools within The Shaw Education Trust. We look forward to sharing your child's progress in a really useful and meaningful way through an updated report format.

Finally, it was my absolute pleasure last weekend and during the early part of the week to lead a trip to Krakow in Poland. I have included some images and a write up about the trip within this bulletin. The 47 students that attended really did do our school community proud. They were respectful, mature and polite in everything that they did. They were an absolute credit to you as parents/carers and a reminder of how wonderful our students are. We get so many positive comments when we take the students on visits and to see this first hand, especially when 36,000 feet in the air was pleasing. So on behalf of the staff, THANK YOU!



Upcoming Events:

European Day of Languages - 26.9.23

Open Morning - 30.9.23

Enrichment Day - 5.10.23

Year 6 Open Evening - 5.10.23

KS4 'Scare Fest' Visit - 13.10.23

Yours faithfully,
Mr S Frost

Staff Goodbye

Today marks the last day at KSS for our longest serving member of staff. Pat Oliver (centre) leaves us after 28 years of service in the KSS kitchen. She has been such a mainstay for thousands of students and many staff over this time and she will be sorely missed. Always smiling and always helpful. We wish Pat every happiness in her retirement.



New Technology Facilities

Over the last few months there have been several site upgrades taking place at KSS. These have been overseen by our wonderful site supervisor Mr Harris over the summer break.

The new facilities include a state of the art food technology space and a suite of technology rooms to support our design themed curriculum.

We hope that you like the changes that we have introduced as we look to broaden the range and scope of our curriculum into future years.



Year 11 Update



A message from Mrs Postlethwaite

Wow, what a start to the academic year! I have been really impressed at the high level of focus shown by our students on their return. Year 11 have come back refreshed and have thrown themselves into the start of their final year.

Plans to support Year 11 students through their final months are well underway and I am looking forward to working with parents and carers this year on how we can best support the students together as well as planning the much anticipated end of year Prom.

For advanced notice, the date of the first GCSE is provisionally set to **Friday 10th May 2024** and these will go on to (usually) around the end of June.

Please do not book any holidays until you have received a copy of your child's exam timetable in the Summer term as all exams must be attended and there are no alternative options to catch up missed paper. Year 11 students will not be leaving on 'study leave' and will be in school every day until their final examination.

Our first key event for Y11 will be **Thursday 9th November** which will be our Y11 Progress evening. More information will follow in due course, but please put this in your diary as it will be essential that all Y11 students attend along with their parent/carer.

Shortly after this will be the first round of mock examinations which will be for two weeks starting **Monday 20th November 2023.**

Good attendance is the number one key factor in high achievement this year, with a direct correlation between the number of days missed and the grades achieved at the end. We thank you in advance for encouraging good attendance and for booking appointments outside of school hours.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need any further support. I look forward to working with you closely this year to ensure our Y11 students leave us with the best possible outcomes in June.



KS4 Reward Trip



A message from Mrs Postlethwaite

On Friday 13th October we will be taking Year 10 and Year 11 students to Alton Towers for their annual 'Scarefest' event.

The criteria for attending this trip was communicated with students on the morning of 18th September in form time.

Students need **100% attendance** and **no more than 6 behaviour points** for the 3 week period between 18th September and 6th October in order to attend the trip.

