

HEADTEACHER BULLETIN

Friday 13th of January 2023

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

Dear Parents/Carers,

A belated Happy New Year to our KSS family. I hope that all of you enjoyed the Christmas break and managed to spend some quality time with your loved ones. Over the break, colleagues were hard at work planning for an exciting Spring term. This included the site staff who were hard at work maintaining and enhancing our fantastic school environment.

January for most, typically involves a chance to reset and take stock, with a focus on priorities for the next twelve months. At KSS, we are no exception and have set out our priorities for the year ahead.

The focus for the first part of the term will be upon student behaviour and engagement in lessons. This is a real strength of the school and an aspect that we are really proud of, but like any key school priority it can & will be improved. Myself, Mrs Postlethwaite and Mr Till will be meeting frequently to look at the behaviour trends and intervening swiftly with students that demonstrate any form of disruptive behaviour that affects the learning and progress of others. We have high expectations which we do not apologise for and this is for the benefit of all members of our school community.

Last week, myself and Mrs Postlethwaite met each and every Year 11 student individually, to open the mock examination results from the examinations held in November & December.

We are delighted to see so many students achieving and even surpassing their targets grades.

Where students were disappointed with their grades, this is now a real opportunity to focus for the final 71 days before the terminal examinations begin in May.

A huge thank you to parents/carers that attended the Year 11 parents evening yesterday. We had a positive turnout which shows the fantastic support that you provide to your children.

In the final push we will ensure that the students are supported in dealing with exam stresses and provide guidance to students that have not yet applied for their post 16 next steps.

We will be launching very soon, our breakfast initiative that has been in the pipeline for a few weeks. Each morning students will be able to grab a bagel as they enter school (free of charge) which will ensure that they have a full belly before engaging in their learning. Studies have proven that eating breakfast, makes a significant impact on learners ability to focus and concentrate. We look forward to seeing how this initiative impacts our students.

Finally, to update you all with a few staffing changes that have taken place since I last wrote to you. I am delighted to announce that Mrs Bryan has started with us as teacher of Technology. She has a wealth of experience and expertise in delivering positive outcomes for students and has a real love for practical learning. We have also appointed Mrs Frost as the new Maths lead from January, which is a fantastic appointment. Mrs Frost has worked hard since September to improve the Maths provision and the teaching and learning experience that students engage in, I am delighted to have secured her on a permanent basis. In addition we have also appointed Ms Ayres as teacher of Maths from April 2023, who is another superb appointment to our team.

Last Friday, we said farewell to Mrs Podmore, who was a much loved and well respected teaching assistant at KSS for over ten years. She will be missed greatly by staff and students alike. We wish her every success in her new role outside of the classroom.

We have replaced Mrs Podmore with a teaching assistant named Ms Morgan and we are looking to expand the teaching assistant team further over the course of the next few weeks.

Yours faithfully,
Mr S Frost



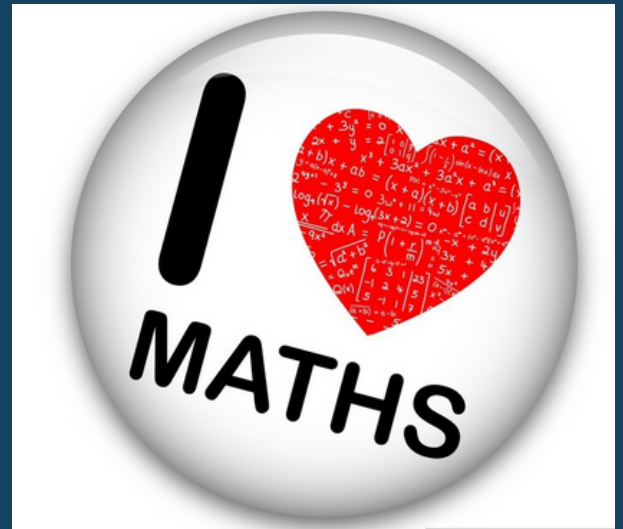
Upcoming Events:

Friday 27th January 2023 - Holocaust Memorial Day
Wednesday 1st February 2023 - Student Leadership Meeting
Tuesday 7th February 2023 - Enrichment Day

Welcome

I am delighted to share that Ms Ayres is joining KSS after Easter. Ms Ayres will be working alongside Mrs Frost and Mrs McDermott in our new Maths team, which has already demonstrated outstanding provision since September. Ms Ayres comes with a pedigree of brilliant teaching and excellent outcomes from her previous schools in Cheshire and we are delighted that she has joined our team. Please see below an introductory message from the lady herself:

