

HEADTEACHER BULLETIN

Friday 13th of October 2023

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

Dear Parents/Carers,

Where have the first six weeks gone? We have two weeks left of the first half term of the year and its been exceptionally busy here at KSS. We have welcomed over 500 people into school for the recent open events which has been fantastic to see. The feedback we have received has been amazing and we have been blown away by the response of the Kidsgrove community. We have seen a real change in how our local community views our wonderful school which makes all of the hard work worthwhile over the last few years. The open events have been followed up by a number of tours during the school day, with guests observing the school in action. It really is a special place to be.

In the last few weeks we have been busy preparing our Year 11's for their upcoming mock examinations and we continue to be impressed with their growth mindset and hard work. The individual meetings that were held really filled the leadership team with confidence that this year group are really up for the challenge of their final year. We have recently shared a survey with Year 11 students and the results are very encouraging in terms of subject specific support that colleagues offer and how the students are using this. It is great to see.

We held our first enrichment day of the year last Thursday which saw a range of interesting and diverse activities taking place in school. Mrs Weaver shaped the day around Relationships, Health and Wellbeing and Careers to compliment our excellent Personal Development curriculum. I have included some images from the day within the pages below which provide a flavour of the students experiences.

Today, key stage 4 students are taking part in the Alton Towers 'Scare Fest' reward trip. We were delighted to see so many students eligible for the trip as recognition for their efforts so far this year and their academic focus. We have seen a maturity especially with the Year 10 group as they have undertaken their GCSE studies and I have already mentioned how impressive Year 11 have been in the first six weeks of the term.

This week, Mrs Postlethwaite has delivered Mental Health awareness assemblies to all students and staff wore an item of yellow clothing to mark this important message. It was outlined to students how important their mental health is and it was reinforced that if students are struggling with their mental health that they can talk to any member of staff.

Finally, we are holding a Year 7 form tutor evening on Wednesday the 25th of October 2023. This will be held via our School Cloud system and Mr Till will be in touch with parents/carers regarding access to the system and how they can secure their appointment slot. We are looking forward to sharing with you how your child is settling into life at KSS.



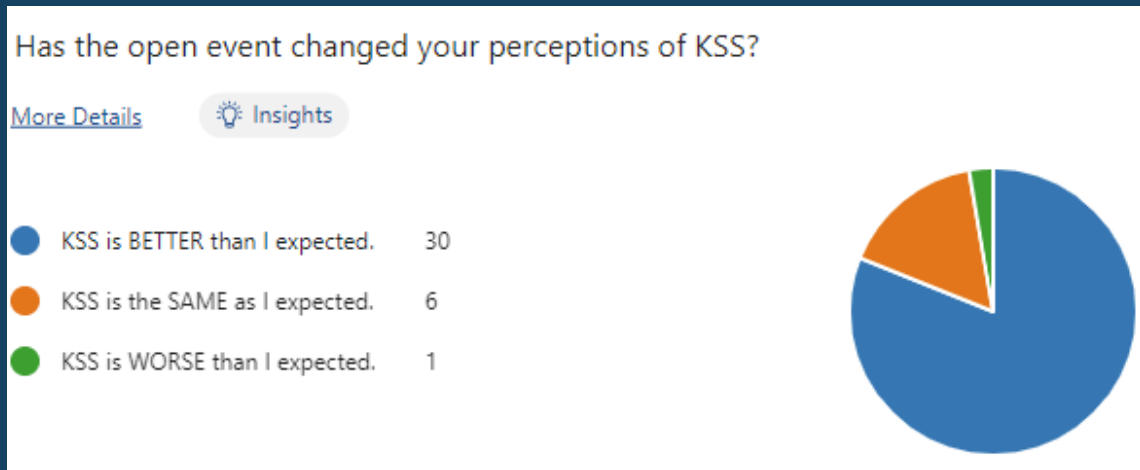
Upcoming Events:

Wednesday October 18th 2023 - Student Council Meeting
Friday 20th October 2023 - Spanish trip to Manchester
Wednesday 25th October 2023 - Year 7 Form Tutor Evening
Thursday 26th October 2023 - End of Half Term One
Friday 27th October 2023 - Staff INSET Day

Yours faithfully,
Mr S Frost

Open Morning and Open Evening

The open events were brilliantly attended over the last few weeks and we were delighted that so many members of our amazing community visited our Kidsgrove Learning Campus. Below are some images from the events and also a snapshot of the feedback that we received. We look forward to building on this with future community events.