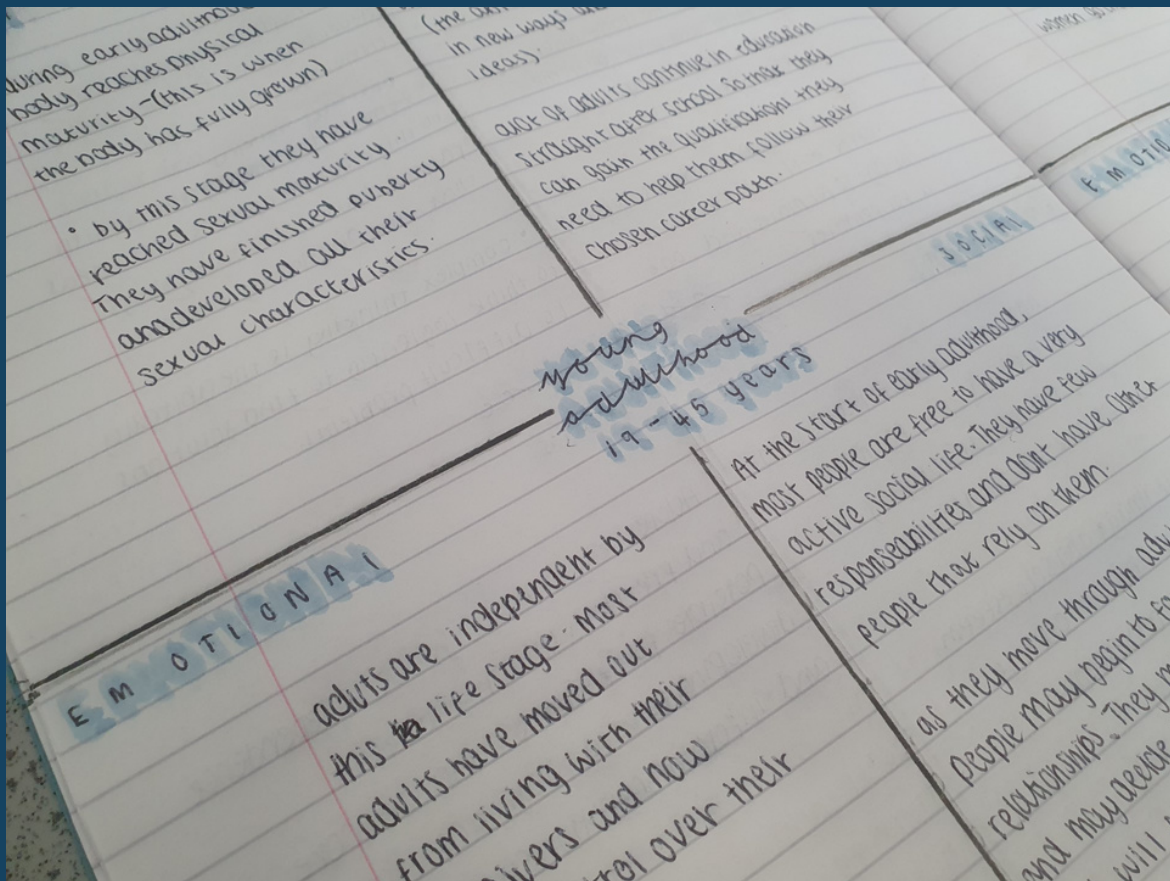


Y10 Update

A message from Mrs Postlethwaite...

Year 10 have settled well into GCSE options subjects since returning in September. It's great to get into lessons and see the students studying the subjects that they have chosen.

I have been particularly impressed with the focus of my Health & Social Care class. A new qualification offered this year but an amazing group of students who have been really engaged and who are presenting their work beautifully!



Well done for such a positive start Year 10. I look forward to seeing what you can achieve this year!



Staff Welcome

We are delighted to welcome our new IT technician Connor Allen. Connor joined us just before the summer holiday and has already made a real impact in his role.

Below are a few words from the man himself:

Hi, I'm Connor, I am the new IT Technician at Kidsgrove Secondary School. I really enjoy anything to do with tech. I love everything from building and fixing computers to playing games in my free time. I've been really interested in tech since I was kid as my grandad was a TV technician and he used to bring home old broken TV's for me to take apart for fun. I got into gaming at a young age too, getting my first games console when I was six, from there I've really enjoyed following the gaming space evolve from big chunky boxes under a TV to small lightweight headsets that make you feel like you're in the game.



Saturday Open Morning

September 30th 2023



Kidsgrove Learning Campus

KIDSGROVE
SECONDARY SCHOOL

Unlock Boundless Imagination:
Join us at Kidsgrove Learning Campus Open Day!
A day of discovery, learning, and endless possibilities awaits, as we invite parents and children to explore our vibrant campus and embark on an exciting educational journey together. Don't miss out on this extraordinary opportunity to shape your child's future.

Open Day

Saturday 30th September 2023
Everyone Welcome. 9.30am-12.30pm

www.kidsgrovesecondary.org.uk

Ofsted
Good Provider



KS3 Update



A message from Mr Till...

It has been lovely to open our doors once more to our returning students and welcome our new Year 7's. After what is undoubtedly a transformative period in their lives, transitioning to secondary school, Year 7 have already adopted and demonstrated our core values. For all of KS3, we look forward to embarking on a new chapter of growth and discovery together, with fresh targets and goals ahead.

Year 8 are fantastic role models to our Year 7 pupils and have already paved the way with a very successful year at secondary school. Moving forwards we are excited to see what further achievements can be obtained by this group.

Year 9 will have the opportunity to select their GCSE options later this academic year. More details will be shared at a later date, however there will be an information evening in May 2024.

This year holds boundless opportunities for KS3 to learn, explore, and excel. Embrace challenges as chances to grow, and approach every lesson with curiosity and enthusiasm. Your future is bright, and we are here to support and guide you every step of the way.

Can I please take this opportunity to encourage parents/carers to contact the school if they have any queries throughout the year. Please also be aware of the Class Charts platform that we use for homework and behaviour reporting. There are unique parent access codes for this, which we politely ask you engage with to observe your child's progress and attitudes.

Let's make this academic year one filled with achievement, camaraderie, and unforgettable moments.



