



T H E K I D S G R O V E  
S E C O N D A R Y S C H O O L

# HEADTEACHER BULLETIN

Friday 11th of November 2022

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Dear Parents/Carers,

The second half term of the academic year is always the most challenging, but I am pleased to report, so far, so good. Student attendance to school is up and the number of achievement points is rising rapidly. Well done to those students who continue to demonstrate growth mindset and evidence our core values on a day-to-day basis.

I am delighted to share that 70% of the Year 11 parents attended our 'Progress Event' on the 8th of November, braving the rain and supporting the students. It was great to see such a positive turnout. The intention was that students feel prepared for their mock examinations that start in a few weeks. We hope that the 'Goody Bags' were also well received, (who doesn't love a good chocolate bar as a 'Boost!'). A reminder to Year 11's that the revision hub is open every day before and after school for students who want to utilise a calm environment in which to revise for the examinations.

Today, we paid our respects as a whole school in our 'Remembrance' assembly. The students impeccably observed a period of silence and members of the student body will join myself, Mrs Weaver and Mrs Castrey in Kidsgrove for the town's remembrance event this Sunday. This key aspect of Personal Development upholds those vital British values and school core values.

Over the next few weeks, all students will have received a progress report that will be taken home to be shared with parents/carers. This will be based on the students 'working at' grades, 'subject targets' and 'attitude to learning' scores. As a parent/carer body, in previous surveys it has been clear that you would appreciate more frequent progress information. As result we will share a progress report once per term, which will enable you to track your child's progress at regular intervals.

Finally, a welcome to two new members of staff.

Firstly, we welcome Mr Harris as our new site supervisor, who joined us on the 21st of October. Mr Harris has a wealth of experience managing school sites and he has already started to make a real impact. Secondly, we welcome Mrs Bryan, who will be joining us in January 2023, as a Technology teacher. She is a superb Food and Resistant Materials teacher that I have had the pleasure of working with previously. She has some fantastic ideas about Technology, so watch this space for updates in the spring term.

Yours faithfully,  
Mr S Frost



## Upcoming Events:

Kidsgrove Community Remembrance Event - 13.11.22

Year 9 Progress Reports - 18.11.22

Year 8 Progress Reports - 25.11.22

Year 11 Mock Examinations Begin - 28.11.22

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Education  
Trust

# Welcome

A message from Mrs Bryan...

Hi, I'm Mrs Bryan, and I am super excited to be joining Kidsgrove Secondary School in January. I have been teaching Design Technology for over 20 years and have some wonderful ideas that I cannot wait to share with you all. I will be kicking off the New Year with a staff versus students 'Bake Off' event. Let's see who can produce the best, wackiest, unusual or stylish cakes.



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# #proudtobekss

Over the half term break, the students were set a challenge. As we are proud to be members of the Kidsgrove Secondary School, the students were asked to create a hashtag logo to represent this.

## #proudtobekss

The winner from the entries sent to Mr Frost, was Amy (Year 7).

Well done to Amy!

She has won a shopping voucher for her efforts and for the fantastic initiative shown. Her design can be seen below.



# Core Values and Reward Trip

The 'Core Values' are our driving force at KSS, supported by the 'Code of Conduct'.

The focus this half term is 'Resilience'. A reminder that over 96% attendance to school, this half term is the primary entry requirement for the whole school reward trip to 'Cinebowl' on the 9.12.22. This will show remarkable 'Resilience' as students come into school each and every day as we lead up to the Christmas break. We hope that students will rise to meet this challenge. We will also set a secondary entry requirement which will be a threshold for the number of negative behaviour points for the trip closer to the event.



THE BIG KSS  
CHRISTMAS

# BOWLING REWARD TRIP

9TH DECEMBER 2022  
CINEBOWL UTTOXETER

🎳 96% ATTENDANCE    🎳 + LEAST BEHAVIOUR POINTS



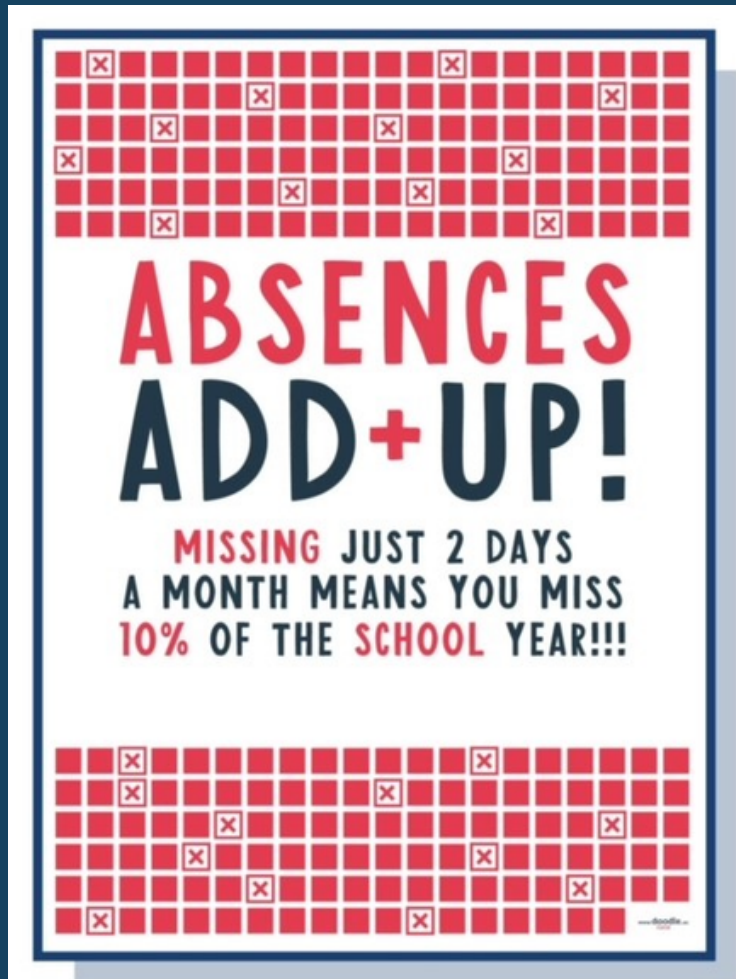
# Attendance and Punctuality

A message from Mrs Hume...