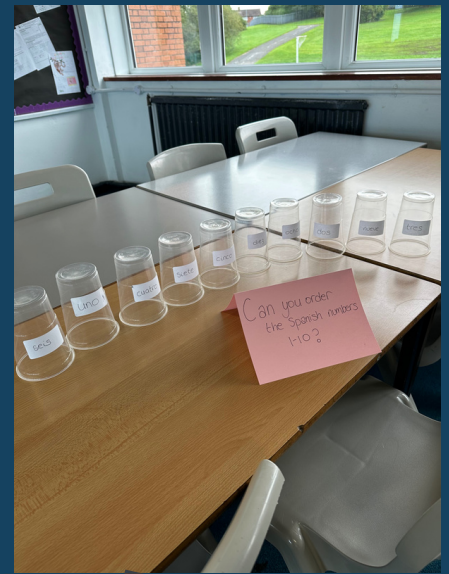
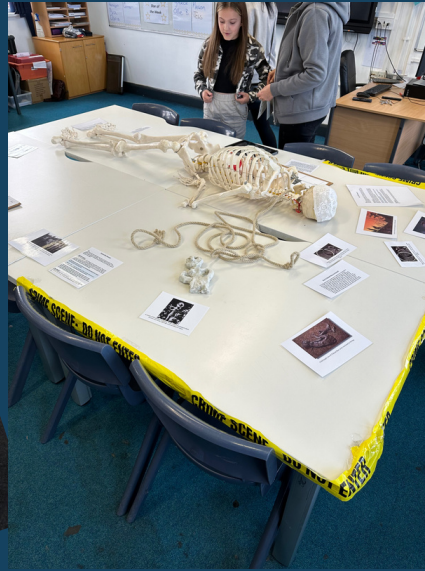
“We are really impressed with the school, overall it has a great feel, students seem really happy and positive and the staff all seem really friendly and supportive.”

“What a fantastic school. The culture really comes through, especially when you see how the children interact so easily and confidently with the staff.”

“Amazing school and teachers are so welcoming”

“The school is an absolute credit to the staff and the children”

Open Morning and Open Evening



Kidsgrove Learning Campus

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



KIDSGROVE
SECONDARY SCHOOL

PROUD TO BE KSS

Shaw Education Trust

HEADTEACHER DROP IN

A reminder that every Friday morning, we hold a Headteacher drop-in hour from 9am until 10am.

This is a great opportunity to come and see me regarding any queries or questions that you may have about the school.

Please just call in as there is no appointment required at this time.

KIDSGROVE SECONDARY SCHOOL HEADTEACHER DROP IN



**Every Friday
9:00am-10:00am**

If you have any queries or questions, feel free to drop into the session and talk to Mr Frost.



CORE VALUES



Attendance

KSS Attendance

Whole School



94.31%

Year group

7 - 95.03%
8 - 94.73%
9 - 93.36%
10 - 93.89%
11 - 94.33%



Best Form

7TM

97.57%

As winter approaches, we recognise that children do get ill. Minor illnesses can be managed with over-the-counter medication and we can provide this in school.

Best House



We don't encourage lateness, but if your child feels unwell, ask them to take medication and then come into school. Slightly late is better than a whole day of absence. 1 day of absence = 5 lessons missed

Kidsgrove Secondary School

Attendance Matters

#StopTheDrop



KS4 Reward Trip



A message from Mrs Postlethwaite

This afternoon 92 KS4 students left school after breaktime to go on their first reward trip of the year.

They are visiting Alton Towers to experience 'Scarefest' which is even more spooky considering it is Friday the 13th!

This trip is for all students who have demonstrated a real commitment to their GCSE studies since the start of the academic year. There is a relentless focus upon academic performance and our Core Values at KSS and we are delighted that students are meeting these expectations.



Mobile Phones



We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that mobile phone use by students is not allowed during the school day. This also includes the use of smartwatches that receive and send messages.

The use of mobile phones and smartwatches in school is an unnecessary distraction for students.

We are having an increasing number of students receiving communication from parents/ carers during the school day which is then causing them to take their phones out and check them. In addition to this, we find ourselves occasionally in the position when parents are coming into school to collect students due to an issue (e.g. a falling out with friends) before we have had the chance to support the student and get to the bottom of what has happened.

Could I please ask that if you need to get a message to your child during the school day, you contact the school office and we will ensure they receive the message without the need to use a mobile device.

Our mobile phone policy states that if a phone is seen, heard or used in school, this will be taken to the office by a member of staff and parents will need to come in to collect it. We appreciate that this may cause inconvenience, so please support us by having this discussion with your child.

If smartwatches are worn in school, notifications need to be disabled.