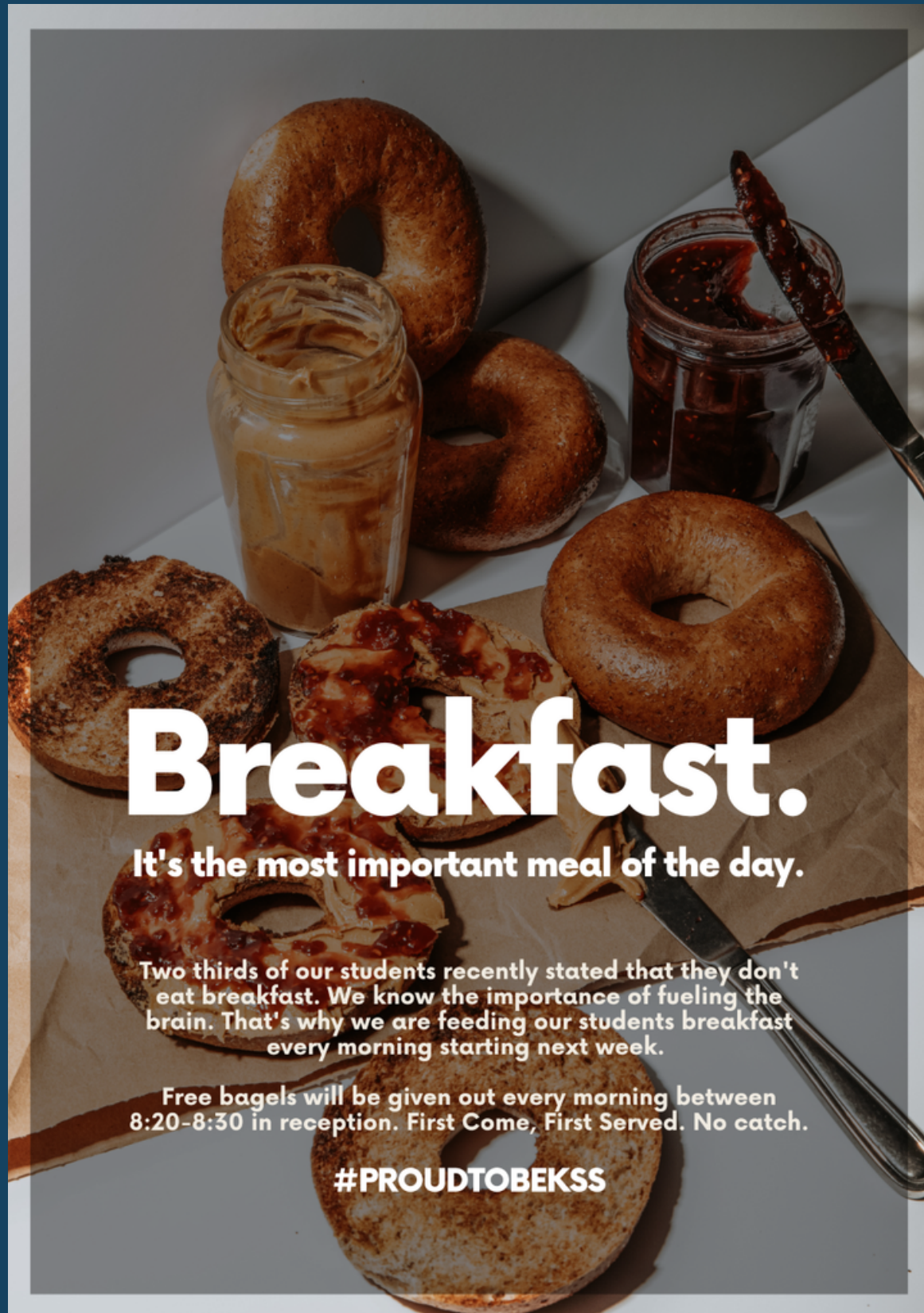
Hello, I'm Charlie and I'm delighted to be joining the team at Kidsgrove Secondary School. I'm a passionate maths teacher who loves solving puzzles and I hope to bring that love of logic and problem solving to the students. Using technology in the classroom is really exciting and I'm looking forward to exploring the exciting possibilities for bringing maths to life and presenting more real world models. I will see you all very soon.



Breakfast Initiative

A message from Mrs Postlethwaite...

'You said, we listened!', Two thirds of students in a recent survey said that they don't eat breakfast in the morning. In addition to improving energy levels and a child's ability to concentrate on their learning, there are many other health benefits to eating breakfast. We feel so passionately that students should eat in the morning that we have joined forces with the #NationalSchoolBreakfastProgramme to launch our 'Bagel Bar' from next week. This will give every student the chance to grab a bagel on their way in to school to eat before getting to form time totally free of charge. These will be available from 8:20-8:30 daily in reception. We ask that you bear with us for the first couple of weeks while we iron out any issues and get the numbers right!



Breakfast.

It's the most important meal of the day.

Two thirds of our students recently stated that they don't eat breakfast. We know the importance of fueling the brain. That's why we are feeding our students breakfast every morning starting next week.

Free bagels will be given out every morning between 8:20-8:30 in reception. First Come, First Served. No catch.

#PROUDTOBEKSS

Technology

A message from Mrs Bryan...

The Year 10 students were delighted with being back in the workshop again and being creative. It was really great to see and thank you to the staff and students for making my first few weeks so welcoming.

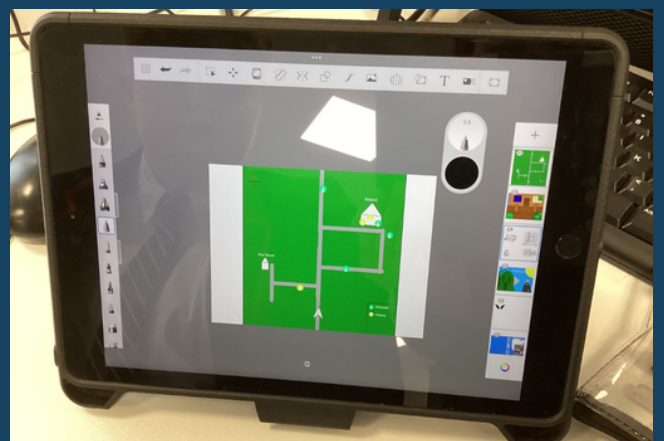
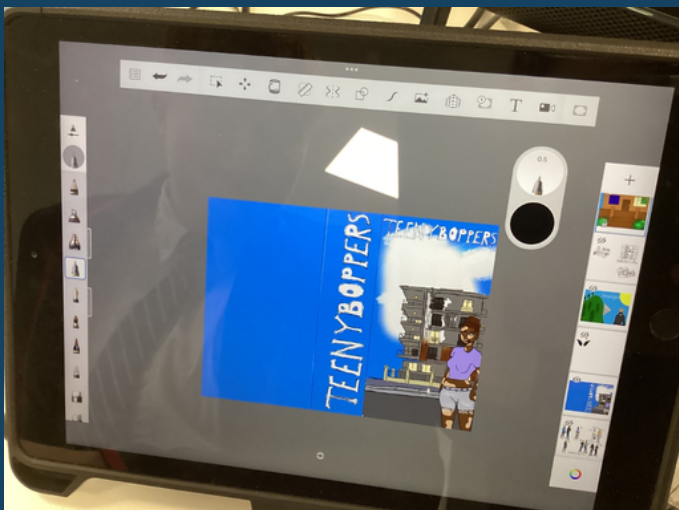
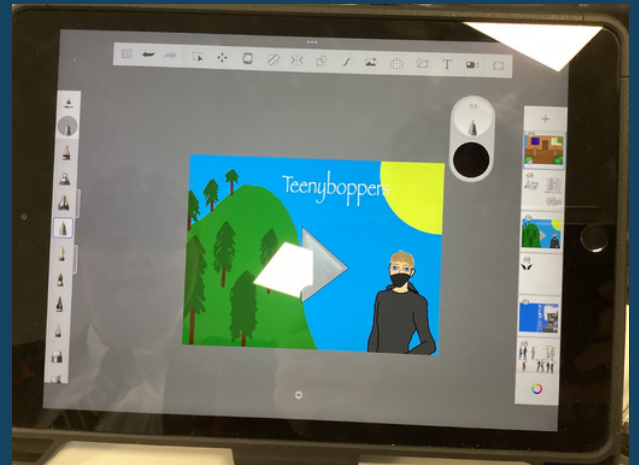
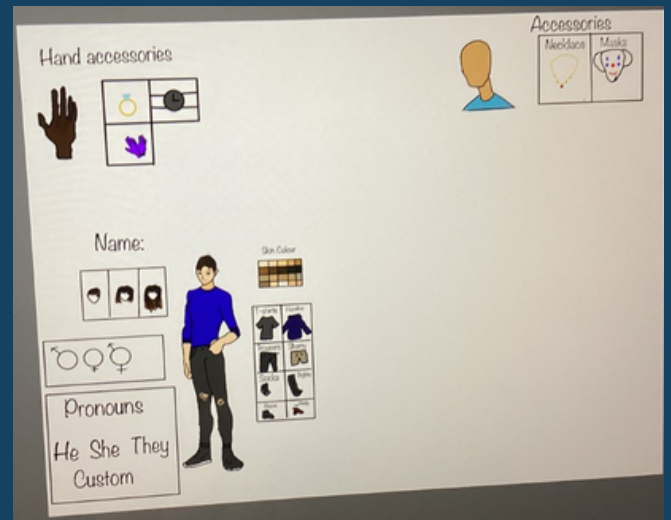
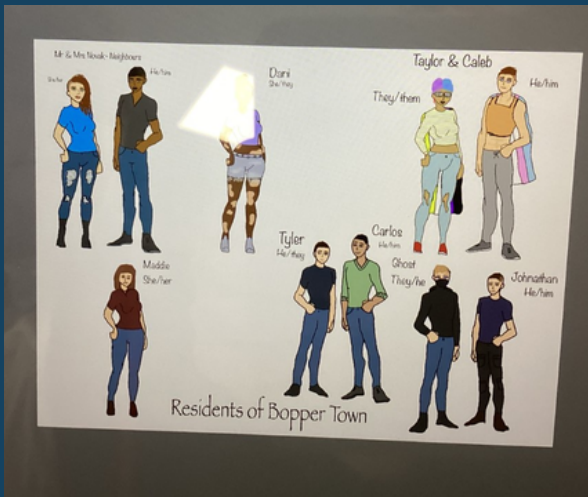
We have lots of exciting activities planned for the rest of the year, so watch this space for more updates from Technology lessons.