We hosted a Key Stage 4 visit from 'VIP Education' last week to discuss the importance of attendance and punctuality. This isn't just for the final years of secondary school but also for moving onto Post 16 study, apprenticeships and even when in the world of work.

The posters below have been shared with students to show the impact of being late and how this can easily add up to hours of lost learning.

Many students have been recognised this week and last week with praise postcards being sent home for showing an improved attitude, towards their attendance this academic compared to the same point last year.





# Personal Development

A message from Mrs Weaver...

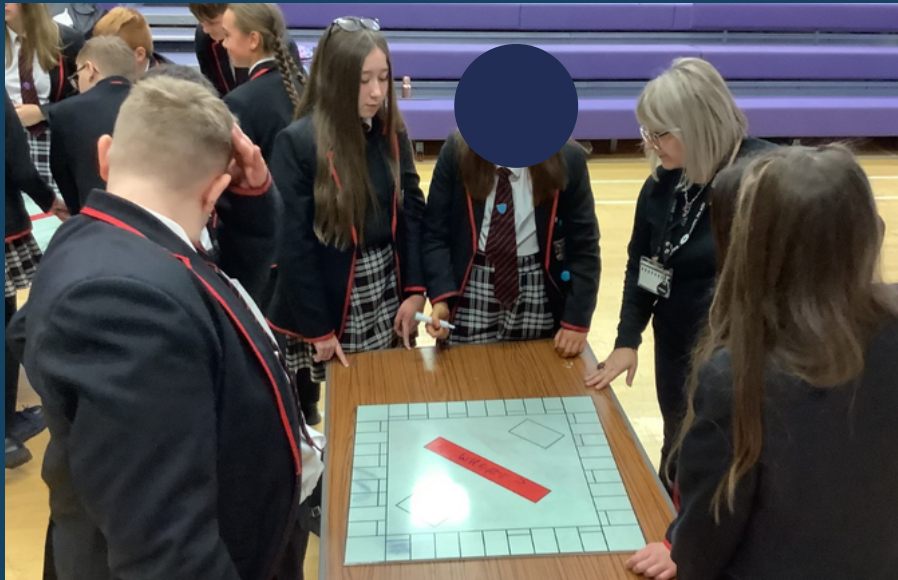
Year 8 were visited by the 'New Vic Borderlines' group who delivered a CSI style workshop into knife crime. They thought about their future dreams, investigated a crime and thought about how this would make a difference to their futures. Borderlines also challenged misconceptions on who may commit a crime and the chance of people carrying weapons.

This was a great session to engage the students in a key topic of Personal Development.





# Personal Development



# Year 11 Progress Evening

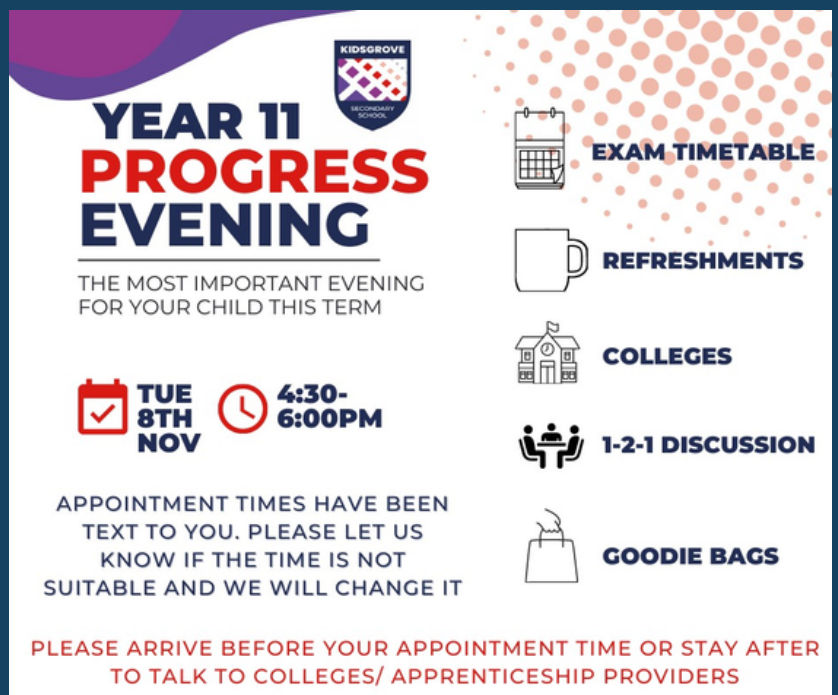
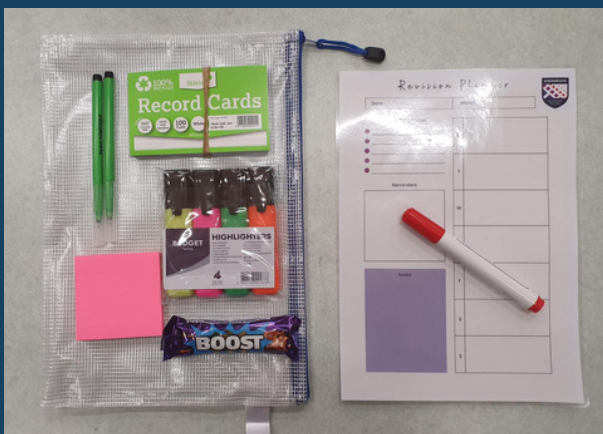
A message from Mrs Postlethwaite...

On Tuesday 8th November, we hosted our annual Y11 Progress Evening. We had a fabulous turnout of 70% which is a significant increase on last year.

During the evening, we provided all students with a pack of resources and a little 'boost' to support them with their revision for their upcoming mock exams. I have already seen some students using these resources in school which is fantastic.