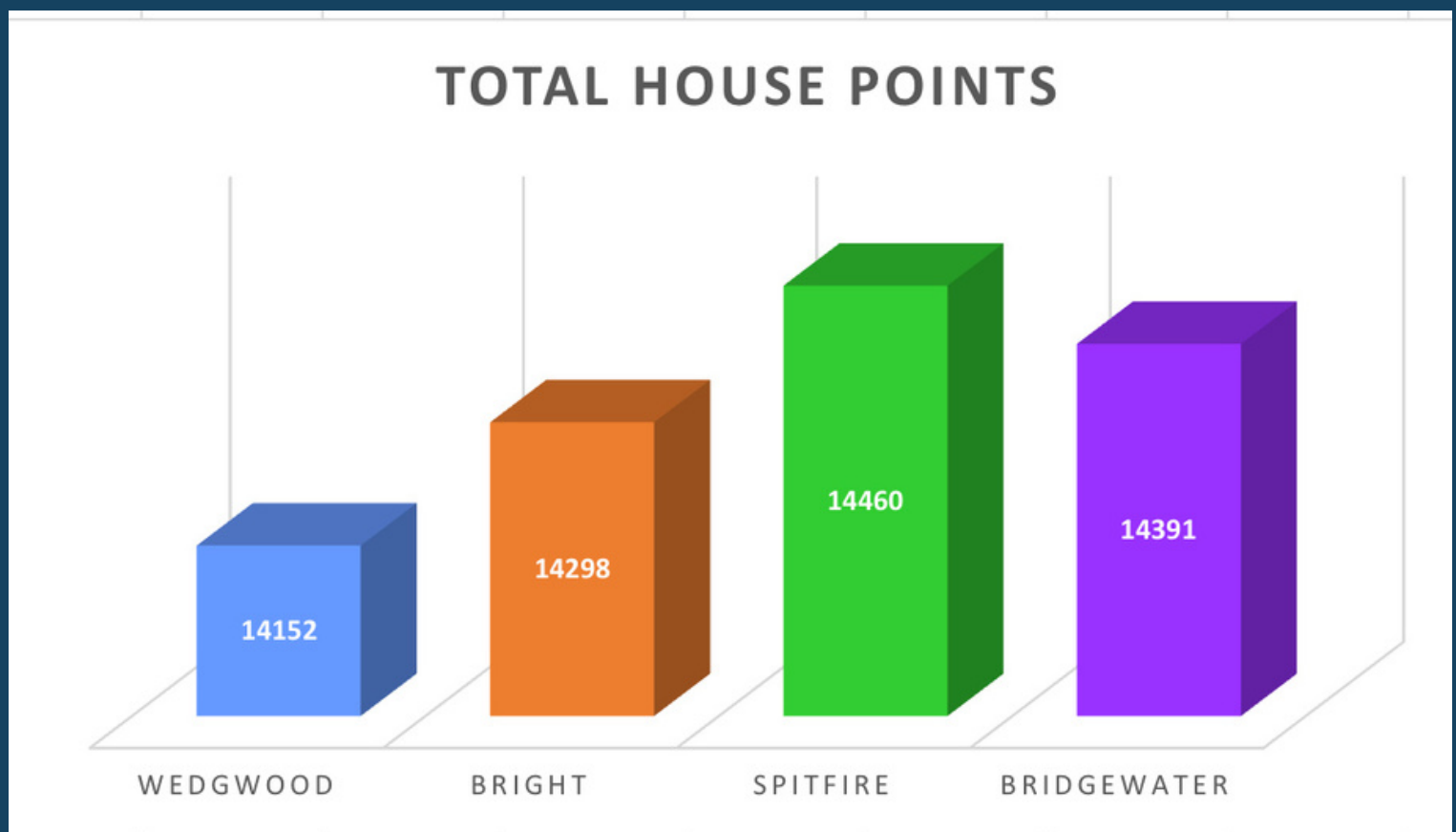


House Update

Below are the House totals so far....

We have Spitfire in first place but its a really close race. Every house has over 14k in positive points which is an amazing effort and I know Mr Baldwin has an exciting challenge planned for a competition very soon which will lead to more points!

Well done to all students who are making a contribution each and every lesson.



CORE VALUES



FORM MONITOR TEAM

Please meet our new form time monitor team. This group of students will work with our form tutors every day to pass on key messages and demonstrate student leadership.

