

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the first Headteacher's bulletin of 2022. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support with the Covid restrictions that have been initiated since the students returned to school after the Christmas break and for your help with making the testing of students so smooth running in the first week back. We will await further guidance from the DFE on the 26th of January about the next steps in terms of preventative measures within school, but for now, the students on the whole have responded brilliantly to what we have asked and pleasingly, the number of Covid cases have remained low.

The big news for me to share with you this half term, is for our new approach to 'Teaching and Learning' that has been launched at KSS.

The 5 learning steps (as explained on page 2) will allow students to have clear signposts to their learning journey and we believe that this will have a positive impact on the implementation of the curriculum and the progress that students will make.

The early signs of its implementation are positive and the way in which the learning steps feed into the use of the iPads has been great to see.

In addition to this, students have been discussing their progress in each subject and are being made aware of their target grades and current working grades. This is a big step in students understanding what they need to do to improve.

In the next few weeks we have Year 11 students receiving their mock examination grades and a Year 11 virtual parents evening will be taking place.

For Key Stage 3 students, the Years 7 and 8 will be invited to attend a trip to 'Cadbury's World'. This will be an opportunity to explore healthy lifestyles and chocolate production. The students will be invited to attend if they can meet the high expectations for progress, attendance and behaviour. In term one, over 60,000 achievement points were issued to students by staff and this is a theme we wish to replicate as students consistently demonstrate a 'Growth Mind-Set' to learning.

Yours faithfully

Mr S Frost



27.1.22/28.1.22	Year 11 Mock Examination Results
3.2.22	Year 11 Parents Evening (Virtual)
18.2.22	Year 7 and Year 8 Reward Event

## A message from Mrs Weaver...

We are exceptionally proud of our students that took part in the reverse advent initiative in December.

It was great to receive a thank you postcard from the local foodbank on our return to school in January.

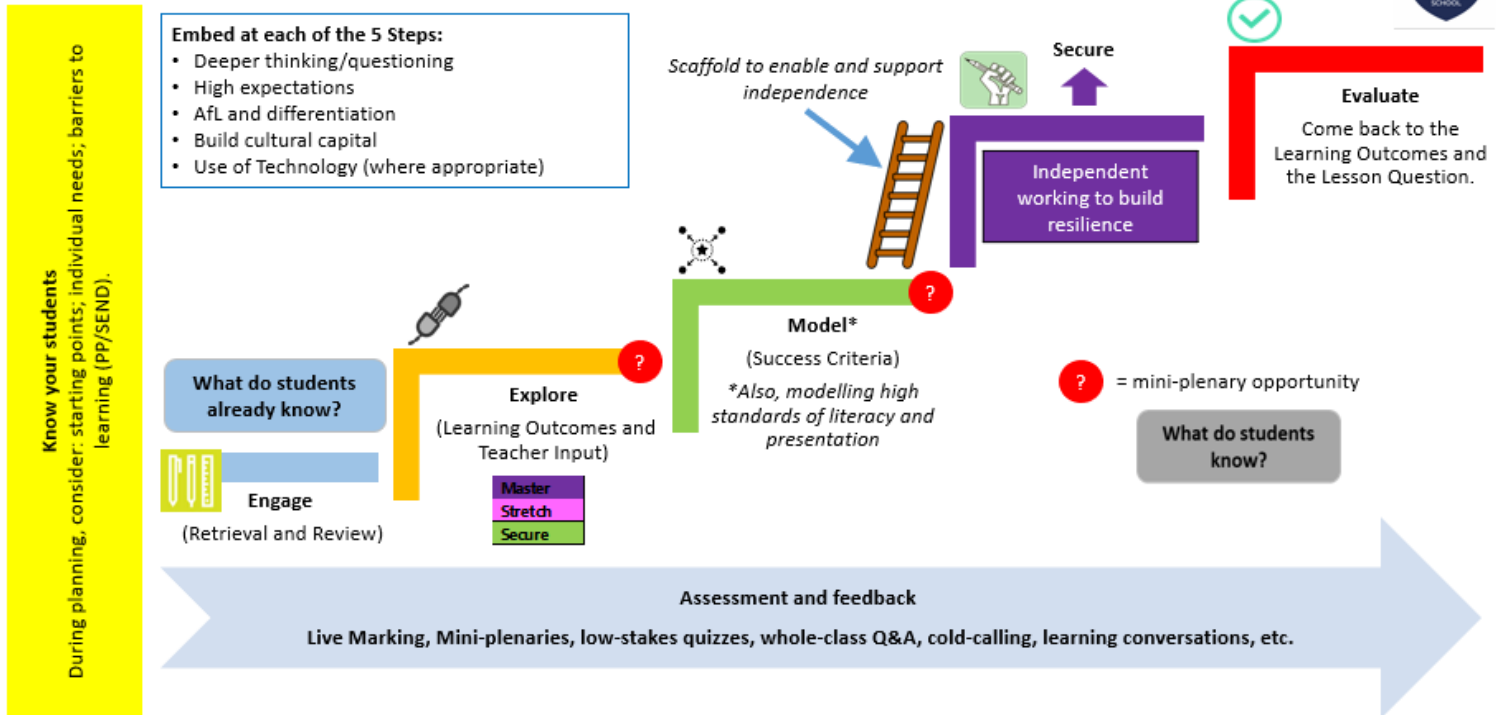
Well done to everyone that took part.