This week, we launched our revision hub facility which is available to Y11 students at social times and after school as a quiet place to work. We look forward to seeing students make the most of this room in the coming weeks/ months.

If you could not make the evening and wish to arrange another time to come in for the 1-2-1 discussion with a member of our leadership team, please let us know what day & time suits your schedule and we will be happy to arrange this for you. The discussions are a really vital part of your child understanding what is currently going well and how they can improve over the coming months.



**YEAR 11 PROGRESS EVENING**

THE MOST IMPORTANT EVENING FOR YOUR CHILD THIS TERM

**TUE 8TH NOV 4:30-6:00PM**

APPOINTMENT TIMES HAVE BEEN TEXT TO YOU. PLEASE LET US KNOW IF THE TIME IS NOT SUITABLE AND WE WILL CHANGE IT

PLEASE ARRIVE BEFORE YOUR APPOINTMENT TIME OR STAY AFTER TO TALK TO COLLEGES/ APPRENTICESHIP PROVIDERS

- EXAM TIMETABLE
- REFRESHMENTS
- COLLEGES
- 1-2-1 DISCUSSION
- GOODIE BAGS





# Chess Club

A message from Mr Baldwin...

Great to see students from a range of year groups taking part in chess club each Friday lunchtime. I will soon be setting up some competitions between other high schools in the county so keep practicing, so please keep coming along.



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# Mathematics

A message from Mrs Podmore and Mrs Frost...

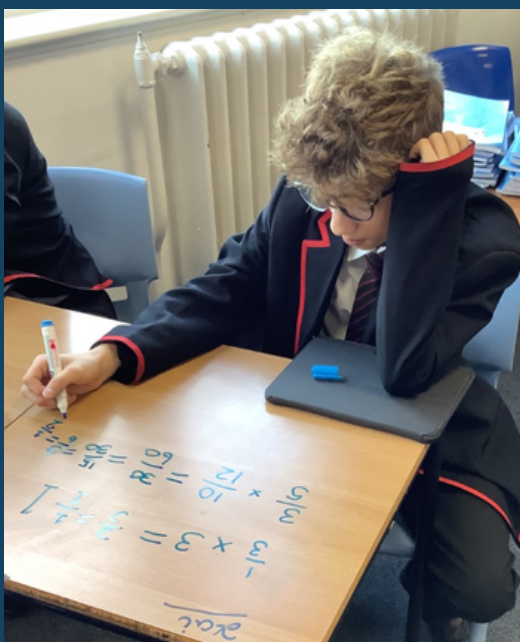
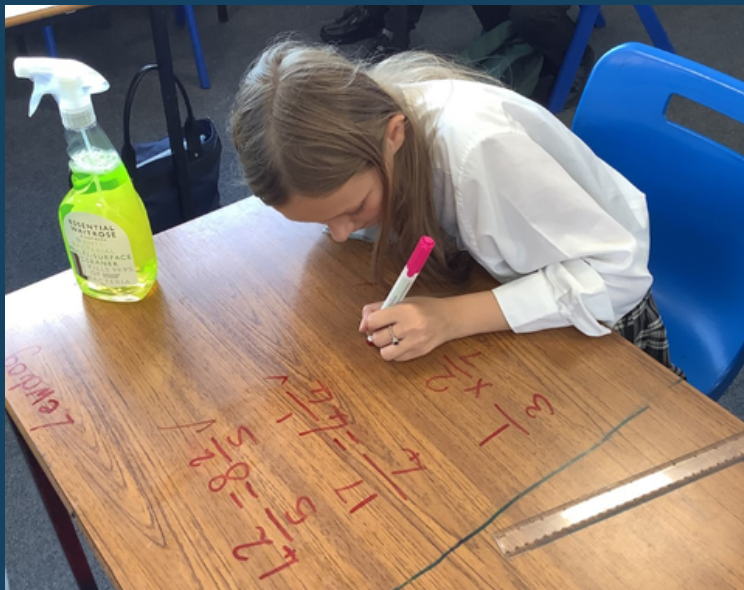
Year 8 were working in a completely different way in maths today which involved setting questions for one another.

Just to make maths even more fun (if that was even possible) students worked by writing directly on the desks.

The maths topic the students have been working on this half term is fractions, so the questions were a mixture of converting improper fractions into mixed numbers and vice versa and multiplying fractions.

The next skill to master will be dividing fractions.

Well done year 8!!





# Mathematics

A message from Mrs Frost...

We continue to see students thrive in maths and Mrs McDermott and I are thoroughly enjoying getting to know all students even better. We are looking at planning an exciting 'Maths House Competition' before the end of term, so please watch this space. This week we have got some of the Year 10 students to collect their own data, this will then be used to explore different types of graphs and charts, I look forward to seeing what they can produce - well done 10S!

It was great to see so many Year 11 students and parents at the Progress Evening. We hope that Year 11 continue to attend the maths intervention after school each Wednesday.





# Mathematics



# Computing

A message from Mrs Morrell...

In their computing lesson's 8S have been looking at 'conveying a clear message' using digital media. They have so far used their literacy skills to investigate how to create a clear written message. They are now investigating how to get this message across visually by looking at colour combinations, images, font style and layout. They have so far created a plan as to how their "looking after the environment" poster is going to look. Next, they will go on to create the poster using graphics software 'Canva'.

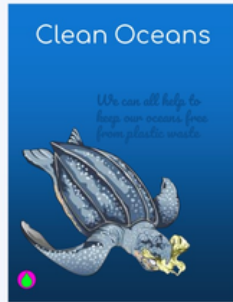
## Good or not so good?

### Good

- Clear title
- Appropriate image
- Well chosen wording
- Colours relate to the subject

### Not so good

- Message colour
- Message font hard to read
- Chosen fonts are very different
- Logo colours clash
- Positioning could be better



## Add text

The font you use **must** be easy for a viewer to read.

The shape of some fonts **may** also reflect the theme of your poster.

This is text ✓

**This is text** ✗

*This is text* ✗

## Planning time

The planning decisions you make should focus on getting the main message across.