Computing

A message from Mrs Morrell...

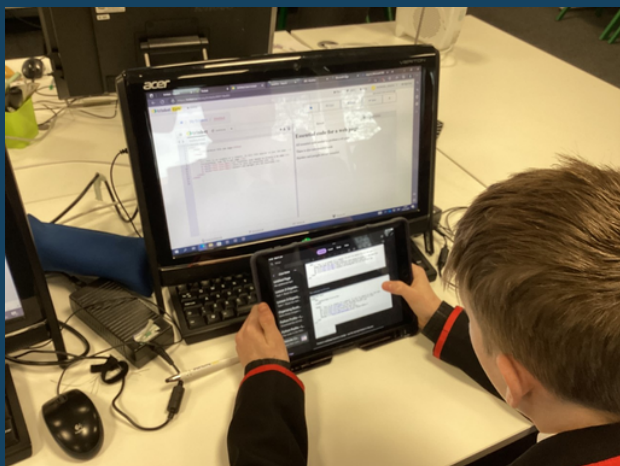
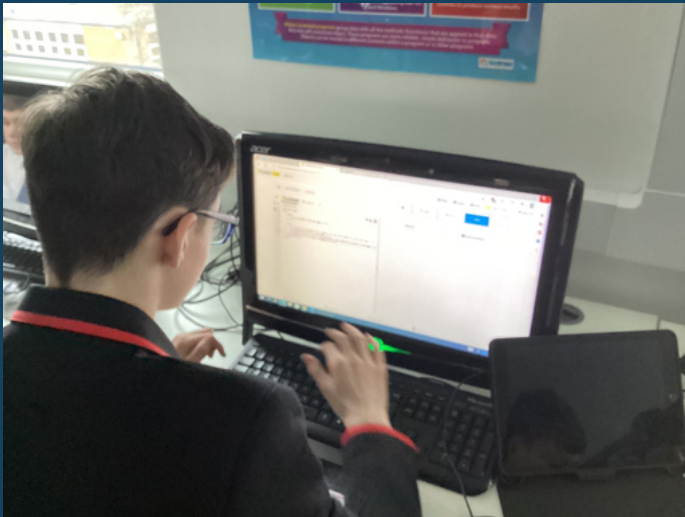
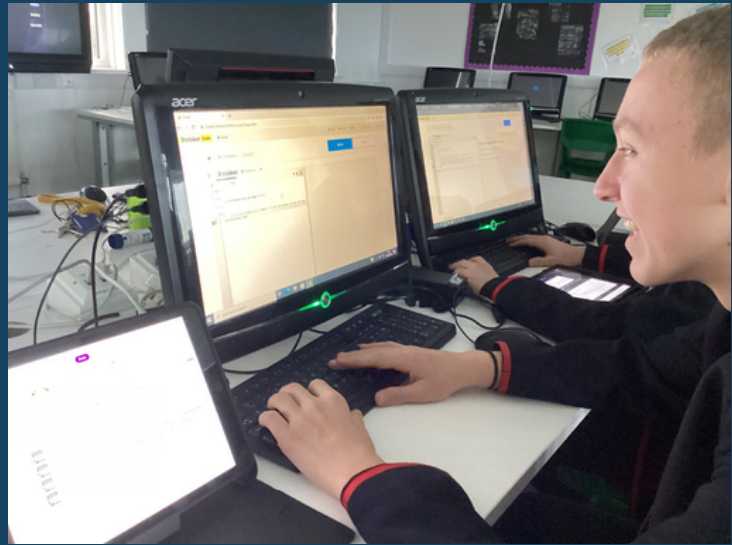
The Y11 I media students have been working on their final piece of coursework. They have been asked to develop ideas and write a proposal for a teenage life simulation game that uses virtual reality. Their game must appeal to teenagers aged 14-16 and focus on the following areas: home life, social life, school life, hobbies and activities, health and fitness and finally lifestyle rules and consequences. Y11 have so far investigated digital game types and platforms and started to plan and design a digital game concept.



Computing

A message from Mrs Morrell...

Year 9 have been building upon work that they completed in Y8 revising how to code using HTML (Hypertext Markup Language). So far, they revised the different elements that make up a webpage and how they use 'inline styles' to add design features to the website. They have gone to use their knowledge to debug errors in inline styles and produce a webpage from a design that makes use of inline styles – they have worked really well and produced some great results.