Further Education Open Evenings 2023/2024

Alsager Sixth Form

Thursday 12th October

Time: Starts at 6.00 pm

Cheshire College South and West

Wednesday 11th October

Time: 5.30 pm.- 8.00 pm

Tuesday 21st November

Time: 5.30 pm.- 8.00 pm

City of Stoke-on-Trent sixth form College (Fenton)

- Time: 5.00 pm.- 7.00 pm

Wednesday 11th October

Time: 5.00 pm.- 7.00 pm

Tuesday 21st November

Time: 5.00 pm.- 7.00 pm

Tuesday 27th February

Newcastle Under Lyme College

Wednesday 4th October

Time: 5.30 pm.- 8.00 pm

Time: 5.30 pm.- 8.00 pm

Thursday 16th November

Time: 10.00 am.- 12.00 am

Saturday 20th January

Reaseheath College

Saturday 7th October

Register online

Register online

Saturday 4th November

Register online

Saturday 2nd December

Register online

Saturday 13th January

Stoke On Trent College

Wednesday 18th October

Time: 5.00 pm.- 7.30 pm

Time: 5.00 pm.- 7.30 pm

Wednesday 29th November

Time: 5.00 pm.- 7.30 pm

Wednesday 6th March

Time: 10.00 am.- 2.00 pm

Saturday 18th May

St Joseph's 6th Form College

Tuesday 18th October

Time: Starts at 7.00 pm

The Kings Sixth Form

Thursday 22nd February

Time: 4.30 pm.- 6.30 pm

Further Education College Information

Alsager Sixth Form



Cheshire College South and West



City of Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form
College (Fenton)



Newcastle Under Lyme College



Reaseheath College



Stoke On Trent College



St Joseph's 6th Form College



The Kings Sixth Form



Attendance

KSS Attendance

Whole School



95.51%

Year group

7 - 96.68%
8 - 95.37%
9 - 92.61%
10 - 94.34%
11 - 97.81%

KS4 Attendance & Behaviour reward

Monday 18th September to
Friday 6th October.
100% Attendance
Less than 6 behaviour points

100% Students

78% of students
remain on 100%
attendance

Best House



Alton Towers Scarefest

Friday 13th
October



Kidsgrove Secondary School

Attendance Matters

#StopTheDrop



Maths

A message from Mrs Frost...

A huge welcome back to the new academic year from us in the maths department and it has been great to see all students. It really has been a brilliant start to the term, and it is amazing to see how students are so engaged in their maths work, both in class and using Sparx for their homework.