Complete your planning on the sheet provided.

Main message: Clean Oceans  
Main colour: Blue - #134FEC  
Additional colours: #4313EC #13BCEC  
Landscape or portrait: Portrait  
Image theme: Sea, plastic items  
Annotated sketch:



## Planning decisions

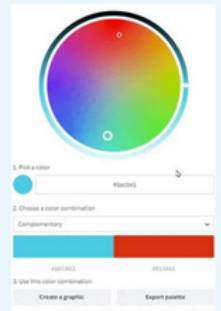
Colour choices can be very important. Poor use of colour can distract from or obscure the main message.

You should choose a **main colour** that relates to the poster's theme.

You can **use black or white for text**.

This online tool can help you choose one or two other colours. The colours are listed as codes.

<https://www.canva.com/colors/color-wheel/>



## Good or not so good?



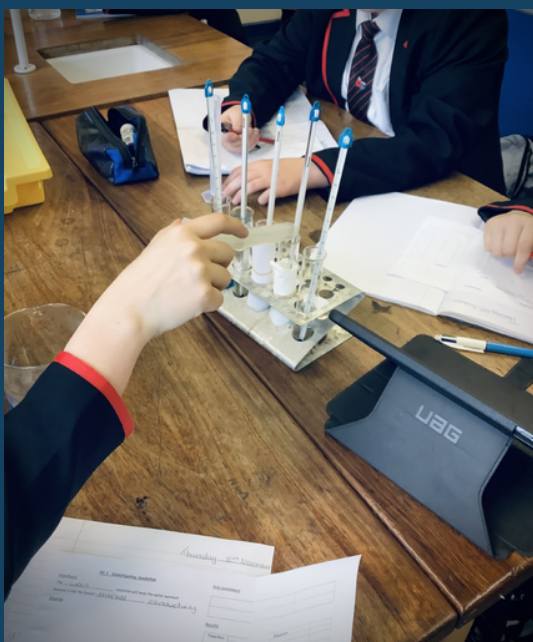
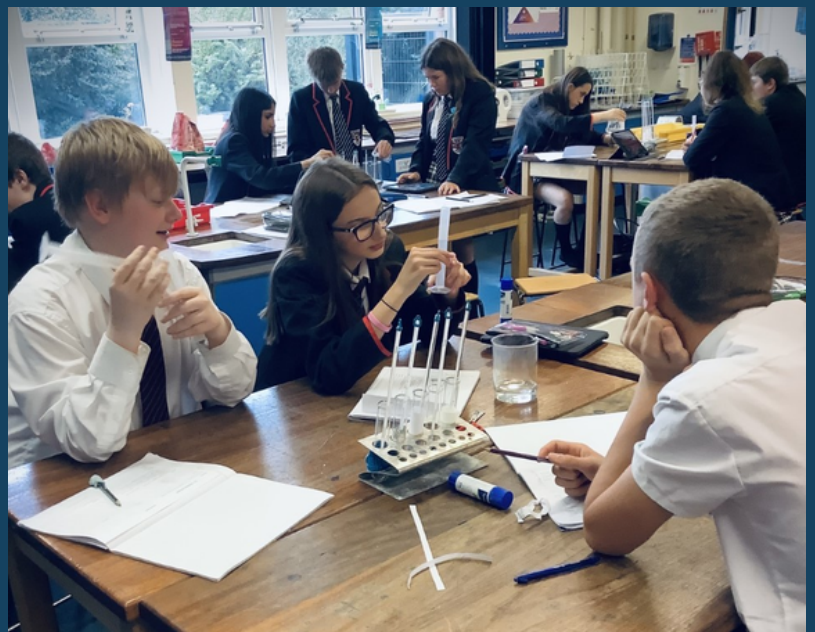
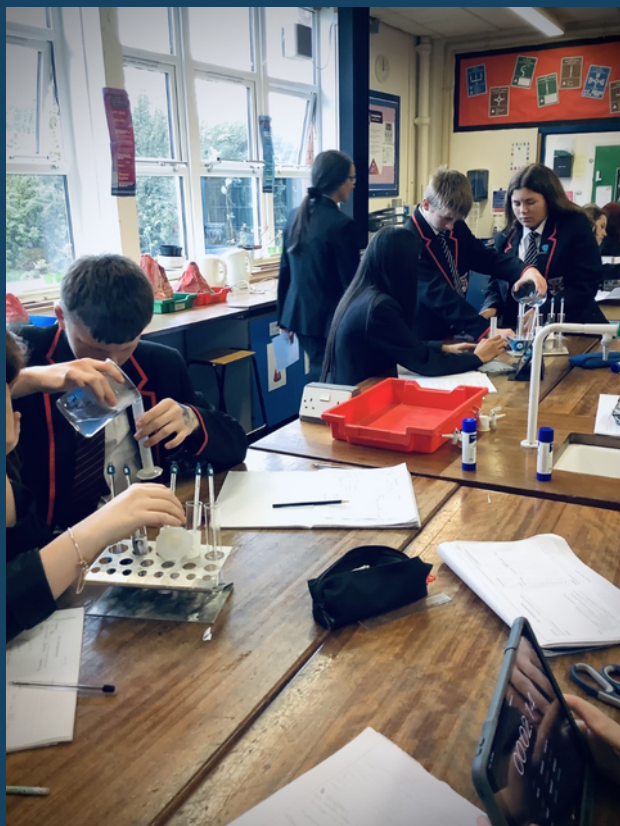


# Science

A message from the Science team...

In Year 9 physics lessons with Dr Ma and myself (Ms Baker), the students have been testing the best insulators. They've had to test which material is best at insulating, deciding between wool, aluminium foil, tissue and paper. Having a control, a boiling tube without any insulating they have been able to see which gets cold the fastest and which stays warmest the longest. Using their iPads for stopwatches it incorporates the equipment they have already to hand.

A nice visual practical, some excellent results taken, and hypothesis written.





