

HEADTEACHER BULLETIN

Friday 13.2.26

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Dear Parents/Carers,

The February half term has arrived and as always the Headteacher Bulletin is a great way to remind us of what we have achieved as a school community in only six weeks since the start of the calendar year.

You will see in the following pages of this edition that we have been very busy. I am extremely lucky to have such a committed and hardworking staff team who go above and beyond in all that they do. There is a special culture here at KSS and what is so remarkable, is how the students also appreciate everything that their teaching and non-teaching staff do to create memorable events that undoubtedly enrich each personal academic journey. This appreciation has also been supported by the recent parent/carer surveys results. The amazing feedback has made us all at KSS, feel extremely proud about the provision that we offer and how this is valued. Thank you to all parents & carers who took the time to complete the surveys.

We are delighted to share that cashless catering is coming to KSS. After the half term break, students will be registering on the 11th of March and we will launch the cashless system on the 16th of March. To support this transition we will no longer be using 'ParentPay'. As a replacement system, we will be using 'Arbor Pay' which will support the cashless process. As Arbor is our schools management and information system were are hopeful that this migration will be seamless.

Finally, the school has received national recognition for its overall student attendance and low rates of absence. This is such a tremendous achievement as we are within the top 10% of schools nationally. This is testament to the work of our pastoral and attendance team but also to the students, parents & carers. To top off this recognition, KSS also ended the autumn term as the best attended secondary school in the Shaw Education Trust.

Wishing all of our students a relaxing half term break.
A reminder that school reopens to all students on Monday the 23rd of February.

Yours faithfully,
Mr S Frost

Upcoming Events

Thursday 5.3.26 - World Book Day

Wednesday 11.3.26 - Cashless System Registration

Thursday 12.3.26 - Year 8 Parents Evening



Attendance



We are incredibly proud to share that Kidsgrove Secondary School has been recognised as a Top 10% attended secondary school in England – not just among similar schools, but across all demographics nationally.

This is a fantastic achievement and a true testament to the strength of our school community. Regular attendance is vital for student success, and this recognition reflects the shared commitment of our school community. Thank you to our parents and carers for your continued support in prioritising attendance, and to our students for showing such dedication to their education every single day.

Together, we are creating a culture where every day counts.



National School Attendance Award

2025/26 Autumn Term



Kidsgrove Secondary School

Top 10% of all FFT Secondary Schools in England



ATTENDANCE

WHOLE SCHOOL: 94.4%

YEAR 7- 96.8%

YEAR 8- 95.1%

YEAR 9 - 91.7%

YEAR 10- 92.8%

YEAR 11- 94.5%



NATIONAL AVERAGE: 91.9%

BEST FORM YTD: 7BJE

BEST HOUSE: Bright



COMING SOON



5TH MARCH

WORLD BOOK DAY

CELEBRATING A LOVE OF
READING

WORLD
BOOK
DAY



PROUD TO
BE
KSS



Headteacher Reward Lunch

I was delighted to be joined by the student council for this half term's Headteacher Reward Lunch. The way in which this group have demonstrated our core values this half term has been inspiring to see.

Well done to:

Archie H
Caleb P
Finn T
Elsie D
Cassidy W
Willow J
Fallon B
Joe S
Zara Mae B
Amy B
Giancarlo C
Logan GB
Ella-Jean M