#DigitalByDesign

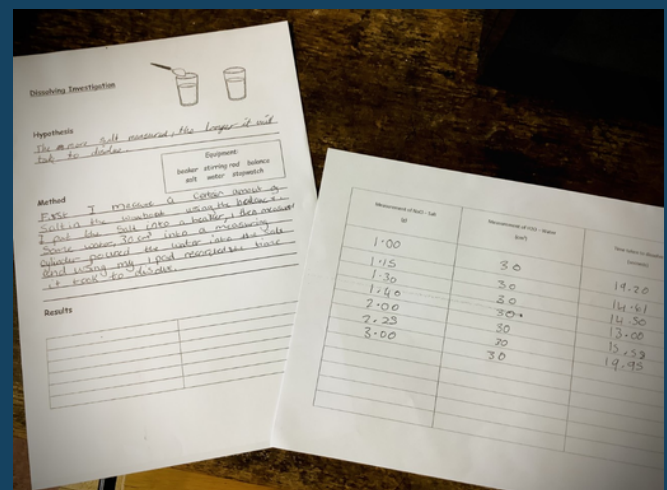
 Kidsgrove
Learning Campus
INSPIRE INNOVATE CREATE

 Shaw
Education Trust

Science

A message from Ms Baker...

Please see below images of Science lesson practicals from the last few weeks.



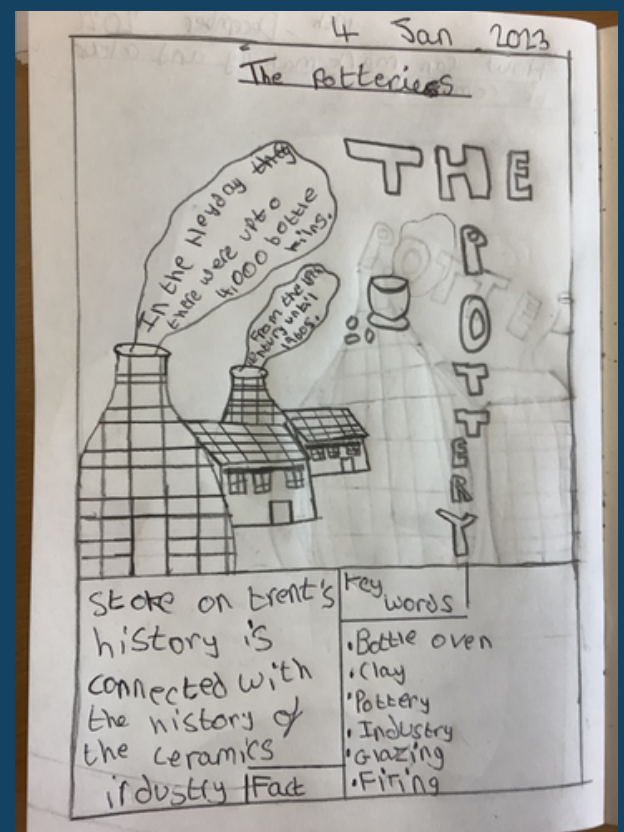
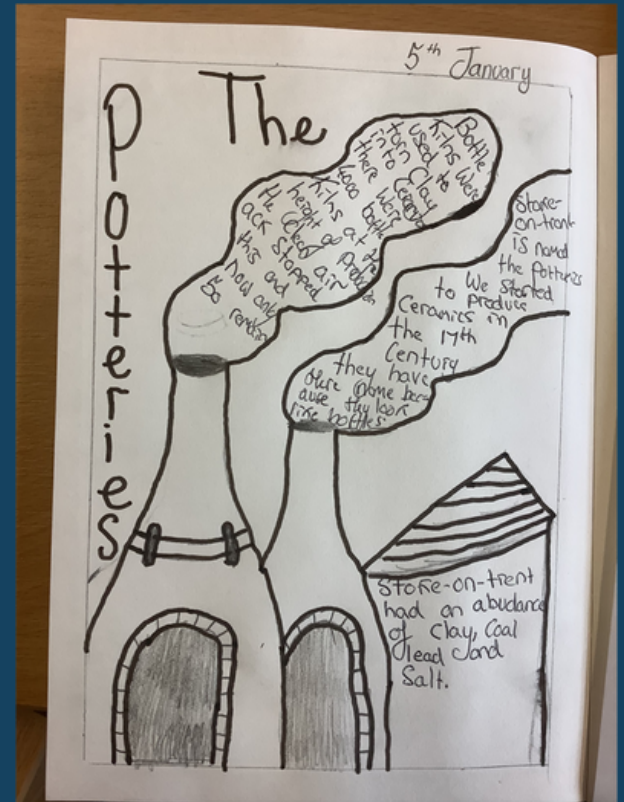
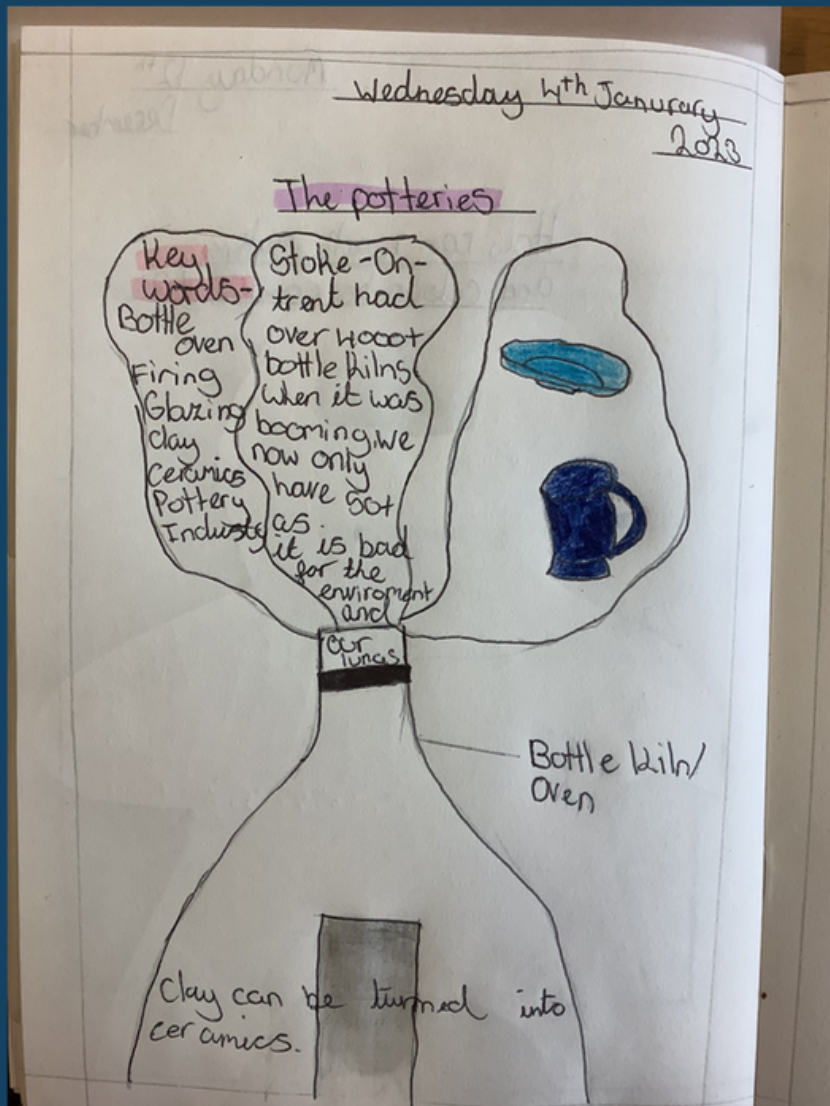
Art