# Science

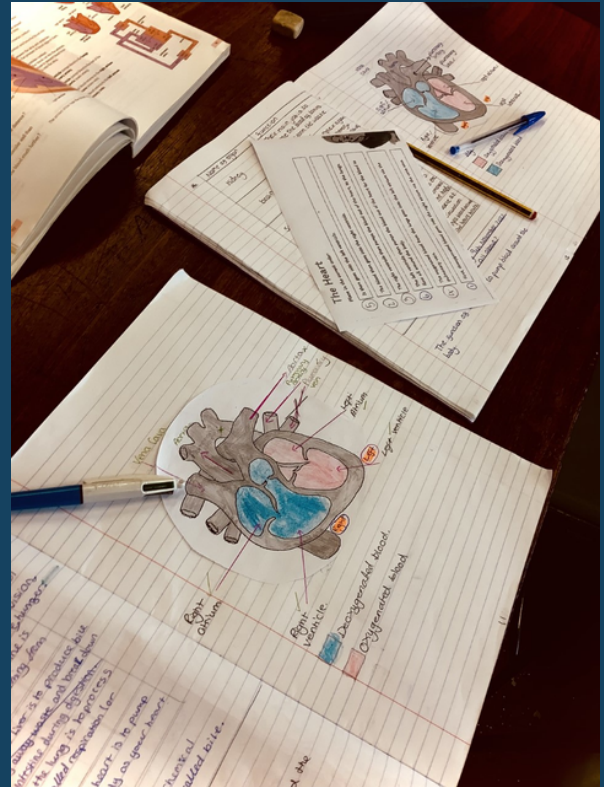
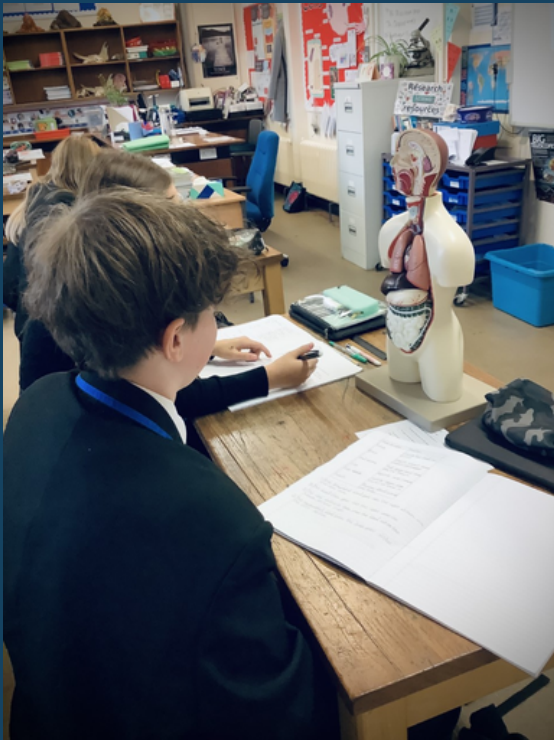
A message from the Science team...

In Year 7 in biology lessons with myself (Ms Baker) and Miss Unwin, students have been studying and exploring the heart.

They've been answering questions of where the heart pumps blood and where it receives blood from, in the body.

They've had the opportunity to see some slides on the microscopes and have passed model hearts and torso around to look inside the heart.

Well done Year 7!



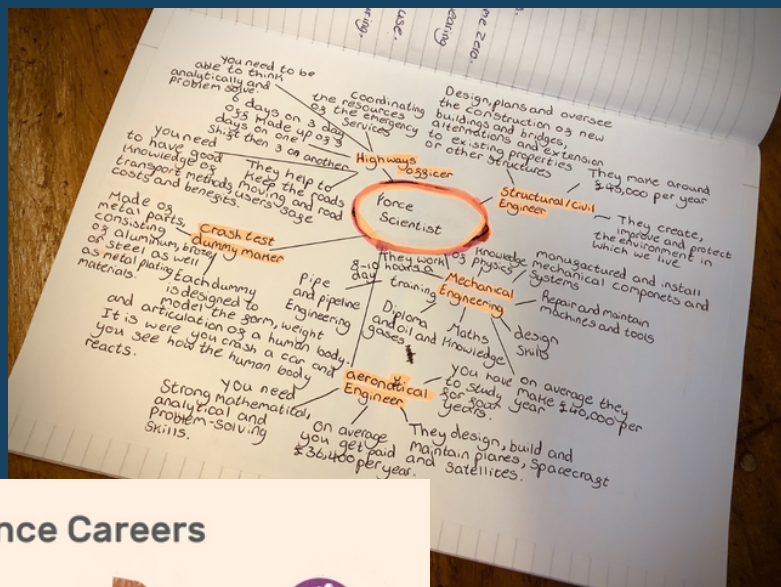
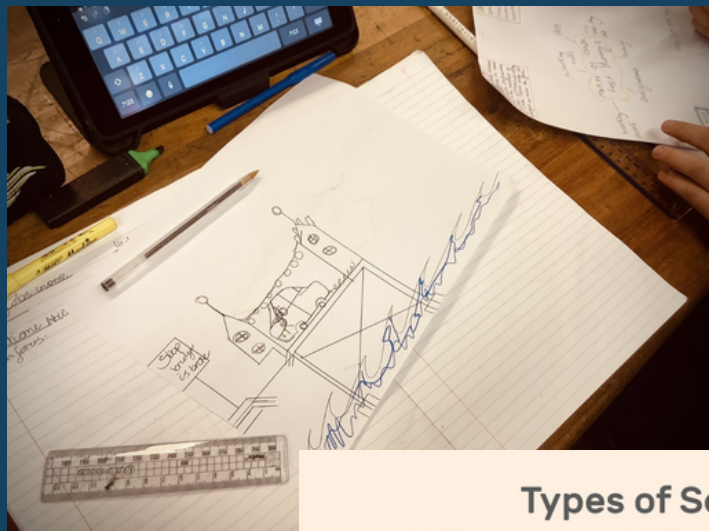


# Science






A message from the Science team...


In Year 7, students have been exploring career opportunities in science and they are studying the topic 'forces'. The groups have been looking at what it takes to be a force scientist.