Yr 8 Parent/Carer Feedback



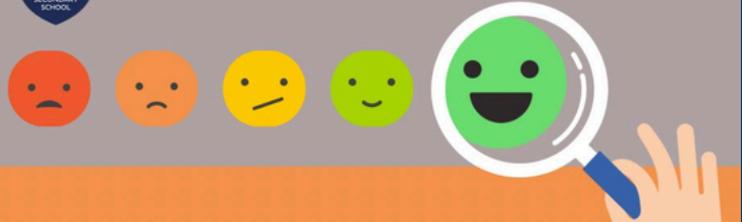
YEAR 8 PARENT VOICE



98% STRONGLY AGREE OR AGREE THAT YOUR CHILD FEELS SAFE AT SCHOOL



YEAR 8 PARENT VOICE



94% STRONGLY AGREE OR AGREE THAT YOUR CHILD IS TAUGHT WELL AT THE SCHOOL



YEAR 8 PARENT VOICE



95% STRONGLY AGREE OR AGREE THAT THE SCHOOLS DEALS WITH BULLYING EFFECTIVELY



YEAR 8 PARENT VOICE



96% STRONGLY AGREE OR AGREE THAT THE SCHOOL IS WELL LED AND MANAGED



YEAR 8 PARENT VOICE



91% STRONGLY AGREE OR AGREE THAT THE SCHOOL MAKES YOU AWARE OF WHAT YOUR CHILD WILL LEARN

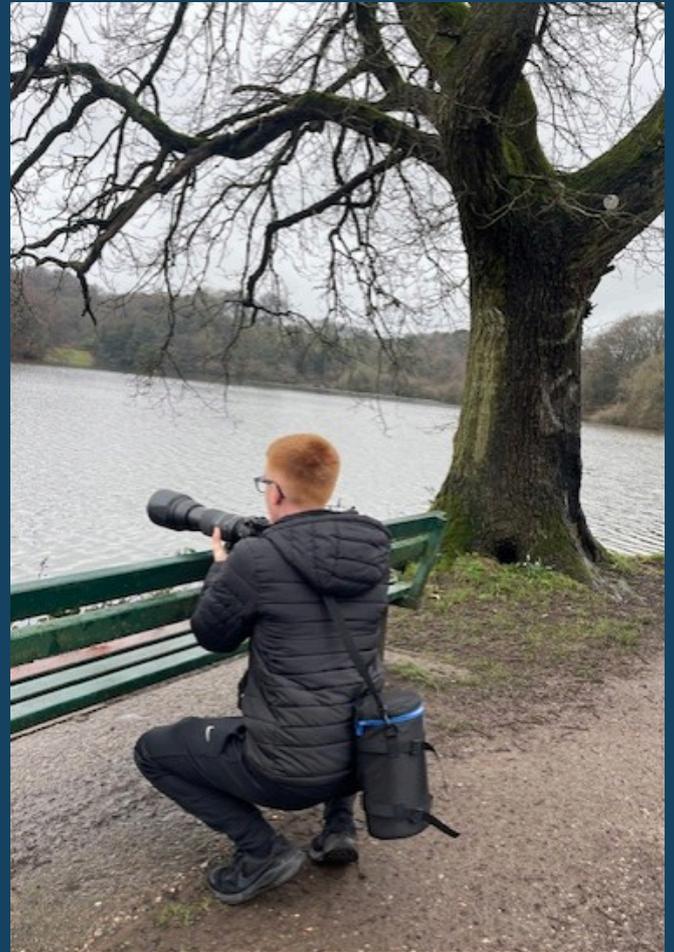


PROUD TO BE KSS



Year 11 Photography

This week we took our Year 11 GCSE Photography group to Mow Cop, Knypersley Reservoir and Chatley Whitfield as part of their exam project development. Despite challenging weather conditions, the students demonstrated excellent behavior, maturity, and real commitment to their work. They approached the trip with focus and creativity, capturing a range of thoughtful and technically strong images linked to their individual themes, including concepts such as 'isolation'. It was particularly impressive to see the determination of Lughton and Libby, who showed great perseverance in difficult conditions to achieve high-quality shots. The trip was a fantastic example of our students' resilience, independence, and dedication to producing their very best work.