KSS FORM TIME MONITORS



7NM / 7TM

MYA V



MILES C

8KH / 8HM

CONNOR CB



TOM W

9MH / 9SB

REECE J



SOPHIE E

10EGL / 10MO

AVEAH F



NEVEAH M

11SM



CHLOE R

11WB



CAMERON H



**PROUD TO
BE
KSS**

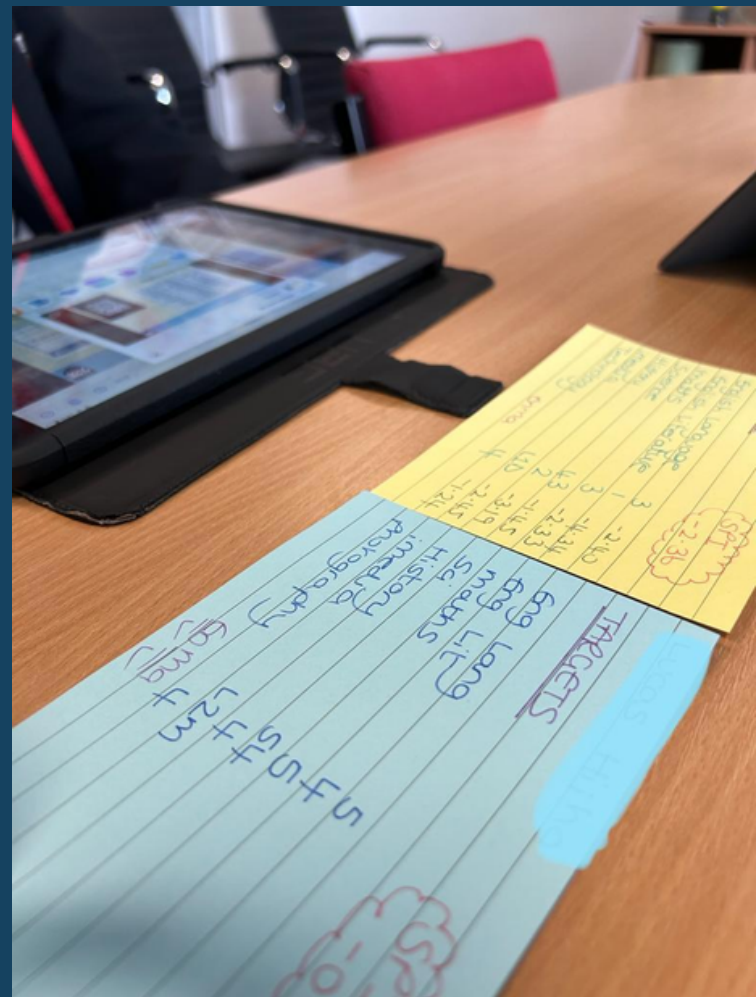
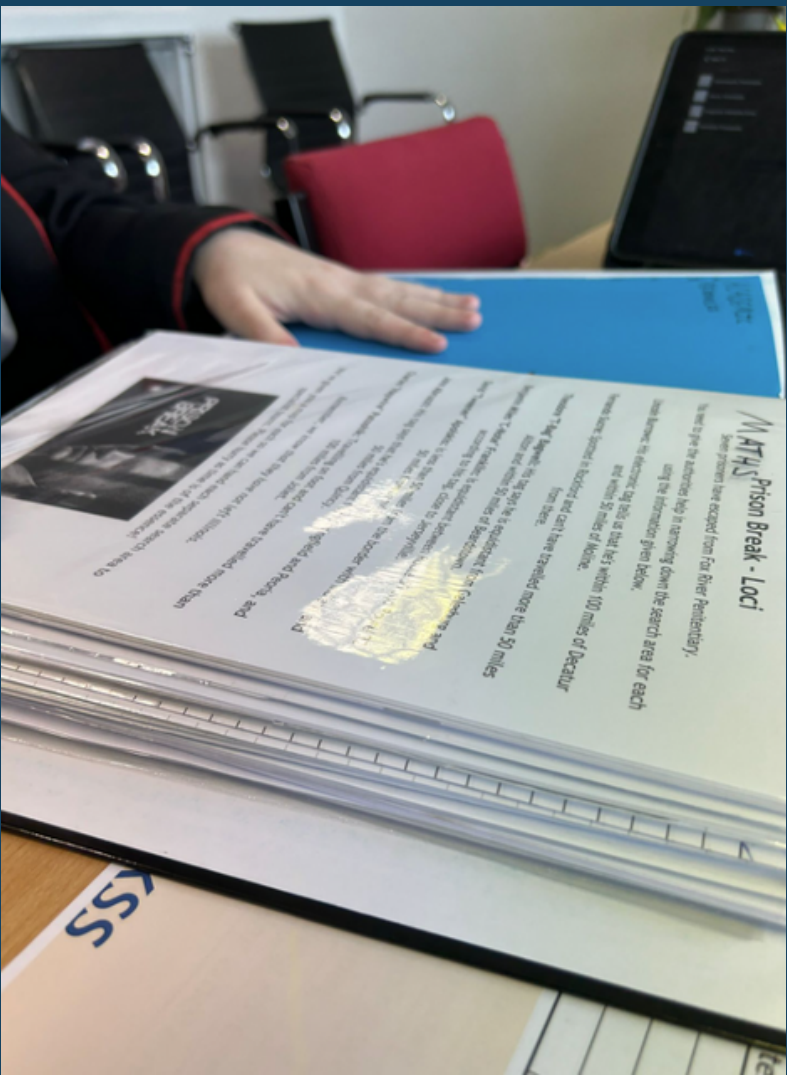


Year 11 - 1:1 Meetings

Mrs Frost and I spent two days last week with our wonderful Year 11 students. We met each student individually to discuss their preparations for the upcoming mock examinations in November.

We shared students subject targets and what they need to focus on for their mock exams. It was great to see students prepared and focused for the next push.

Well done Year 11, we are very impressed!



Key Stage 4 Update



A message from Mrs Postlethwaite

It only seems like a few days ago since my last KS4 update but so much has happened in the last two weeks.

Year 11 have 116 school days left until their first GCSE exams. I'm sure the time will fly, but we are doing everything we can to ensure they are organised, supported and prepared.

In our recent Y11 'temperature check', 96% of Y11 students felt that teachers were preparing them well for the upcoming mock exams and 97% of students stated that they found the form time and after-school intervention sessions useful.

We will continue to have regular feedback from Y11 students as the year progresses to check in on how they are feeling and look at what further support is needed.

One of the biggest barriers to learning over the past two weeks at KS4 has been absence with a sharp drop during Week 6. Can we please ask that where possible, orthodontist, dentist and doctors appointments are made outside of school hours, or at the very beginning or end of the school day in order to minimise lost learning.

Year 10 students will soon begin the process of planning their work experience which will be in July (date to be confirmed.) Students will need to arrange their own placements, so I would encourage them to start thinking about the kind of workplace they might want to spend a week at.

Work experience week for our current Y11 students was a huge success last year and the students got so much out of it. I can't wait for Year 10 to have the same experiences this year!

CORE VALUES



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

Saturday 4th November

Register online

Saturday 2nd December

Register online

Saturday 13th January

Register online

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



SEPT - NOV**EXTRA CURRICULAR ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES****EVERYDAY**Lunchtime
13.30-14.00