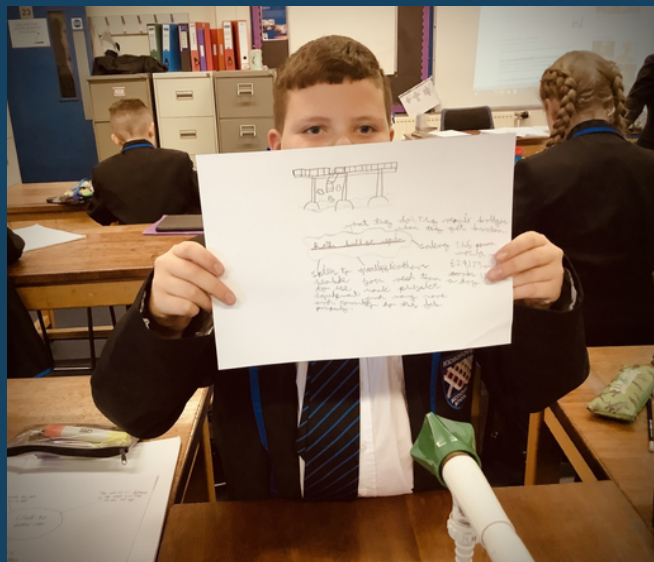
Reese in particular has produced some exceptional work



### Types of Science Careers

 <b>Environmental Scientist</b> Identifies, reduces, and eradicates pollutants and other hazards that threaten the environment Salary: \$71,130	 <b>Forensic Scientist</b> Collects and analyzes physical evidence Salary: \$58,230	 <b>Chemist</b> Studies chemicals and how they can be used to improve our lives Salary: \$76,890
		
 <b>Biochemist or Biophysicist</b> Studies the chemical and physical properties of living things and biological processes Salary: \$93,280		





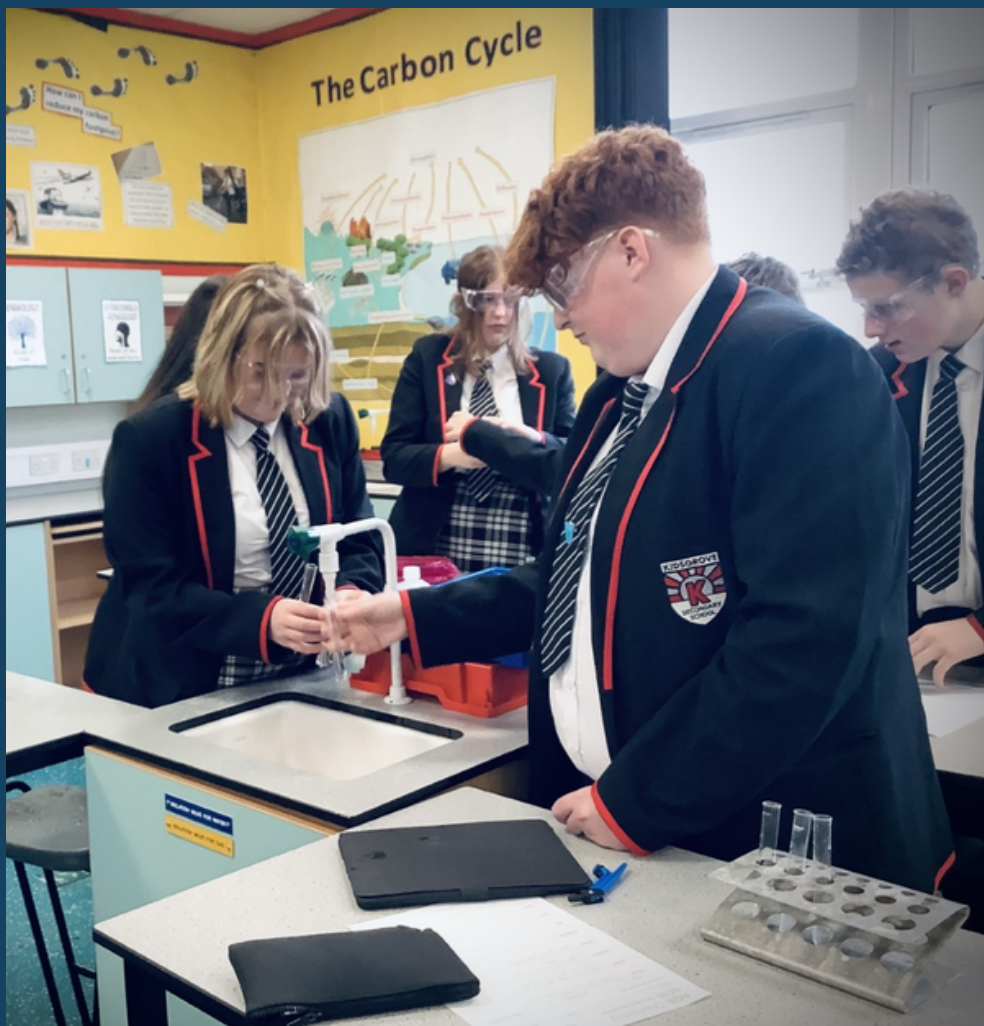


# Science





# Science





# Spanish

A message from Ms Hudd...