#DigitalByDesign



# The Kidsgrove Secondary School - 5 Learning Steps



## The KSS Learning Steps...

Above is a visual guide to the new teaching and learning model that is the basis for all lessons at KSS. The students are provided with an opportunity to retrieve their existing knowledge, to support the lesson that awaits them through the 'Engage' step. Once the knowledge retrieval is completed, the students 'Explore' a lesson question and they are provided with three routes to answering the question. The students are then shown 'What, a good one looks like' as part of the 'Model' step and once the students know where they are heading they can use their new knowledge and skills to 'Secure' their learning. At the end of the lesson and for the final step, students will 'Evaluate' their learning by coming back to the initial question to see if they now have a developed answer.

It is a simple but effective model that we believe will have a big impact on all of our students.

## Student Progress Targets...

Each exercise book and folder now has a sticker attached to the front cover, to show students what their targets are for the end of the academic year and for the end of the key stage. This will allow students to understand how their targets fit with their current 'working at' grade.

Every 6 weeks students will undertake an assessment that will count towards their termly working at grade.

This will mean that students are aware of their progress as they move through the cycle of subject lessons and they will be better informed about the achievements that they make.

**Subject Target Sheet**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Subject: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

My working at grade is:

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3

Your Year \_\_\_ target is:

9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
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Your end of Key Stage \_\_\_ target is:

9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
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## Digital Strategy/iPad Update...

The digital strategy is now a term in existence and is making a positive impact to the educational experiences that the students are undertaking at KSS. The students have blown us away with how they have looked after their devices.

We have asked students for their feedback in recent days in relation to the iPads and the findings are overwhelmingly positive.

Please see some of the highlights below:

### 1. I like having an iPad to support me with my learning?

Strongly agree	97
Agree	59
Disagree	5
Strongly disagree	2



### 6. The iPad helps me access the lesson resources better than before we had them? 1 is not at all and 10 is a lot better.