Mar-Apr**EXTRA CURRICULAR ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

Lunchtime Clubs – 13.20–14.00

After School Clubs – 15.05–16.05

**MONDAY**

German Club

Open to all

Room 6

Ms Hud

TUESDAY

Performing Arts Drop In

Performing Arts Students

Room 26

Ms Wagstaff



Dance Club

Open to all

Room 26

Ms Wagstaff



Art Club

Open to all

Room 10

Mrs Mason



Running Club

Y7–10

Changing Rms

Ms Hud/Mr Hilditch

WEDNESDAY

Netball Club

Open to all

Changing Rms

Ms Hambleton



Fitness Club

Open to all

Fitness Suite

Mr Till/Mr Barker Brown



Homework and Chill

Open to all

Food Computer Rm

Miss Wright

THURSDAY

Debate Club

Open to all

Room 7

Mr Jessup/Mr Hilditch



Lego Club

Speak to Mrs Bryan for a place!

Room 1

Mrs Bryan



Music Club

Open to all

Room 26

Ms Wagstaff



Duke of Edinburgh

DofE Students

Room 6

Ms Hud/Mrs Weaver/Mr Till



Switch Club

Open to all

Room 4

Mr Frost



KS4 Coursework Catch Up

KS4

Room 10

Mrs Mason



Musical Rehearsals

Cast

Hall

Mr Gillespie

FRIDAY

Craft Club

Open to all

Room 12

Mrs Price



Chess Club

Open to all

Room 2

Mr Old



Darts Club

Open to all

Conference Rm

Mr Frost



Volleyball

Y9 and Y10

Changing Rms

Mr Till



Trampolining Club

KS3

Changing Rms

Ms Hambleton



Musical Rehearsals

Cast

Hall

Ms Wagstaff

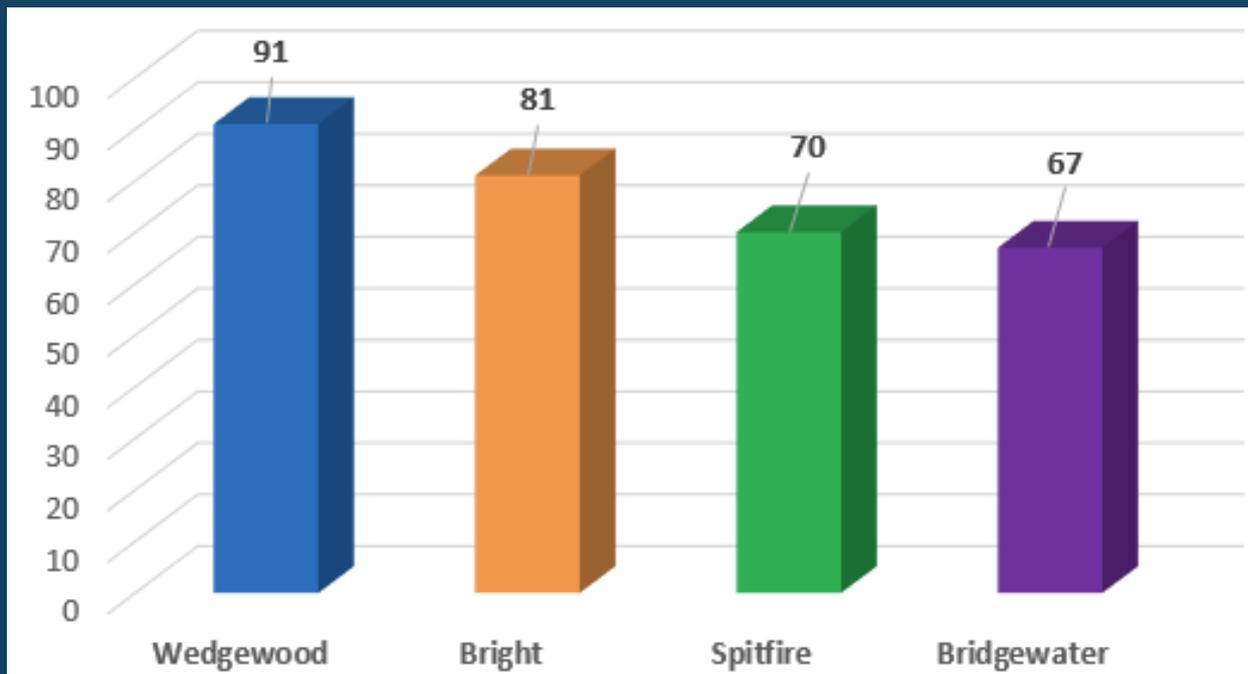
**PROUD TO BE KSS**

Shaw Education Trust

'Subject Start of the Week' Initiative

Our subject star of the week reward initiative has been in action for six weeks and we have seen a number of students recognised for their hard work in a range of subjects. Below are the top 10 students from across the school. A special mention to Ella-Jean in Year 7, who is leading the way with the most tokens this half term!

M, Ella-Jean	Year 7
B, Oliver	Year 7
J, Willow	Year 7
S, Joseph	Year 8
W, Amelia	Year 8
A, Arthur	Year 8
A, Dakota	Year 10
D, Leo	Year 7
L, Vinnie	Year 8
L, Aaron	Year 7



PARENTS EVENING INFORMATION (2025-2026)



Upcoming Events

Year 11 - 22.1.26 (4pm to 7pm)



Year 10 - 5.2.26 (4pm to 7pm)