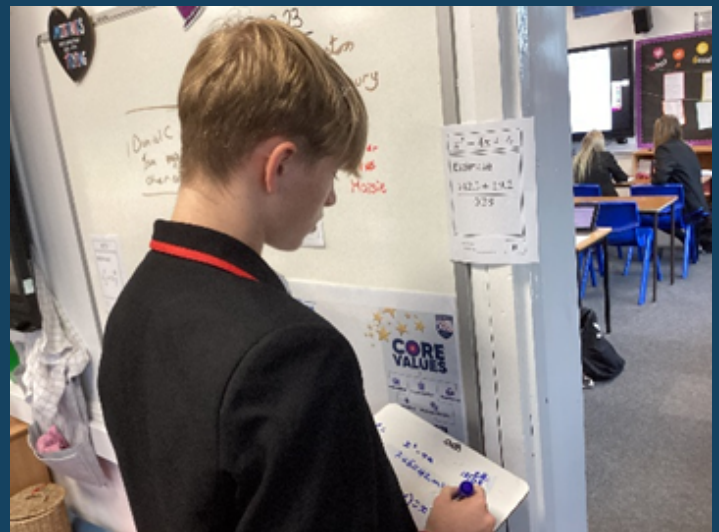
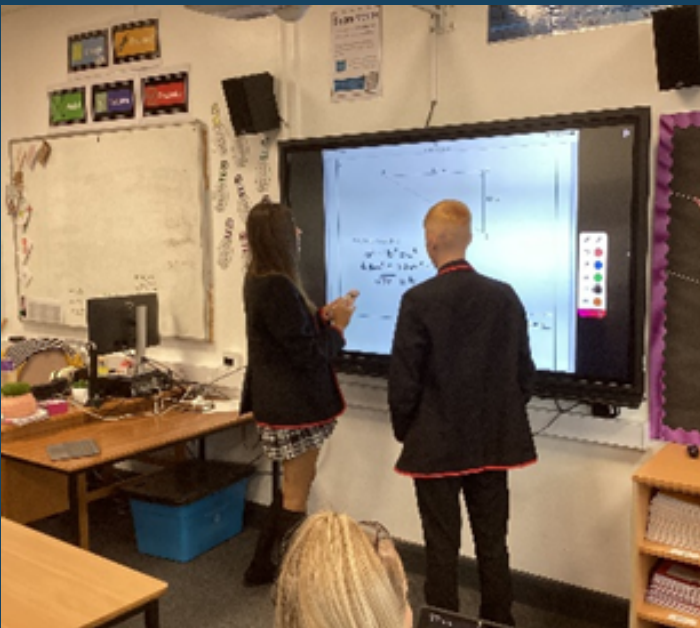
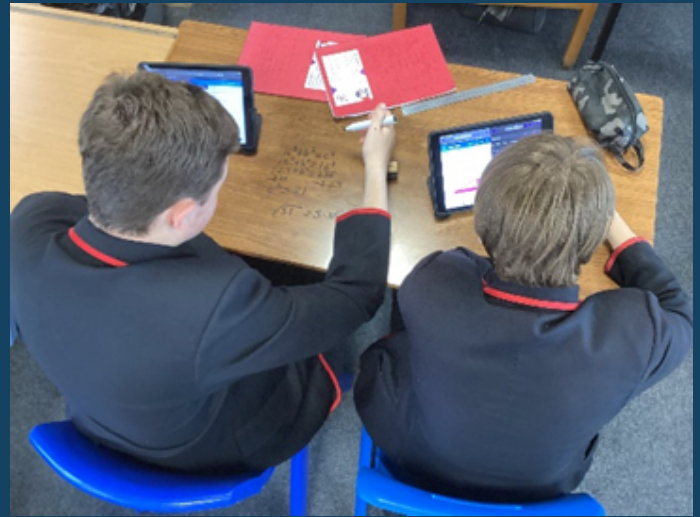
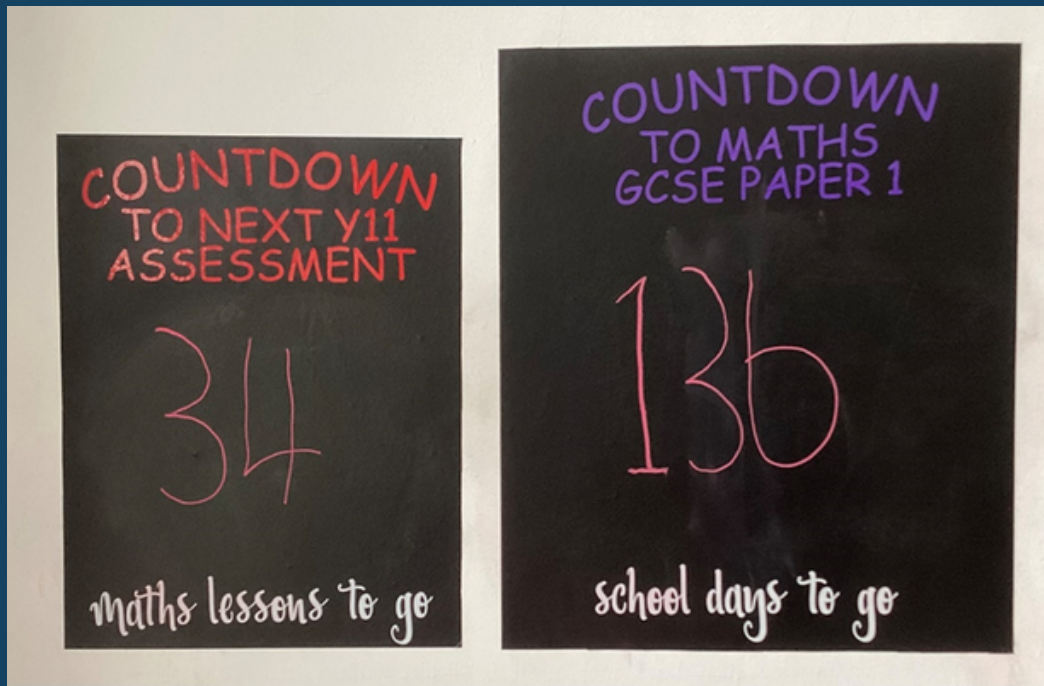
A polite reminder that homework is set for all students at 3pm every Monday and due in at 8am every Friday. We are excited to have switched our curriculum in Years 7, 8 and 9 to follow the exciting new Sparx curriculum, this will help to complement further what students are doing in their homework. Well done to all of Year 10 on their official start to their maths GCSE, we look forward to supporting you all to great success.

There have been lots of students having a fabulous time in Poland this week and the photos look great.

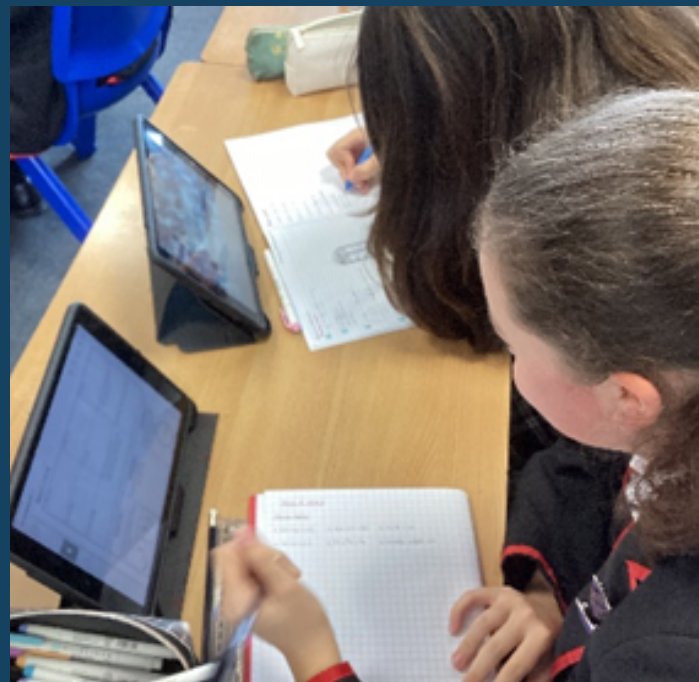
With such a large proportion of Year 11 on this trip, we have tried to use the time with the students left to do a variety of different learning activities to help them with personal and targeted intervention. The highlight was both classes coming together to test teamwork, as well as maths knowledge in a game of Maths Vegas. Really well-done Year 11, you did yourselves proud. With only 34 maths lessons (at the time of writing) before the first maths paper in their mocks, I would like to invite all students to stay behind after school each Tuesday to prepare for these with our support and well done to all the Year 11 that already attend these revision sessions each week.