A message from Ms Mason...

Year 7 are starting the year looking at our local heritage and why the areas around us are called 'The Potteries'.

We have so far explored some history around how 'The Potteries' got its name and what role the bottle kiln had on the landscape and the people who worked with them.

We are now moving on to practicing drawing these structures in 3D covering the formal elements of Shape, Form and Tone. Here are some of their title pages highlighting key facts and words surrounding the topic.



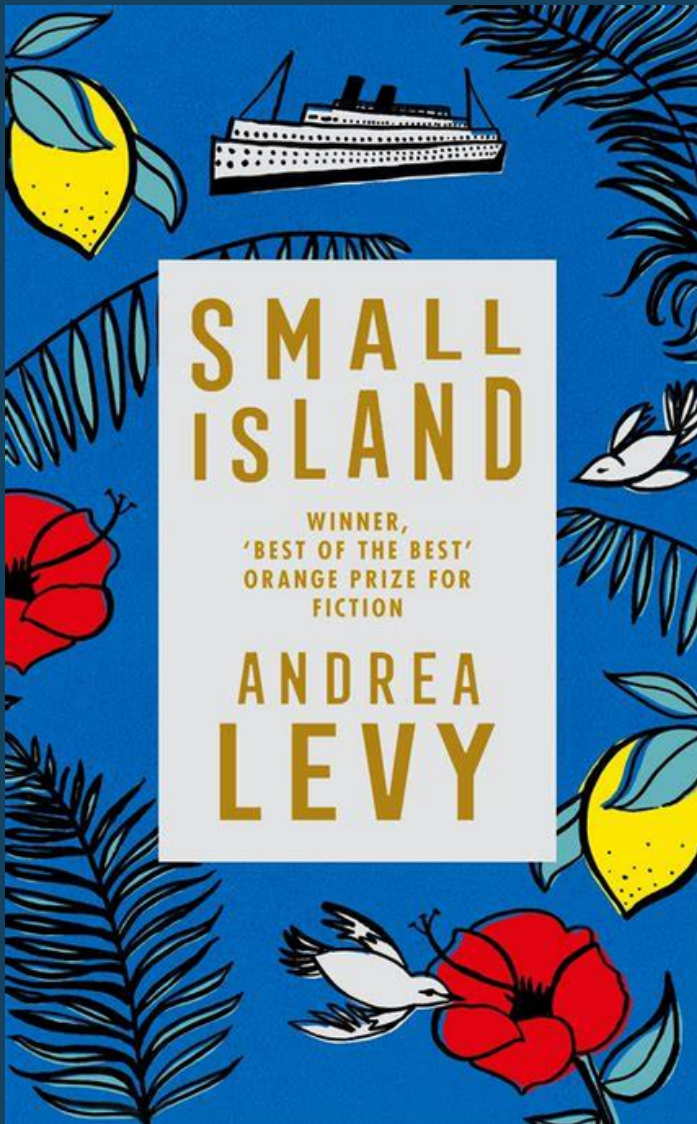
English

A message from Mr Old...

New this Year!

The play 'Small Island' has been launched on our curriculum with year 9. This is a play about the experiences of the Windrush generation after the second world war. It has been included to develop our focus on diverse voices within English.

Year 9 are currently enjoying reading the different parts of the play as well as exploring the themes of prejudice, racism and change.



The more that you
READ,
The more things
you will know.
The more that you
LEARN,
The more places
You'll GO.
-Dr. Seuss

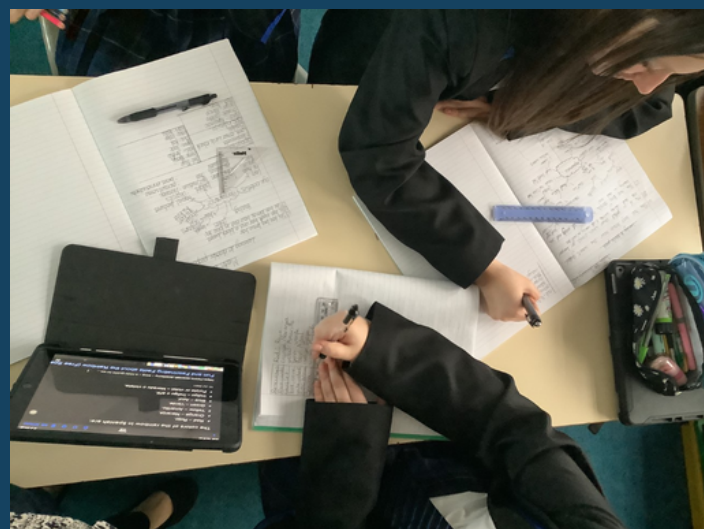
Spanish

A message from Ms Hud...

Year 7s are currently teaching themselves Spanish!

In a few lessons time, they will complete an assessment (of their choosing), to see how well they can describe people's appearances. Students are responsible for deciding what it is they need to learn and how they are going to learn it. They must manage their own time, and work in groups and independently to achieve success.

I've been impressed at the range of activities students have opted for first- posters, flash cards, videos, games and note making are the most popular techniques so far. It's important that students are constantly reflecting, to make sure they are learning effectively.