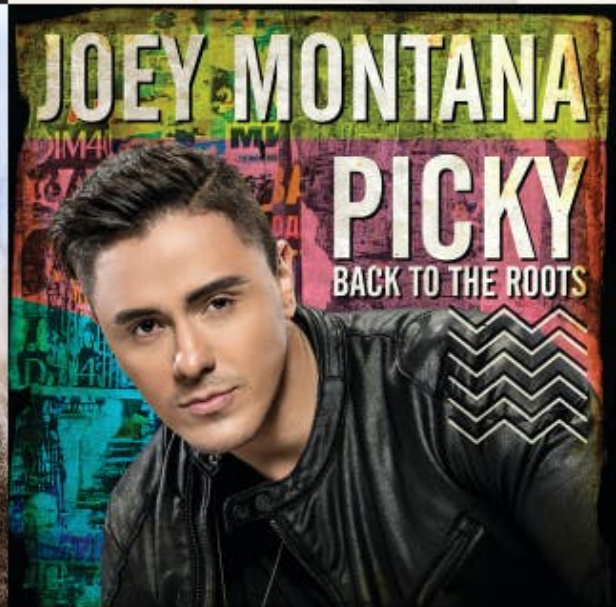
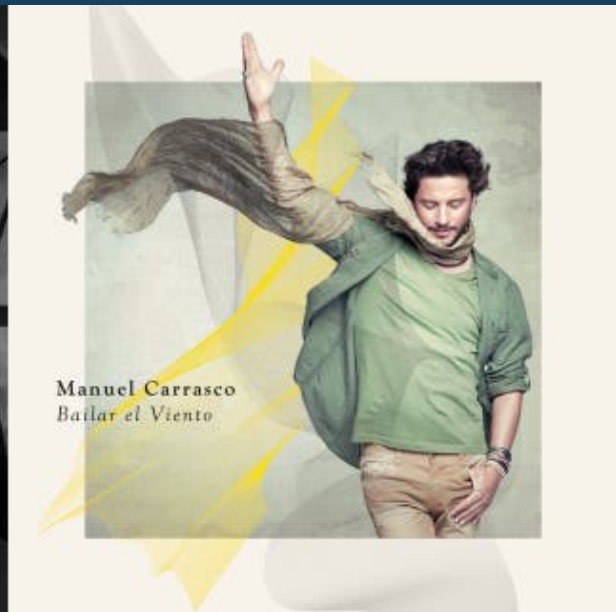
After school on Monday (7.11.22), year 11 Spanish students went out for 'tapas', a traditional Spanish meal, at Can Do Cocina in Trentham Gardens. They ordered their food and drink in Spanish and had the opportunity to try many new foods, including chorizo, olives, Spanish meatballs and garlic prawns. I was proud of the students for going out of their comfort zone to order in Spanish and try new things.



# Spanish

A message from Ms Hudd...

Year 10 Spanish students have been learning to talk about free time activities in Spanish. The highlight of last week was listening to Spanish music and giving our opinions on it. Although the class liked modern artists such as Rosalia, the song "Aserje" by Las Ketchup (also known as "The Ketchup Song" in England, released back in 2002) remained a firm favourite! If you'd like to listen to current Spanish popular music, search for the Spotify Spanish Top 100.



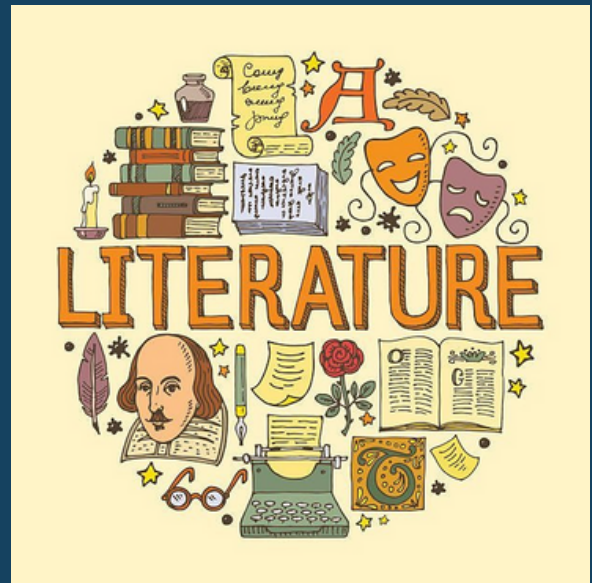
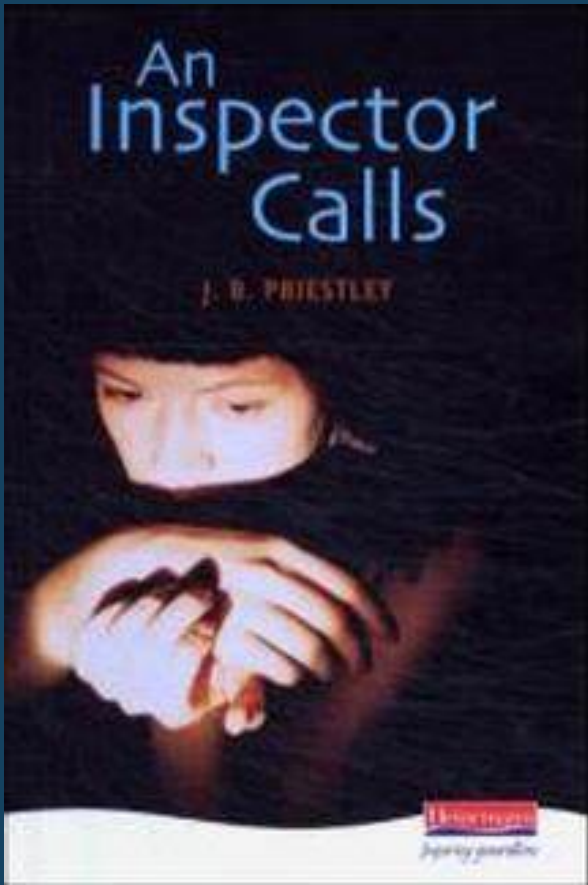


# English

A message from Mr Old...

Year 10 have responded superbly to their first major assessment of the year, exploring how far Gerald is presented as a sympathetic character. My congratulations to Molly for an outstanding piece of work exploring the themes, ideas and JB Priestley's purpose with this.

Also, my thanks to those in year 10 reading the various parts of the play aloud. They truly help to bring the story to life!



# Digital E-Sports



The digital champions have met to discuss the next and final stages for the e-sports tournament that starts on the 1.12.22.

With only a few weeks left, we are excited about the students signing up to take part. If students wish to sign up in teams of 3, to compete and to be crowned the 'best of the best', they need to email @ [kss-SSBU@kss.set.org](mailto:kss-SSBU@kss.set.org).