Maths



Maths



English

A message from Mr Baldwin....

As we continue to develop our reading programme and it goes from strength to strength, we are proud to announce that we have now launched a new initiative: Sparx Reader.

Sparx Reader designs a personalised pathway for our students and enables them to develop, enhance and secure their reading and literacy skills that we all know are the foundations for successful academic achievement.

Students have thoroughly enjoyed this new technology over the past few weeks, and we look forward to continuing to improve our reading provision for all.



Sparx Reader



English

A message from Mr Old...

Congratulations to many of our students who have been awarded a certificate for an original piece of writing, that has been selected for publication by Young Writers. Their work may be published soon in an anthology. Amazing!

Maisie
Lilly-Peach
Liam
Lyla
Archie
Alfie
Max
Brooke
Logan-Jai
Amy
Leighton
Izzy
Abi
Sophie
Tommy
Louie
Holly
Leah
Lacey
Madison
Reece
Mollie
Jamie
Edie
Ava
Max
Libby

We look forward to launching a new
competition with you soon, to celebrate even
more of your talents.

ANTHOLOGIES & SHORT STORIES



PROUD TO
BE
KSS



Easy Fundraising



A message from Mrs Postlethwaite

We have recently signed up to EasyFundraising to raise some additional funds for enrichment for the students.

Easyfundraising is a quick and easy way of raising money every time you shop online, at no additional cost to you.

It's quick and easy to sign up. Please go to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/kidsgrove-secondary-school> or scan the QR code below.

You can raise money with over 7,000 brands including Amazon, eBay, Shein, and supermarkets and for every new sign up this month, KSS will be entered into a prize draw to win a bonus £500 donation.



easyfundraising turns
your online shopping
into everyday magic



 easyfundraising

You shop, brands donate to us



Science

A message from Ms Baker...

Year 9 have examined their agar plates today in Biology. Fantastic fungus and yeast colonies grown!

They went around the room swabbing different surfaces and rubbed their samples across the surface of the agar.

Dr Ma and Miss Baker put the plates in an area where bacteria would grow well, the results speak for themselves!



**PROUD TO
BE
KSS**

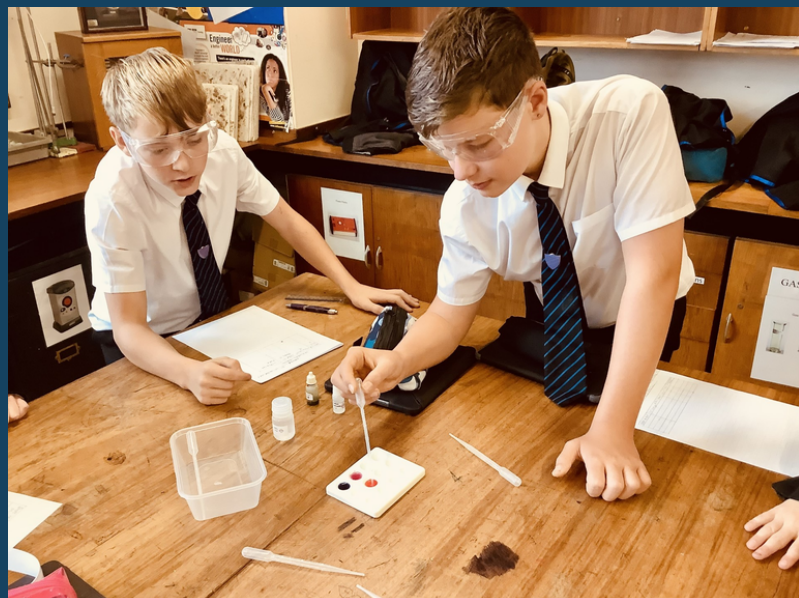
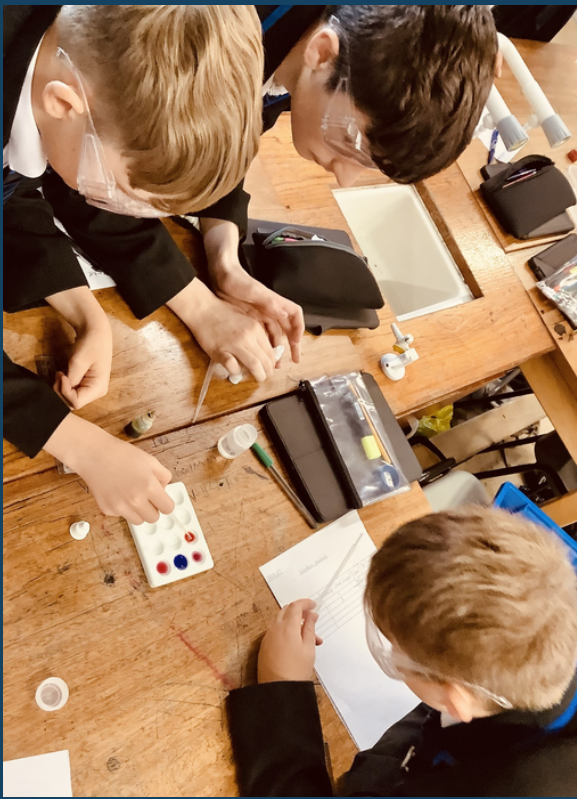


Science

A message from Ms Baker...