Year 8 - 12.3.26 (3pm to 7pm)

Year 9 - 26.3.26 (4pm to 7pm)

Year 7 - 21.5.26 (3pm to 7pm)



The window for booking appointments for the parents evenings open two weeks before each event. An email will be sent to all parents/carers with detailed instructions.

'Uncertainty Experts'

Year 10 students from KSS were invited to the DoubleTree by Hilton to take part in an expense-free, multi-school workshop as part of the 'Uncertainty Experts' programme.

This exciting programme helps students build confidence in dealing with the unknown, the unexpected, and the challenging parts of life. Through interactive activities, group discussions and real-world scenarios, students developed practical skills for managing uncertainty, making decisions under pressure and coping when things don't go to plan.

The sessions focused on building resilience, flexible thinking and self-awareness. Students explored problem-solving strategies, how to manage worry, understand emotions and learn from mistakes, all essential life skills for both KS4 and beyond.

Well done to our Year 10 students your resilience, maturity and engagement throughout the session were admirable. We are very proud of you!



COMING SOON

UNCERTAINTY EXPERTS



An exciting opportunity for our Year 10 students is coming soon in 2026. An exciting and inspirational programme led by Mr Jessup in conjunction with The Shaw Education Trust and Sam Conliff (international best selling author).

The course aims are to:

- Building confidence and resilience during key transition periods (GCSEs, post-16 choices).
- Strengthening emotional regulation and reduced avoidance behaviours.
- Increasing engagement and participation in school life.
- Securing longer-term readiness for work, relationships, and self-direction.

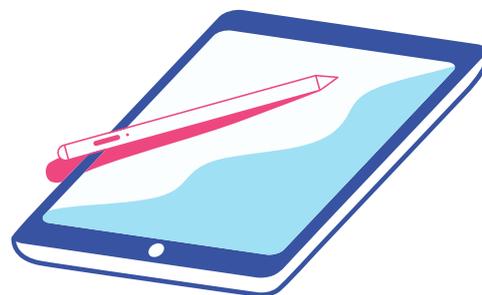
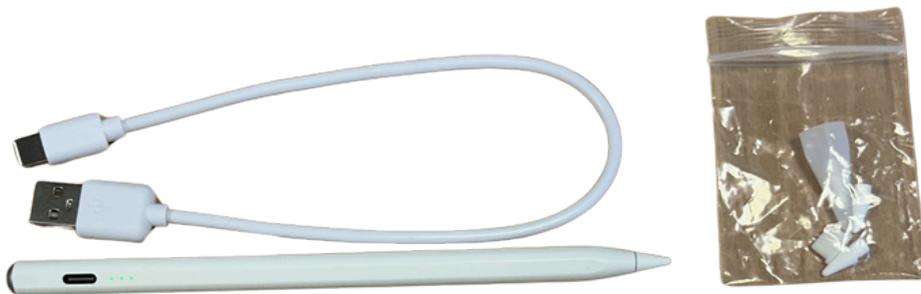
CANT WAIT



PROUD TO BE KSS



Smart Start



**£6 EACH FROM THE
STUDENT EQUIPMENT SHOP**

FROST V TILL

What a few weeks it has been for Year 8, with so many positive points being issued.