Thank you to Tyler, Reece, Fox and Tommy for their hard work and superb organisation skills.



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# House Update

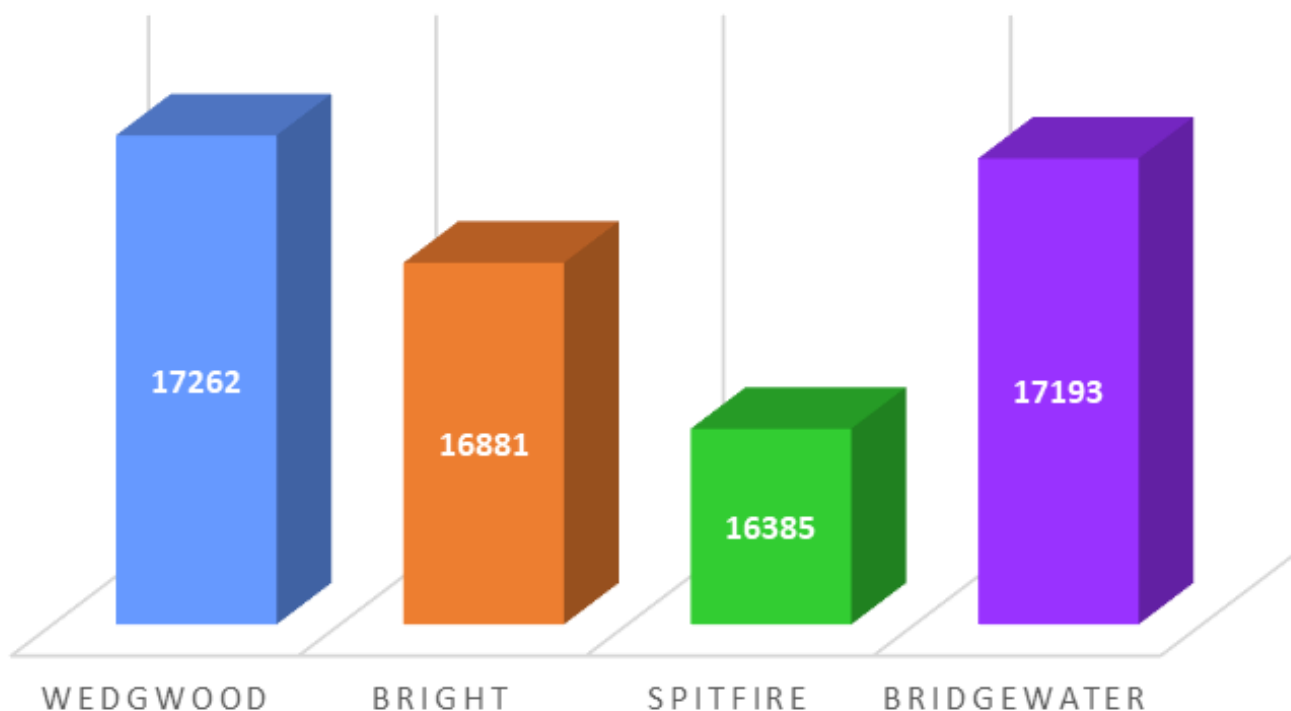
The House competition is moving along at some pace this year and its neck and neck between Wedgwood and Bridgewater for the first-place position.

Mrs Castrey has an exciting competition planned in a few weeks and a reward event planned for the leading house at the end of the term.

Keep working hard in lessons to support your team totals.



## TOTAL HOUSE POINTS



# History

A message from Mr Hilditch...

During our week of remembrance, our Year 9 history students have been investigating life in the trenches during WWI. They have been researching primary evidence about aspects of life on the western front and are now delving deeper with a case study of the Battle of the Somme.

Year 8 History students are currently looking to unravel the complex causes of the English Civil War. They are using their evaluation skills to determine which of the many causes are the most significant and will be justifying their opinions during their next assessment.

Our Year 7 pupils have been studying the Norman conquest of England and are now investigating how this foreign force kept control of England. In particular they are the looking at how the Normans built a chain for castle across the country.





# Remembrance

Photos from our remembrance assembly, held on 11.11.22.

The students were impeccable in their show of respect, and it was the proudest of moments.



**PROUD TO  
BE  
KSS**





Please see below, details of the extra curricula enrichment opportunities available to students for the remainder of the term. We would like to encourage as many participants as possible. If parents/carers have any questions about the activities, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Activity	Location	Time	Staff Member
<b>MONDAY</b>			
Keyboard Club/Rehearsal Rooms (All years)	Music Room	Lunch – 13.30-13.50	Mrs. Evans
KS3 Computing Club	Room 15	Lunch – 13.30-13.55	Mrs. Morrell
<b>TUESDAY</b>			
Girls Football (Y7, Y8 and Y9)	Meet by the changing rooms	15.05-16.05	Miss Harrison
KS3 Computing Club	Room 15	Lunch – 13.30-13.55	Mrs. Morrell
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>			
Football (Y7 and Y8)	Meet by the changing rooms	15.05-16.05	Mrs. Hilditch
I-media catchup	Room 15	Lunch – 13.30-13.55	Mrs Morrell
Basketball (Y10 and Y11)	The Gym	15.05-16.05	Mr Till
Netball Fixtures	External	After school	Mrs Castrey
Art Intervention (Y10 and Y11)	Room 10	15.05-16.05	Miss Mason
<b>THURSDAY</b>			
Art Club (Y7, Y8 and Y9)	Room 10	15.05-16.05	Miss Mason
I-media catchup	Room 15	Lunch – 13.30-13.55	Mrs Morrell
Netball Practice (All years)	Meet by the changing rooms	15.05-16.05	Mrs. Castrey
Football Fixtures (KS3)	External	After school	Mr Till
<b>FRIDAY</b>			
Chess Club (Y7, Y8 and Y9)	Room 3	Lunch 13.30-14.00	Mr Baldwin
Trampolining (Y10 and Y11)	Hall	15.05-16.05	Mrs. Castrey