Year 8 enjoying Chemistry today. They've been learning all about the pH scale and how we use it science.

Using Universal Indicator, they can make it change colour by mixing acids and alkalis together. Eventually an acid and alkali mixed will turn neutral, we know this has happened when the colour of the universal indicator turns green.



Spanish

A message from Ms Hud...

Year 9 Spanish students spent half a day at Staffordshire University's Forest School with Dr Jane Robb. We did lots of activities relating to nature and the outside, including Spanish, Geography, History and Art.

After introductions, we walked through a nature reserve, using a help sheet to identify plants and our knowledge of Geography to identify land features. We then made Spanish sentences about them, bringing our knowledge from the classroom out into the real world.

We learnt about the use of rushes in the past, and attempted to strip their outer green coating to reveal the inner foam tube which used to be used to make candle wicks.

We worked as a group to create a map of our route using only natural materials, recalling their names in Spanish.

We then sat outside and listened to a story in Spanish, and we each created a noun from this in a material of our choosing.

Please see Facebook for the full array of photos.



Spanish



**PROUD TO
BE
KSS**



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

$E = MC^2$

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

Kidsgrove Secondary School

Attendance Matters

#StopTheDrop



Physical Education

A message from Mrs Castrey...

Year 7 have settled in very well into PE lessons.

They have been developing their resilience and initiative skills by conducted baseline fitness tests.

It is fantastic to see students working so well collaboratively and independently.

Keep up the hard work year 7!

Great Job!



Physical Education

A message from Mrs Castrey...

CROSS COUNTRY FIXTURES



**Monday 25th September @
Chesterton**

**Monday 2nd October @ Sir
Thomas Boughey**

**Thursday 5th October @ The
Orme**

**Tuesday 10th October @
Clayton**

PLEASE SPEAK TO MR TILL IF
YOU ARE INTERESTED IN TAKING
PART.



Physical Education

A message from Mrs Castrey...

PE CLUBS

Tuesday



Y7/ 8 Football

Wednesday



**Y9, 10 & 11 Netball
Y10 & 11 Football**

Thursday



GCSE Revision Club

Friday



**KS4 Trampolining
KS4 Volleyball**

More KS3 clubs will commence after the October half term break.

Please see a member of the PE department for further details about these sessions.



Physical Education



A message from Mr Till...

Thank you to all students that have returned/started the year with new school PE kit. A reminder that the school PE top is an expected item for PE lessons and school sports fixtures. As the autumn and winter months are upon us, the KSS school PE jumpers may also be worn in PE lessons. We do not permit other sports tops or jumpers to be used in PE, however base layers can be worn under the PE top.

As many students are aware the rain does not prevent us from using the outdoor facilities (providing it is safe). The resilience and positivity of our students in adverse weather conditions is exemplary, some would say it motivates them further! If pupils have football boots and shin pads (boys and girls) I would encourage them to bring them in for the lessons that they are scheduled to have this sport (see below):



Week 1: KS3 Boys Football in PE lessons & KS3 Girls Netball in PE lessons.

Week 2: KS3 Boys Netball in PE lessons & KS3 Girls Football in PE lessons.