Reading club

Open to all

Reading Room - Mr Baldwin

MONDAYLunchtime
13.30-14.00Key Board Club / Rehearsal
Rooms

Open to all

Music - Mrs Evans

TUESDAYLunchtime
13.30-14.00

Choir

Open to all

Music - Mrs Evans

After School
15.05-16.05

GCSE Performing Arts

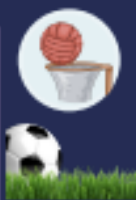
Year 10

Music - Mrs Evans

Art Club

Open to all

Room 10 - Miss Mason

Extra Curricula September to December 2023**WEDNESDAY**After School
15.05-16.05

Netball

Y9, 10 and 11

Changing Rooms - Mrs Castrey

Football

Y9 and Y10

Changing Rooms - Mr Till

Y11

Changing Rooms - Mr Frost

THURSDAYAfter School
15.05-16.05

Art Club

Open to all

Room 10 - Miss Mason

FRIDAYLunchtime
13.30-14.00

Chess club

Open to all

Room 3 - Mr Baldwin

Keyboard club/Rehearsal rooms

Open to all

Music - Mrs Evans

Pride Club

Open to all

Room 14 - Miss Ayers

After School
15.05-16.05

Volleyball

KS4

Gym - Mr Till

Trampolining

KS4

Hall - Mrs Castrey

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



**PROUD TO
BE
KSS**





KSS Clothes Bank

Calling all students

DO YOU HAVE ANY UNWANTED CLOTHES?
TOO SMALL or TOO BIG?
ARE THEY JUST SAT IN YOUR WARDROBE NOT
BEING WORN AT ALL?



Help us to help our
wonderful
community!



Drop off at Reception



**PROUD TO
BE
KSS**




Enrichment Day

Our Enrichment Days are used to compliment our Personal Development that we deliver throughout the year.


PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Our curriculum is aimed to help you gain the skills, knowledge and understanding you need to lead healthy, independent lives and to become informed, active and responsible citizens.


It works brilliantly alongside the other subjects you learn.




Relationships




Health and Wellbeing




Citizenship



Careers information and guidance



Financial capability



The first of these days got off to a strong start with students engaging a variety of activities focusing on Relationships, Health and Wellbeing and Careers Information and Guidance.

Our fantastic staff delivered a range of activities and workshops and students displayed our LORIC values brilliantly throughout the day.

It was also great to welcome back Simon Bennett – former student and a FA and FIFA Assistant Referee. He spoke to our Year 7s and Year 8s about his career and education journey after leaving our School and the hard work and dedication it takes to overcome challenges. He talked about the LORIC values we instill and how they translate into everyday life.