'Team Frost' won week 3 with the best attendance and the most 'Above & Beyond' tokens but Team Till won the best behaviour average.

To avoid a second straight defeat for Team Till, they had to win the weekly challenge. 'The Squeaky Chickens' challenge unfortunately saw a victory by Team Till.

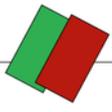
This meant that the week were are at a deadlock with the final of 'Frost v Till' today. We cannot wait to share who the overall winner is...



VS



Leader Board

Week	Attendance	Behaviour	Above & Beyond	Challenge
1				
2				
3				
4	The above categories can be won each week by the team with the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Highest average attendance - Highest behaviour ratio - The highest number of above and beyond tickets - Challenge winners 			



PROUD TO BE KSS





KSS
Inclusion Team

Breakfast Club

8.10am to 8.30am

POP ALONG IF YOU WANT
SOMEWHERE CALM TO START
YOUR DAY

📍 READING ROOM



PROUD TO
BE
KSS



Rocket League Tournament

Our Rocket League Tournament, organised and led by our fantastic Student Council, was a huge success! The event showcased impressive gaming skills, teamwork, and sportsmanship throughout.

A huge congratulations to our winners, 'Lookey Wookey FC'!

A special mention also goes to Caleb, who won the 'Top Scorer' trophy with an outstanding performance across the tournament.

This event truly reflected our LORIC values, with students showing excellent leadership, organisation, resilience, initiative, and communication from start to finish.

Well done to everyone involved.



START





COMING SOON



CASHLESS CATERING @ KSS



LAUNCH DATE:

Monday 16th of March 2026



Year 11 'Brew and a Biscuit'

Year 11 students have had an intense week with an action packed intervention programme, where students have been working on coursework and doing extra intervention work in core subjects. There have even been masterclasses in lots of subject areas. As a thank you for their efforts, Mr Barker Brown organised a cup of tea and biscuit this morning. Well done Year 11!