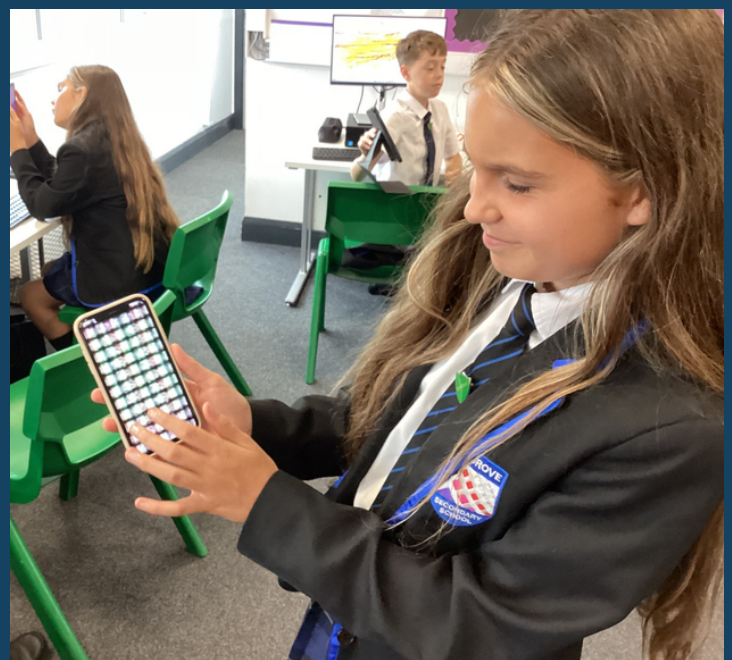
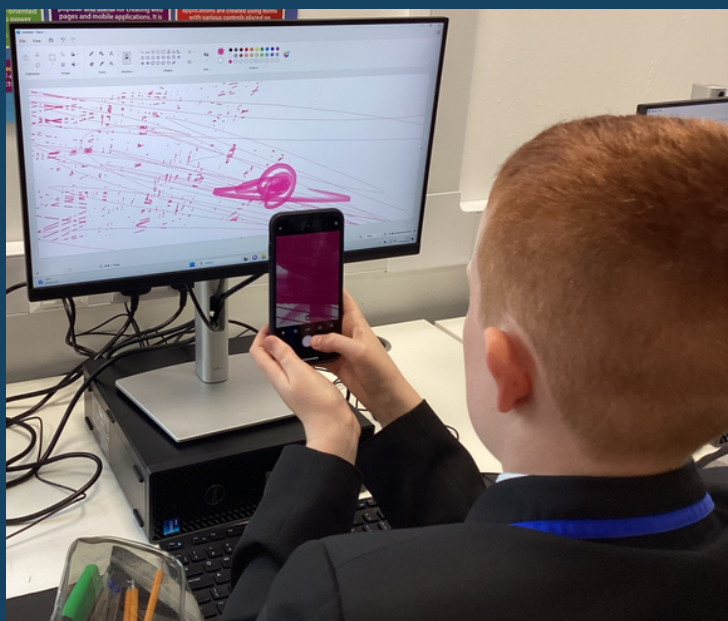


Computing

A message from Mrs Morrell...

Year 8 have been investigating how a digital image is made up and what affect changing the resolution has on an image.

They found it interesting to look at the individual LEDs used to make up an image on a computer screen by using their iPads and mobile phones to zoom into a picture.

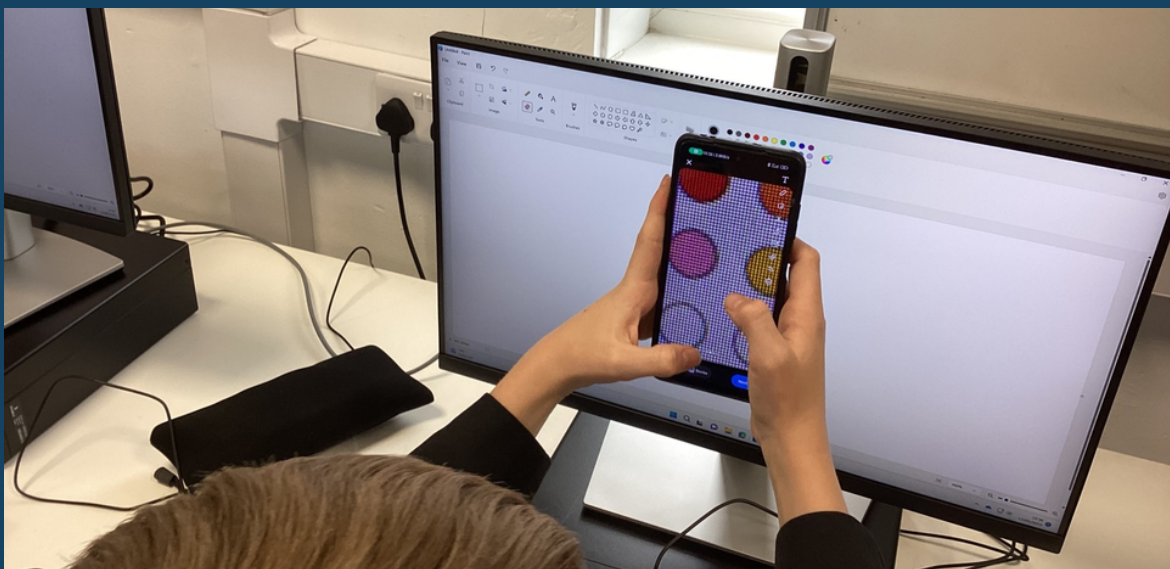


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History and Geography

A message from the Poland Visit team...

What an amazing few days that was visiting the historic city of Krakow. The 47 students that took part in the visit had the most amazing experience, taking in the salt mines, a walking tour of the Jewish quarter and visiting the Auschwitz memorial museum.

The weather was sunny and hot for the most part and even when the heavens opened on the last day, the students were still in high spirits as we had some well earned social time.

It was wonderful to see such respectful and thoughtful young people engage in a range of experiences. Myself, Mrs Weaver, Mr Hilditch, Mrs Beardmore and Mrs Hume were so proud of them all. We had several compliments about how the students conducted themselves which was so pleasing to hear.