Enrichment Day

**CORE
VALUES**



Enrichment Day

**CORE
VALUES**



Enrichment Day

**CORE
VALUES**

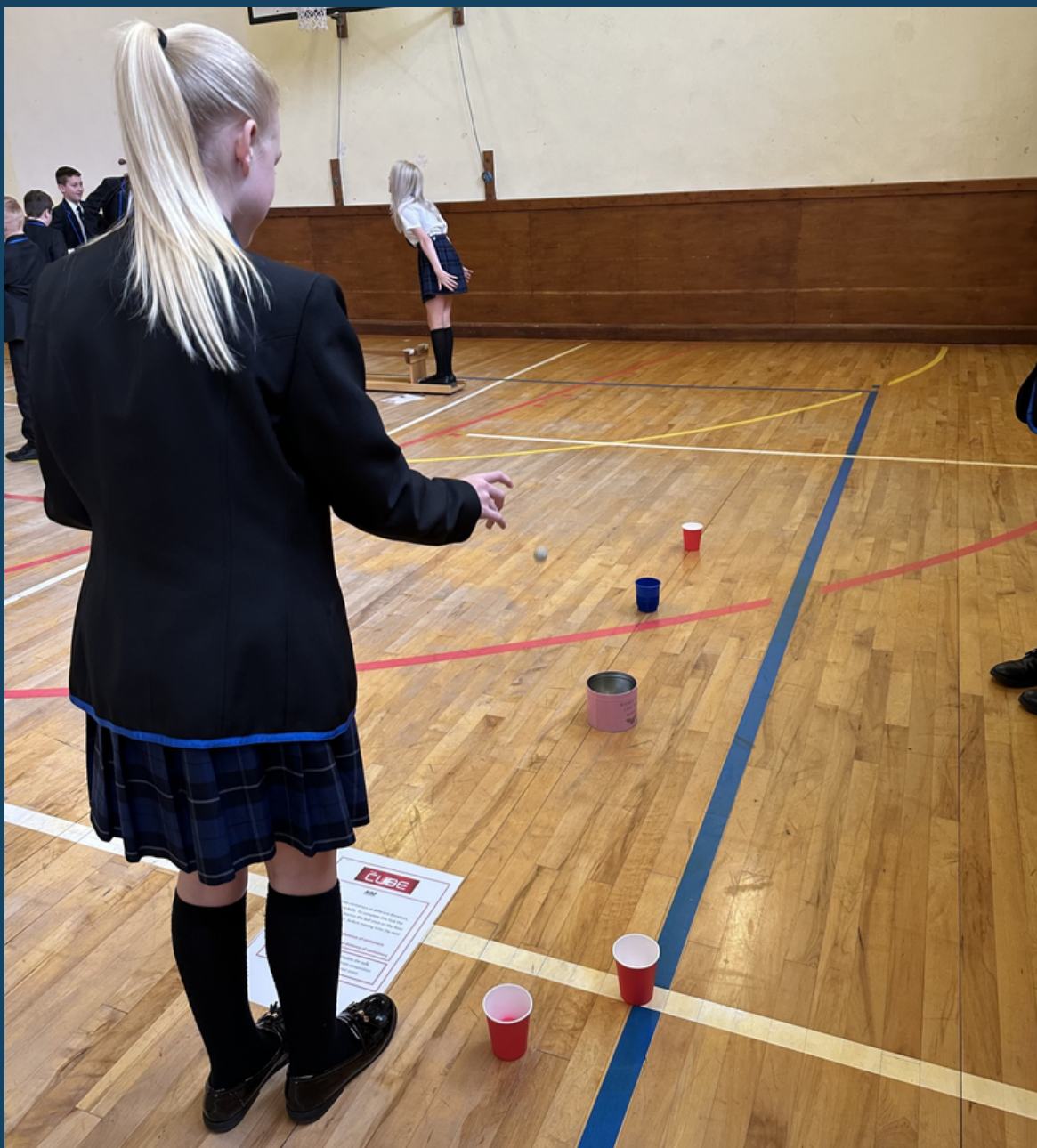


Enrichment Day

**CORE
VALUES**



Enrichment Day

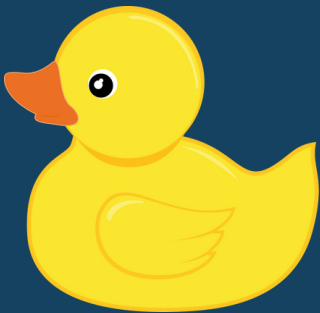


Maths

A message from Ms Ayres...

Thank you so much to all the hundreds of visitors that took the time to come and see us in the maths department during our recent Open Morning and Open Evening. It really was great to see so many of you and also lots of young people enjoying a variety of maths activities. We would also like to thank the KSS students that helped us during these events. Below is a bit more detail on the Open Evening and how it links to maths and the work that students do within the curriculum.

Where's the maths in that?



We opened our doors to the community and transformed one of our maths classrooms into a fun fair for the night! You might be wondering why we did that, but there's a lot of maths in games of chance, specifically probability. We ran a hook a duck stall, higher or lower and a wheel of fortune. Working out your probability of winning can help give you an edge in games of chance or will help you decide which game is most worth your while.

Think of a game of hook a duck with 8 ducks in the pool. If you know that 3 ducks have a star on the bottom, and you win a prize if you find a star then you can calculate your odds of winning. You can also work out an estimate for the number of people who will win the game. The probability of winning is $\frac{3}{8}$. To find an estimate of how many people will win we should multiply this by how many people play. For example, if 40 people play then we would estimate that 15 of them would win.

Next time you head to a fair or an arcade, take a moment to think about the amount of maths surrounding you and consider your chances of winning.



History

We are delighted to share that Year 10 History students are taking part in a visit to the Imperial War museum North in Salford on the 17.11.23.

This will be an ideal visit for students to dive into interactive displays about their first GCSE topic 'warfare'. We think that this will add real cultural capital so that students grasp even further the impact of warfare and the changes over time in terms of weapons and tactics.

Please look out for images on Facebook after the event.



Spanish

A message from Ms Hud...

On Friday 20th October, year 11 Spanish students will be concluding their study of 'food and healthy living' with a trip to Manchester and a visit to La Bandera, to try some Spanish foods. We will also be popping into Manchester Art Museum to practice one of our exam skills (describing photos).



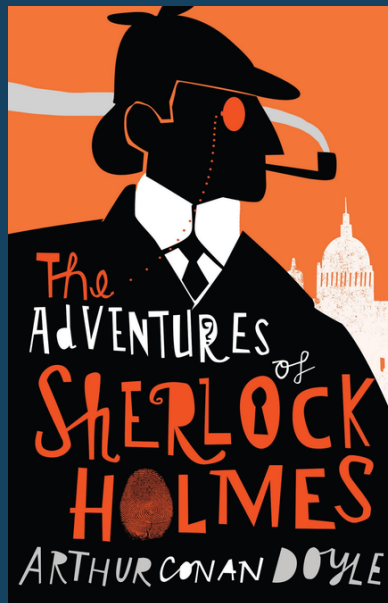
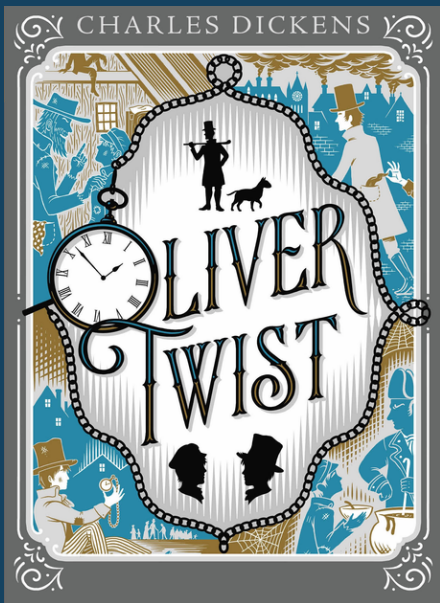
**PROUD TO
BE
KSS**



English

A message from Mr Old...

Autumn term is Victorian term for years 7-10! All students in these years are reading a Victorian text. From Oliver Twist in year 7 and Sherlock Holmes in year 8, through to A Christmas Carol at GCSE, the students are engaging well with the characters and ideas from these novels and are learning how the ideas from the 19th century have shaped the world we live in today.



Many thanks to the students who are attending and participating in after school revision and study session. A big shout out to Cameron and Chloe, who contributed brilliantly to the session on My Last Duchess.

A big shout out to the following for achieving grades on or above their targets in their most recent poetry assessment. Particularly to the following for making big improvements to their work:

Ryan, Demi, Chloe, Cameron, Cody, Amber and Tilly.