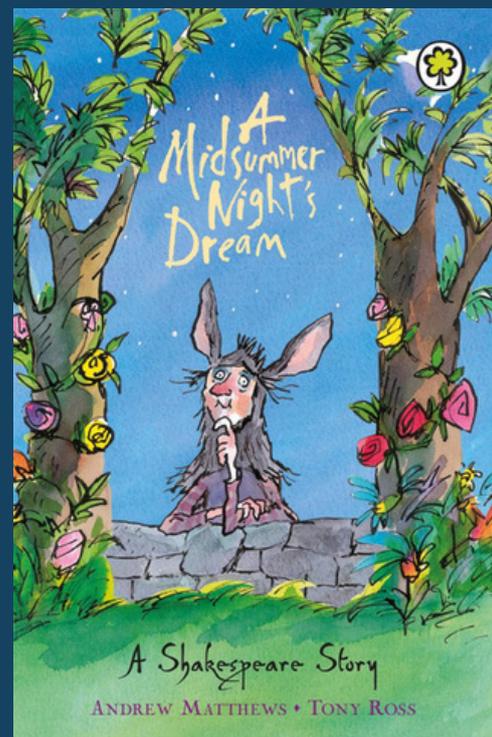
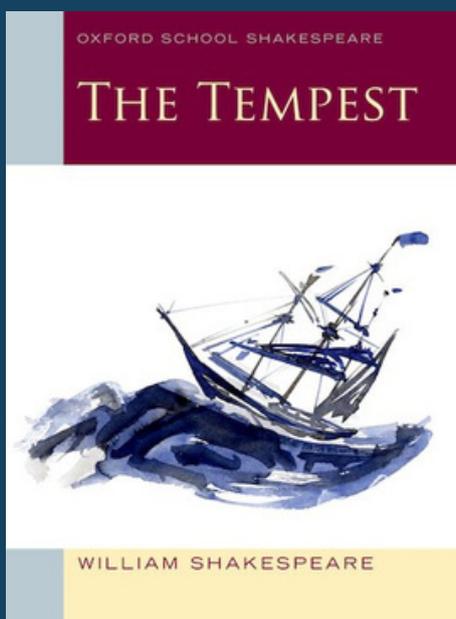
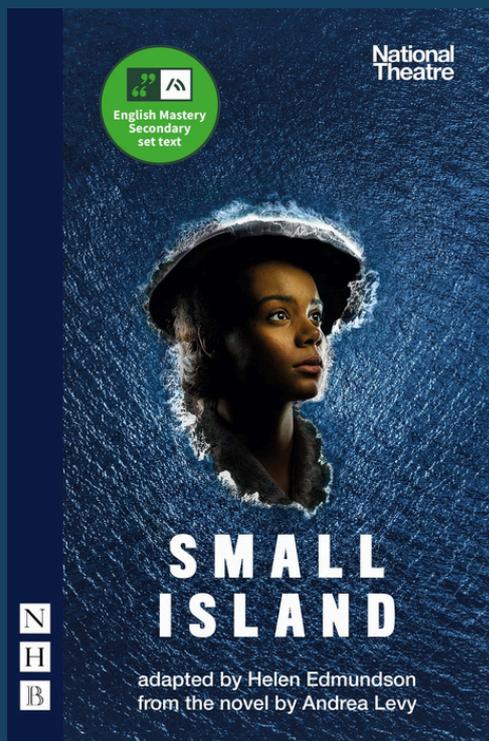


English

This half term, our KS3 students in Year 7, 8 and 9 have been engaging with drama through their English lessons, with a range of Shakespearian and modern texts.

Year 7 and Year 8 have been approaching Shakespearian comedy and tragedy with 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' and The 'Tempest' respectively, learning about different characters, genres and the historical context of Shakespeare's work.

Year 9 have been reading the modern play "Small Island" by Andrea Levy, looking at the context behind the Windrush generation, and how many Black Caribbean migrants suffered prejudice when they first arrived in the UK.



SUPER!



ATTENTION!



Can you qualify for our weekly 'Super Six' Headteacher reward breakfast?

All you need to do,
achieve as many positive points as you can
each week.



KSS Curriculum - Updates Available

At the heart of everything we do at Kidsgrove Secondary School is our curriculum, designed to inspire, challenge and support every student across a wide range of subject areas. **We have several updated curriculum maps for parents & carers to view on the website.** To help you have meaningful conversations with your child about their learning, we've made detailed curriculum information for every subject available on our website. Simply click the link to explore what your child is studying this year.

Curriculum at the Kidsgrove Secondary | Kidsgrove Secondary

CLICK HERE



UPDATE



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



Maths Department Disneyland Paris Trip 2026



Maths, Magic and Monuments: Y9 & Y10 Take on Paris and Disney!

This week, the Maths department whisked 41, Year 9 and Year 10 students off on a four-day adventure combining cultural enrichment, daring rides, and just a sprinkle of Disney magic.

Day 1 – All Aboard!

Bright and early, we set off by coach to 'LeShuttle'. The students' energy (and impeccable behaviour) made the journey fly by. On arrival at the Explorers Hotel, everyone was spoiled for choice at dinner, fuel for the excitement ahead.

Day 2 – Disneyland Dreams

After a hearty breakfast, our intrepid travellers plunged into Disneyland. First stop for many? Hyperspace Mountain – and what a ride! The day was packed with thrilling rides, dazzling parades, fireworks, and plenty of selfies with favourite characters. Even the rain couldn't dampen spirits; our students were absolute stars.