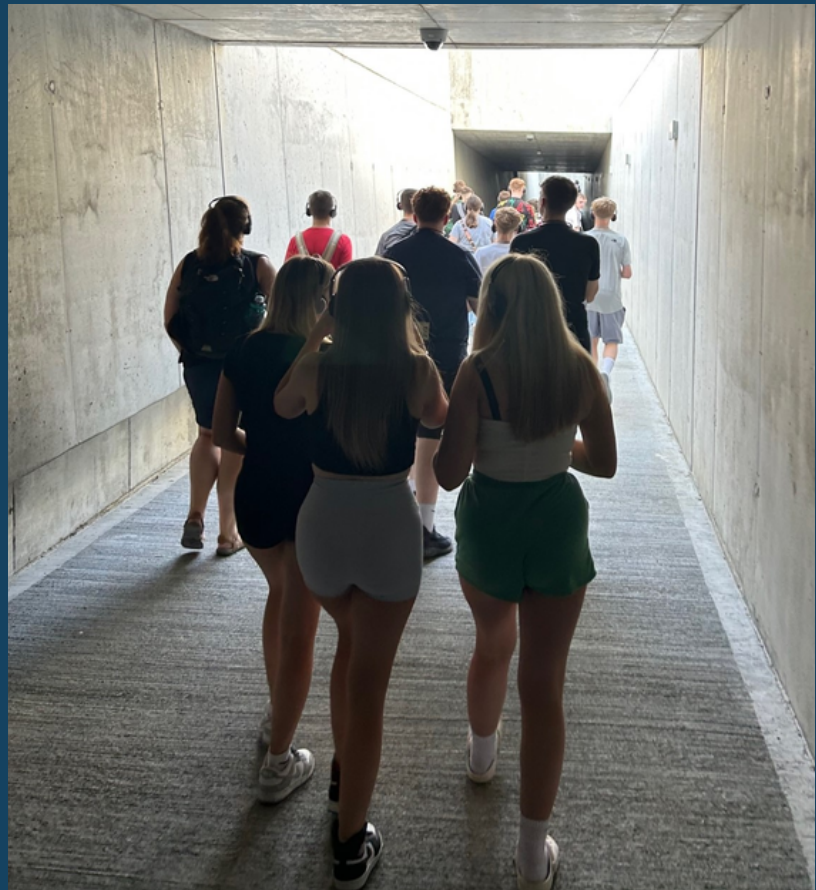
We hope that you enjoyed the daily Facebook updates but please find below images of some of the trip highlights.















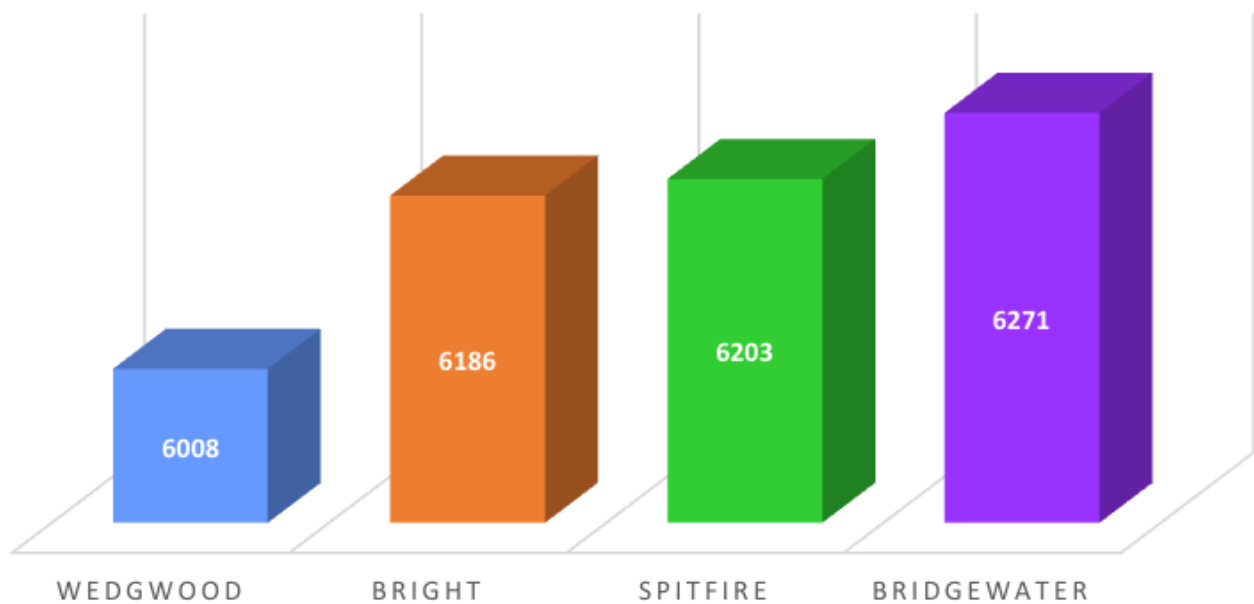
House Update

Below are the House totals so far....

Its a close race to start the year with each house reaching 6000 points already!

Every positive point really does count.

TOTAL HOUSE POINTS



CORE VALUES