October is **walk** **into school** **MONTH**

Get involved and get active by pledging to walk to school at least once a week throughout October.

air
aware
Staffordshire

Walking to school is great for your mental and physical health and also helps the environment!

Discover more at

staffordshire.gov.uk/activeschooltravel

Staffordshire
County Council



**PROUD TO
BE
KSS**



Technology

A message from Mrs Bryan...

The students have been extremely busy being creative over the last 6 weeks. Below is a flavour of their brilliance from their technology practical lessons in the new state of the art food room.



Technology



Technology



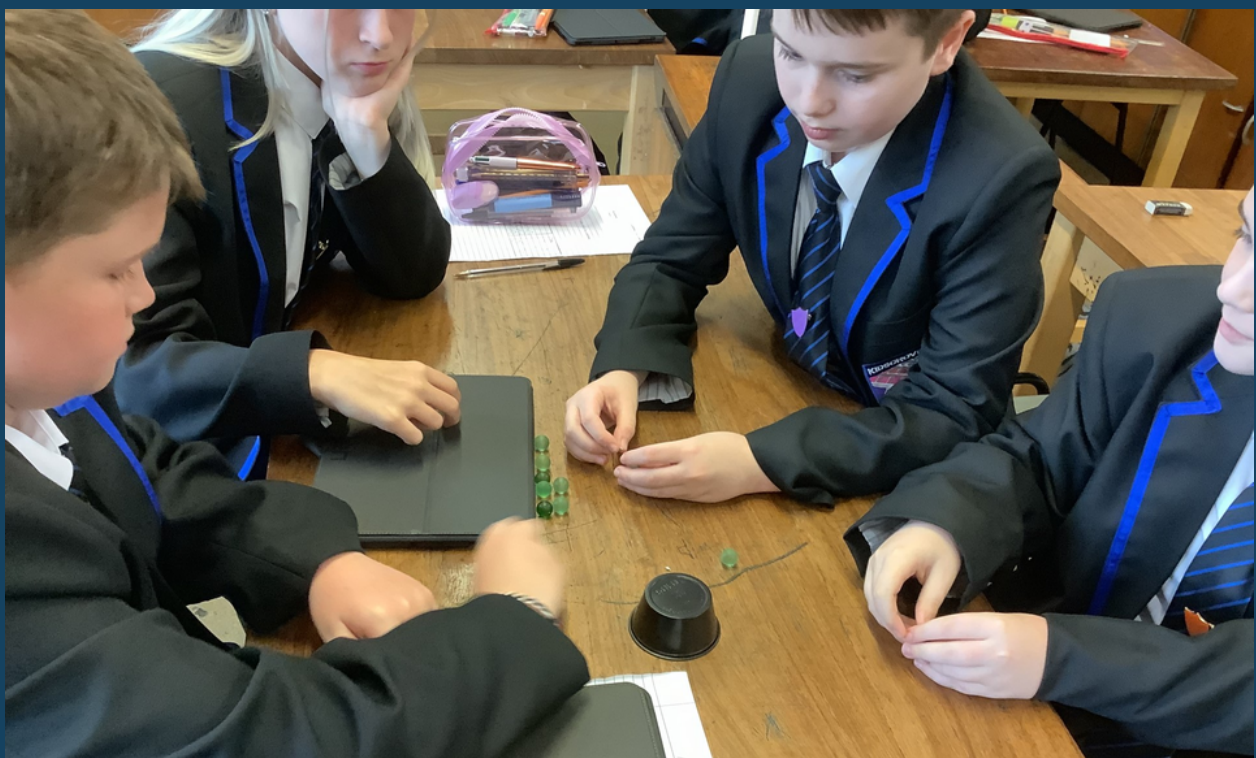
Technology



Science

A message from Mrs Grice-Lowe...

Students have been using teamwork skills to devise models to explain chemical concepts. Here are the teams showing and explaining the Particle Model with their choice of blue tack and marbles.