Art

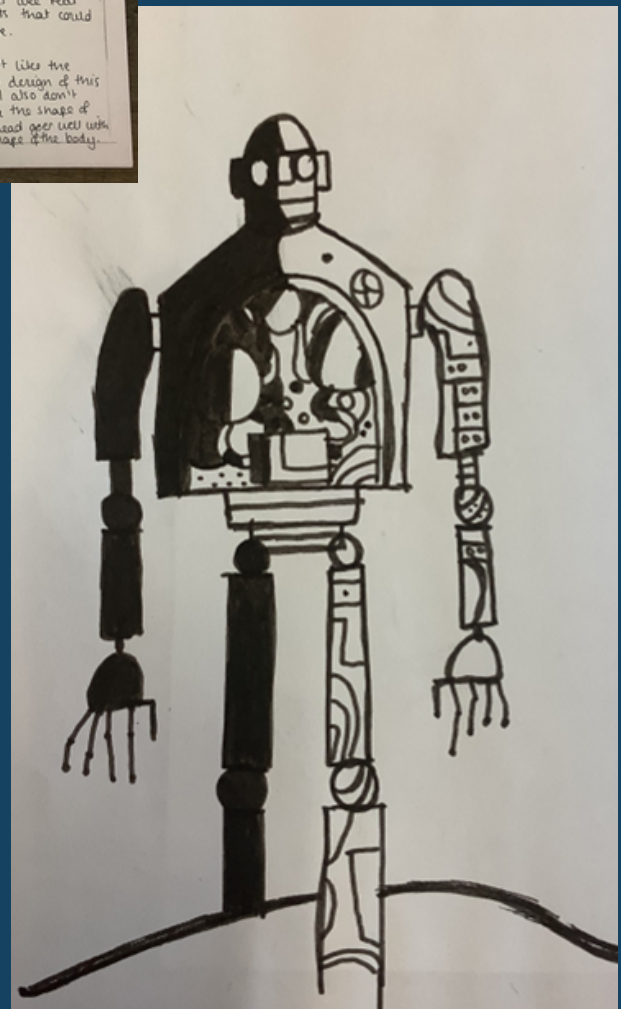
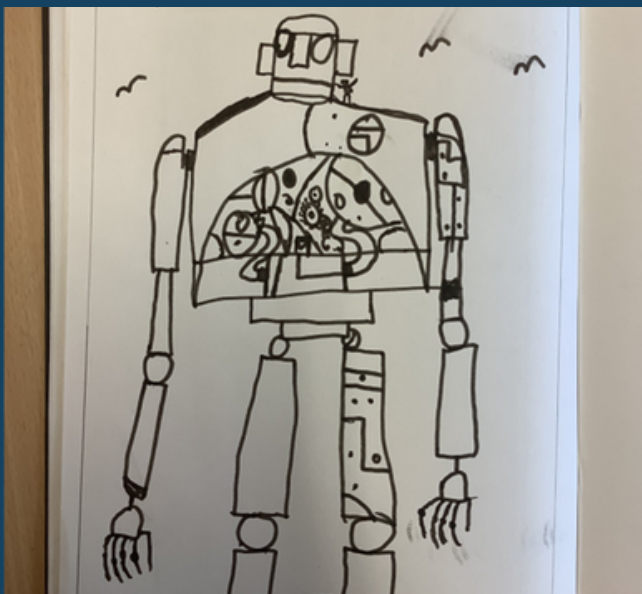
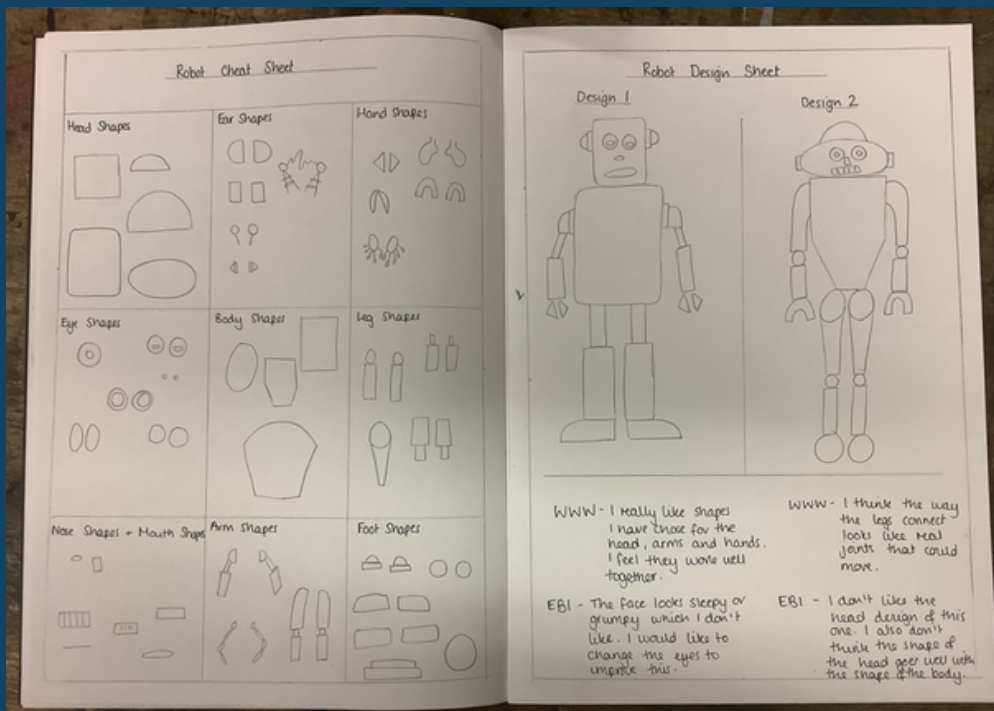
A message from Ms Mason...

Year 8 we exploring 'Characters' and the career of an Illustrator.

We are focusing this around the book 'The Iron Man'. To introduce the topic students have read the first Chapter of the book that outlines the Iron Man's structure. We have then followed the Illustrators process creating our own Iron Man drawing.

We are now researching other robot structures looking at the shapes used. They are creating their own designs from their robot shape cheat sheet to create their own robot character.

From here we are going to create our own story to match our character which we will then bring to life in 3D!



New Head of Wedgwood House

We are delighted to announce that our new Head of Wedgwood House is Miss Baker; our wonderful science technician!

Miss Baker is super excited and extremely competitive; so the other houses better watch out!