161  
Responses

7.7  
Average Number

### 8. I use my iPad to complete my homework?

Yes	139
No	24



### 10. Since we have had iPads at KSS, my progress in my lessons has improved?

Yes	135
No	24

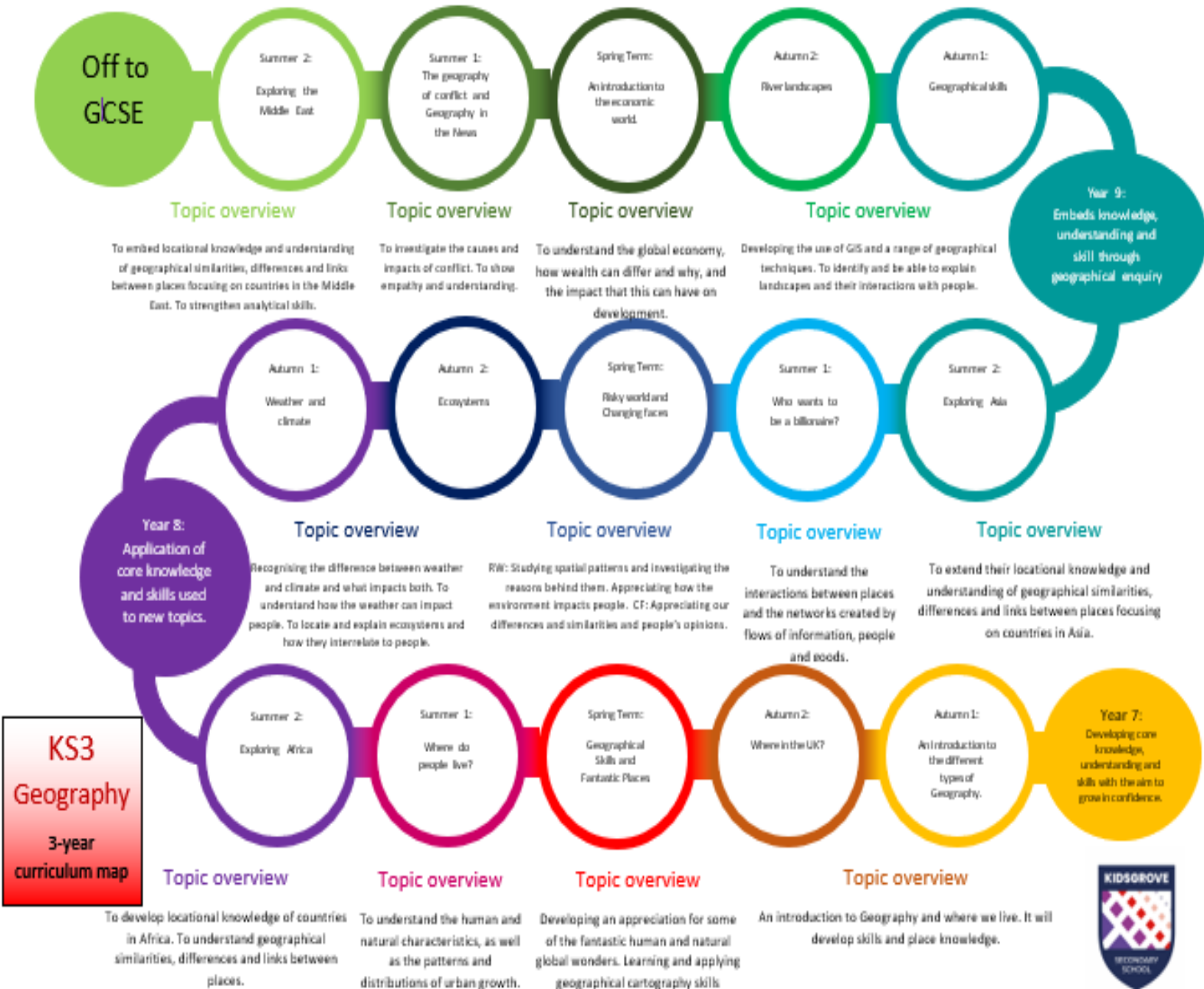


## Curriculum Feedback to Parents/Carers...

An area for development that was raised in our recent parental survey results, was that you would like to know more about what your child is studying in each of their subjects.

As a result of this feedback, the staff at KSS have created a new way of presenting the curriculum content for each subject that is visual and eye catching. Over the next few Headteacher bulletins I will be sharing with you curriculum maps from a variety of subjects.

Below is the KS3 Geography curriculum map produced by Mrs Weaver:



## Student Leadership...

As we enter a new term the student leadership team and the impact that they are having is starting to take shape.

The Head Students, the Prefect Team, the Student Leadership Group, the Digital Ambassadors and Sports Leaders are playing an active role in making the school a vibrant place where 'agile' approaches to school improvement are taking place.

Below is the **Head Student** team which consists of Amy, Kiera, Alfie, Demi, Lewis, Isla and Olivia:



Below is the prefect team who all wear 'Red' ties to give them their own identity. The prefects perform break and lunch duties to support the calm environment in school and complete other important leadership tasks.



## Student Leadership...

Below are the digital ambassadors who support the development of the iPads in the classroom. They are at the cutting edge of our digital strategy and work closely with Mr Till.



Finally, the Student Leadership Group who meet to discuss improvements and ideas to Safeguarding, Teaching and Learning, and Student attitudes. Their voice in how we do things at KSS is vital and helps to shape our improvements.