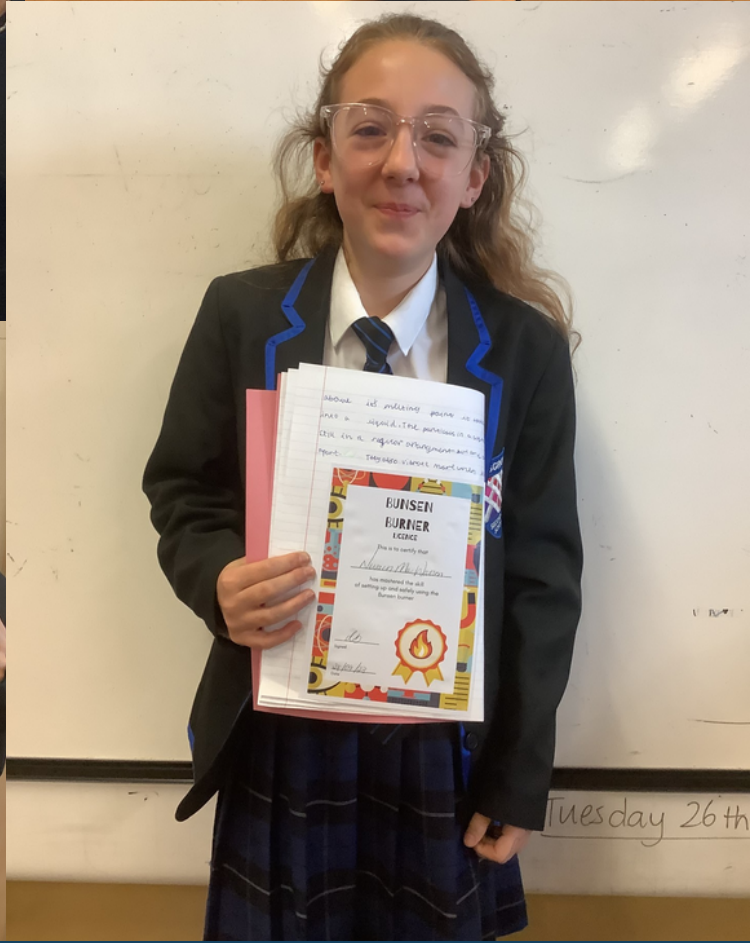


Science

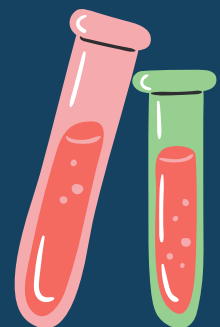
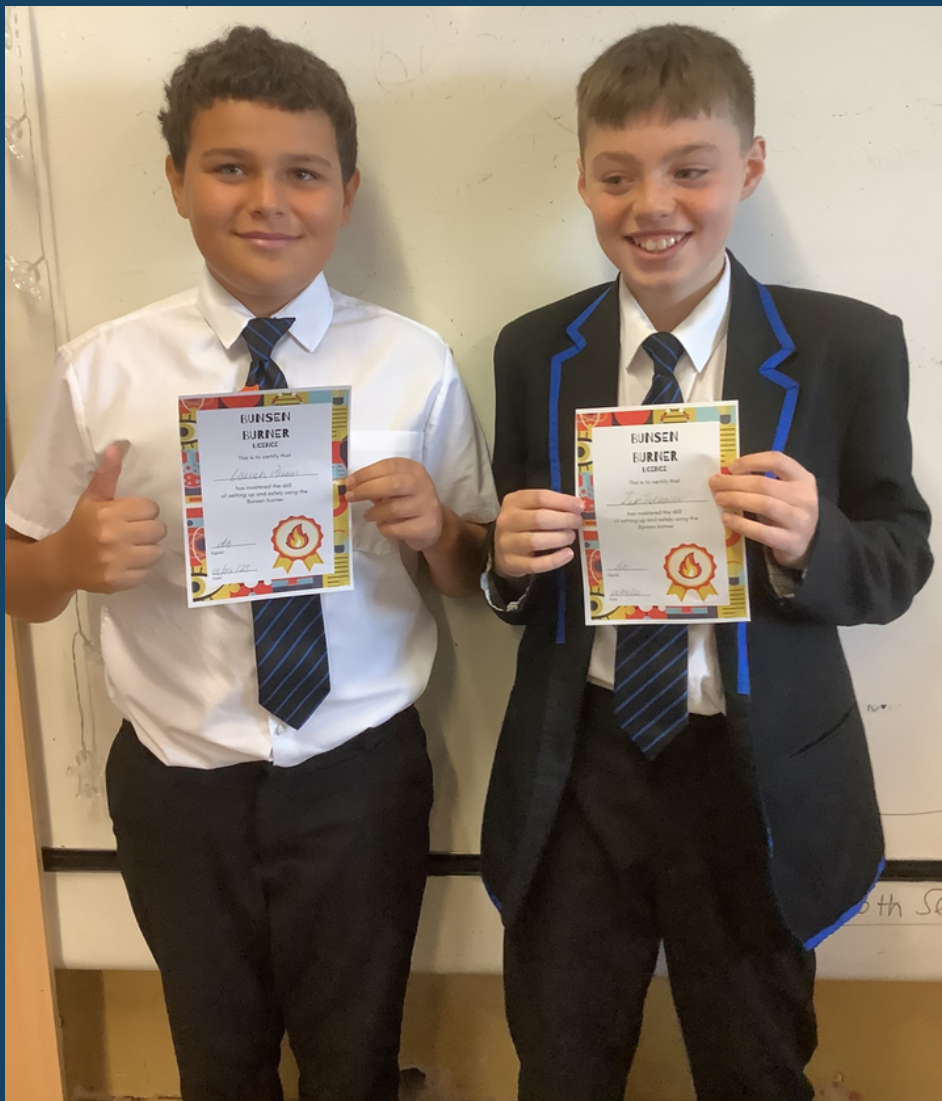
A message from Mrs Grice-Lowe...

Some great pictures of our little certificate presentation this morning in Science!

Year 7 were so proud to show off their excellent scientific and safety skills. Well done Year 7!



Science



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

10 chances to win

Help us win £100 donation prizes!

Sign up today to give us a FREE entry

Ends 15th October

One week only!



Physical Education

A message from Mrs Castrey...

Well done to our Y10 Netball team who played at a tournament at Keele University on Monday.

They played some lovely netball and demonstrated our core values superbly; especially as they were playing teams in the year above them.

A special mention to Aveah, Nevaeh, Kiera and Alesha who achieved players of the tournament!

We are very proud of you all!



Physical Education

A message from Mrs Castrey...



PE CLUBS

Tuesday



Y7/ 8 Football

Wednesday



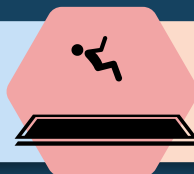
**Y9, 10 & 11 Netball
Y10 & 11 Football**

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.



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