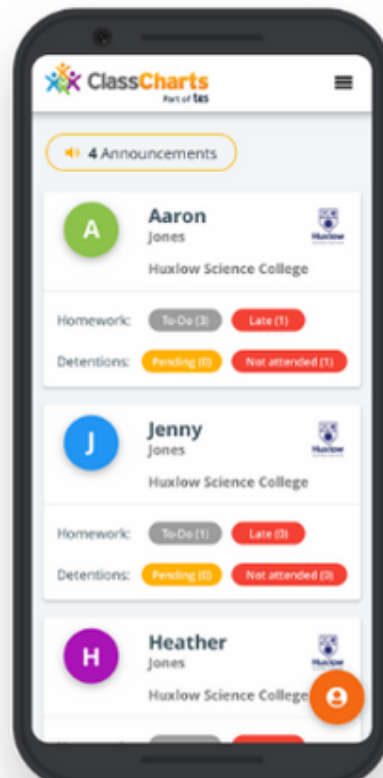
Class Charts

A message from Mrs Postlethwaite...

'Class Charts'



We now have over 85% of parents signed up to Class Charts. If you haven't already signed up and need your login code, please call reception and they will be able to provide the to you. On Class Charts you will see attendance to lessons, rewards, detentions and a full breakdown of behaviour. There is also the function to message individual teachers. Moving forward, more communication will come through Class Charts so please download the App if you haven't done so already. If you need any help setting up the app, please pop into school and a member of staff will help you get up and running.



Art

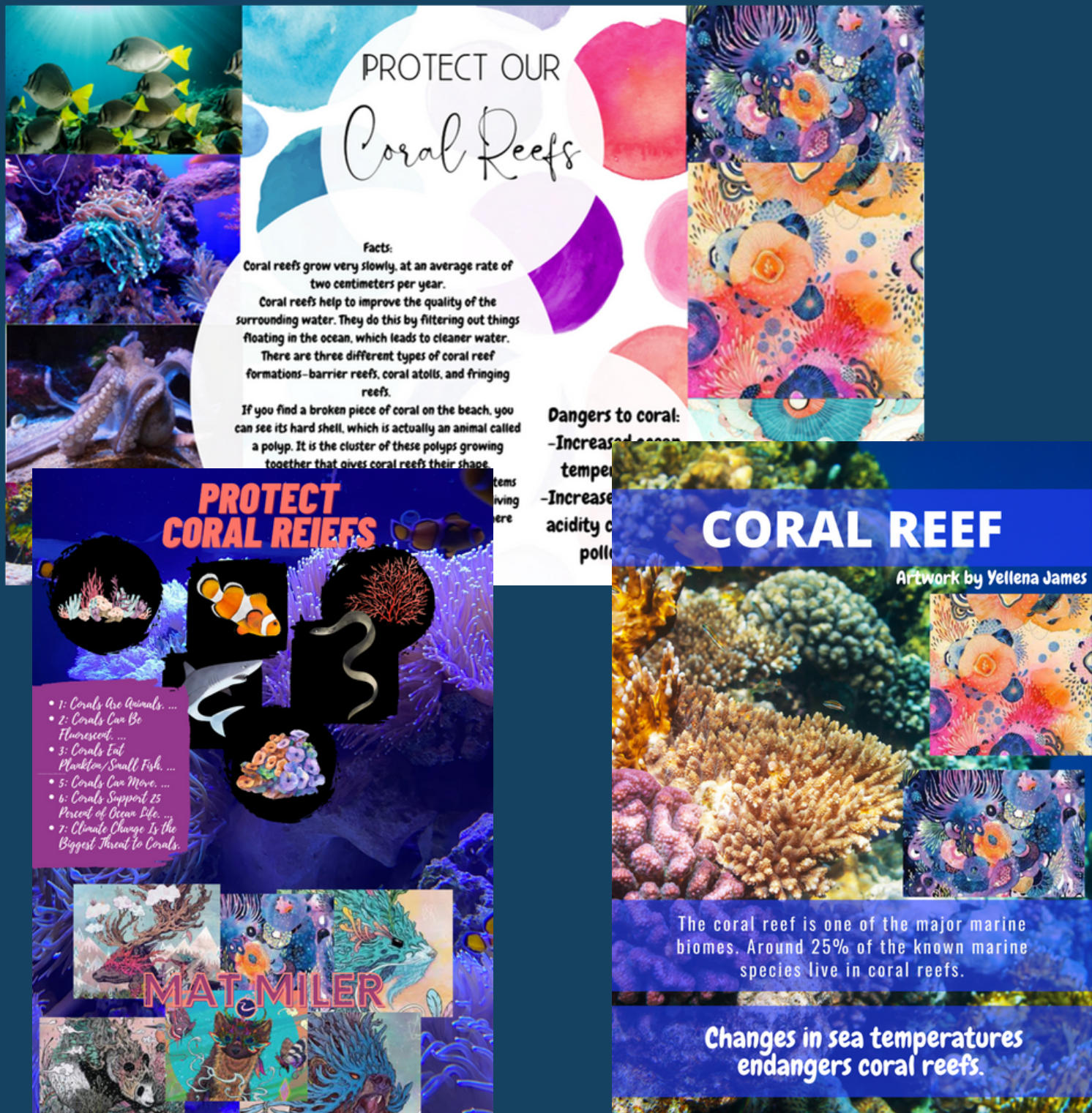
A message from Ms Mason...

Year 9s are now starting to get ready for their GCSE Art. We are exploring a marine life and the factors affect these habitats through a range of material explorations.

We have firstly begin our research around problems affecting our oceans and focused on Coral Reefs. They have used their digital design skills in 'canva' to create an information page around all the key facts they have discovered.

In the coming lessons we are going to be testing our drawing skills exploring the marine life living within these habitats.

To highlight the impact of pollution in our oceans we will be using ready-made objects such as cans and bottles to create a 3D outcome to draw attention to what we can do as individuals to help.



PE



A message from Mrs Castrey...

Trampolining in the curriculum

This half term KS3 and Y10 GCSE students are honing their skills in Trampolining. We now have two trampolines, so lessons can be taught through the PE curriculum. Students are enjoying challenging themselves and it's fantastic to see students coaching each other and making excellent progress! Keep up the great work!



Numeracy

A message from Mrs Frost...

This week saw the launch of the Numeracy Puzzle at KSS and we are so proud of how many students responded and took part. Students are competing to gain points for their form group and also towards their house. The winning form in each year group will receive a prize at the end of each half term.

We thought we would extend this competition and open it up to parents, carers and the wider community. There will be rewards for the people responding fastest with the correct answer.

Take a look at the puzzle from this week and send your attempt to;
numeracy@kss.set.org

Be sure to keep an eye on Facebook each week for the next puzzle. We look forward to hearing from you.



Engage

Numeracy

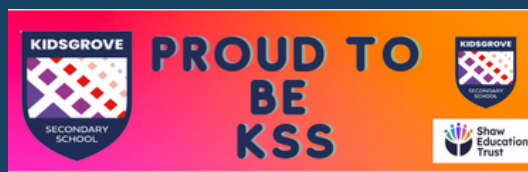


NUMERACY PUZZLE

Use 8 exactly eight times to make the
number 1000.

Any mathematical symbols can be used.





A message from Mrs Postlethwaite...

Free sanitary towels are available in school for all students. Sanitary towels are available in the box in the girls toilets for students to help themselves to and boxes of tampons can be collected from the office. (Tampons need to be given as a whole box to ensure that students also receive the information leaflet and therefore cannot be left in the toilets.)

There will be an assembly for lower school girls next week where each student will be given a sample pack and information booklets about periods to bring home, along with a parent information leaflet.

We will happily support any student with sanitary products to bring home each month. Please email the office or ask your child to speak to Mrs Postlethwaite or Mrs Hume if they wish to collect any packs to bring home.



Free sanitary
protection for all
students

Sanitary towels are freely available in
the toilets for all students.

Boxes of tampons are available from the
office on request.

#ProudToBeKSS

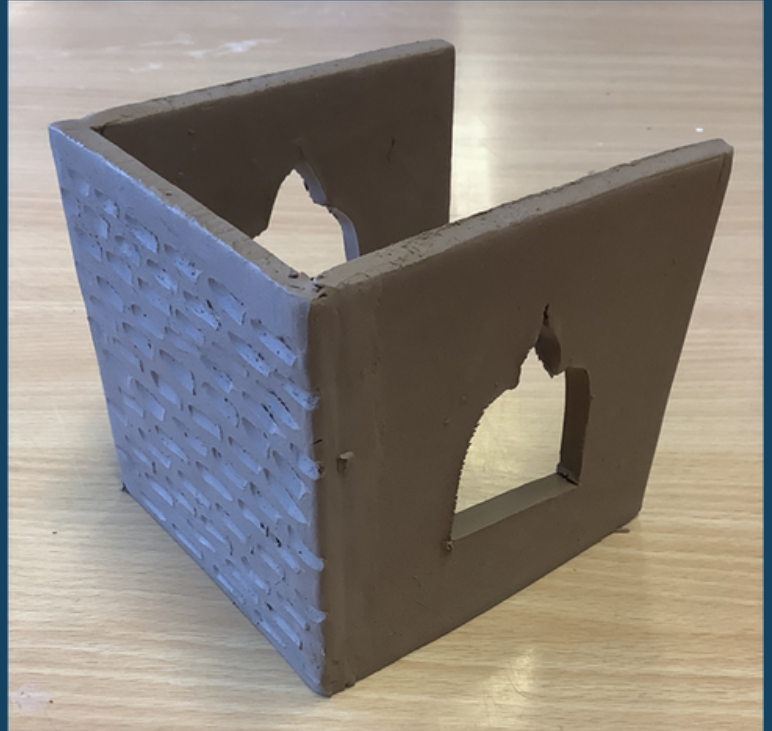
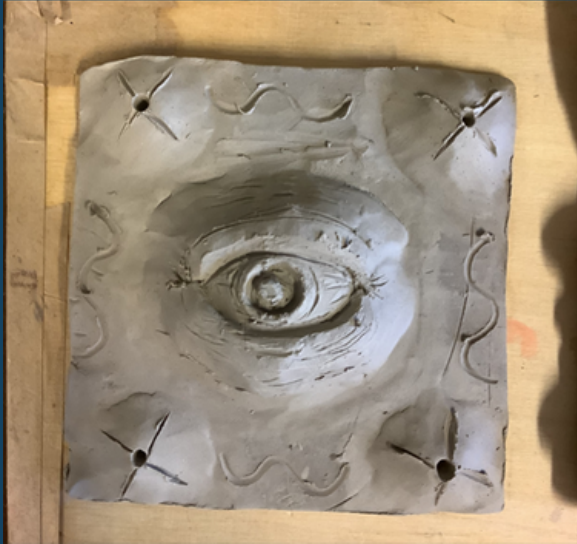
Art

A message from Ms Mason...

Year 10 are completing their skills building project with a clay outcome.

We have explored the material by creating a tile first to practice imprinting, carving and decorating techniques.

We have now begun to build our Architecture inspired outcome. These have been inspired by some of the artist's work and images we have explored so far in the project.



Term Dates - 2023-2024

The academic year 2023-2024 dates have been finalised and can be found below and on the school website @ Kidsgrove High – Term Dates (kidsgrovesecondary.org.uk).

Autumn Term 2023

Inset day: Monday 4 September

Term starts: Tuesday 5 September

Holiday: Monday 30 October - Friday 3 November

Term ends: Thursday 21 December

Spring Term 2024

Term Starts: Monday 8 January

Holiday: Monday 12 February – Friday 16 February

Term Ends: Friday 22 March

Holiday: Monday 25 March – Friday 5 April

Summer Term 2024

Term Starts: Monday 8 April

Inset Day: Monday 15 April

May Day: Monday 6 May

Holiday: Monday 27 May – Friday 31 May

Term Ends: Friday 19 July

KSS Academic Year Calendar 2023/2024

School Holiday							Bank Holiday							Student Day							Training Day							Flexi Day																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																				
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Enrichment

JAN - APR

EXTRA CURRICULAR ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

EVERYDAY

Lunchtime
13.30-14.00



Reading club

Open to all

Reading Room - Mr Baldwin

MONDAY

Lunchtime
13.30-14.00



Computing club

KS3

Room 15 - Mrs Morrell

Choir and Rehearsal rooms

Open to all

Music - Mrs Evans

Science Ambassadors

KS3/KS4

Room 24 - Miss Baker

TUESDAY

Lunchtime
13.30-14.00



Computing club

KS3

Room 15 - Mrs Morrell

Numeracy club

Open to all

Room 12 - Mrs Frost

After School
15.05-16.05



KS3 Fitness (Jan. only)

KS3

Fitness Suite - Miss Harrison

WEDNESDAY

Lunchtime
13.30-14.00



Pride Club

Room 1 - Mrs Castrey

After School
15.05-16.05



KS4 Basketball

KS4

Gym - Mr Till



KS4 Netball

KS4

Gym - Mr Till



KS3 Football

Y7 and Y8

Astro - Mr Hilditch

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 - Mrs 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

Keyboard club/Rehearsal rooms

Open to all

Music - Mrs Evans

After School
15.05-16.05



GCSE composition and Rock Band

Music - Mrs Evans



Trampolining

KS4

Hall - Mrs Castrey