Disneyland Paris 2026



Day 3 – Hollywood Highlights

Early wake-up calls didn't slow anyone down as we hit Hollywood Studios. From Avengers Campus to Toy Story Land, and the spooky Hollywood Tower Hotel, the excitement never stopped. Bonus points were earned at the World of Disney and Lego Store, where everyone found a little something to remember the trip by.

Day 4 – Parisian Panorama

Switching gears from theme park thrills to city sights, we drove alongside the Seine and soaked up the grandeur of the Louvre, Notre Dame, and Hôtel de Ville. The grand finale? The Eiffel Tower. Every student made it to the top, some conquering personal fears along the way, proving courage abundant.

But it wasn't all rollercoasters and selfies! Students practised their French, converted Euros like pros, chose meals and snacks independently, navigated theme parks and shopped wisely. Cultural learning was woven into every moment, real-life maths, geography, language and problem-solving, all in one unforgettable trip.

We couldn't be prouder of our students. They were polite, resilient, full of curiosity, and fantastic role models for each other. This adventure was a masterclass in cultural capital, confidence, and enrichment. And let's be honest, the memories of those rides and the laughs are going to last a lifetime.



A huge shout-out to all students for making this trip so memorable, and to Mrs Frost and the staff who kept the magic going every step of the way!



To the students for contributing their photos to the newsletter



Disneyland Paris 2026



**PROUD TO
BE
KSS**



Hollywood Studios



PROUD TO
BE
KSS



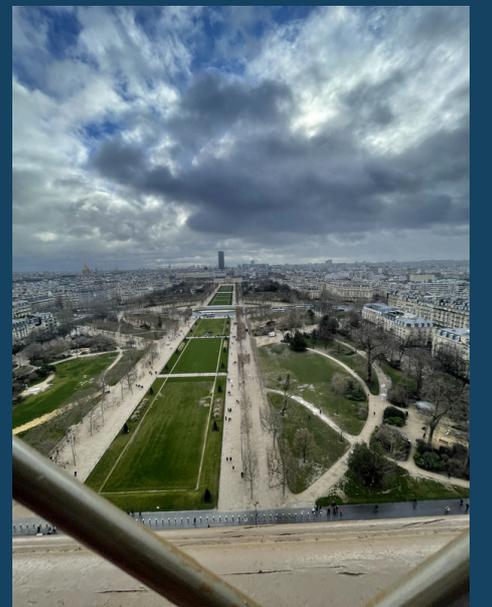
Parades, Fireworks and Characters



Parades, Fireworks and Characters



The Eiffel Tower



Attendance

KIDSGROVE
SECONDARY SCHOOL

IS YOUR CHILD FACING BARRIERS TO SCHOOL ATTENDANCE?

KIDSGROVE SECONDARY CAN HELP!

WE CAN SUPPORT YOU WITH

- Breakfast On Arrival
- Uniform
- Equipment

KIDSGROVE
SECONDARY SCHOOL

PROUD TO BE KSS

KIDSGROVE
SECONDARY SCHOOL

Shaw Education Trust

Kidsgrove Secondary School

Attendance Matters

#StopTheDrop

KIDSGROVE
SECONDARY SCHOOL

Welcome

We are delighted to share that Ms Looskan joined KSS in January as an apprentice teaching assistant. Over the course of the next few weeks, we will be introducing new additions to our fantastic inclusion team as the school continues to grow.

Below are a few words from the lady herself...

'After eight Years I am back where I completed my high school journey and I am glad to be back and excited to start my adventure.

Outside of school, I am a part of a dance troupe where I teach the youngest team.

When I am not at school, I enjoy socialising with my friends and family. I enjoy going on holidays abroad and have a caravan that I enjoy spending time at.

I can't wait to work with you all.'



welcome!





Homework club

Homework Club provides a quiet, supportive space for students to complete homework, revise, or catch up on classwork. Staff are available to offer guidance, help with organisation, and support students in developing positive independent study habits. All students are welcome.

Monday & Wednesday

3.05-4pm

LSC



See Miss Tucker for details

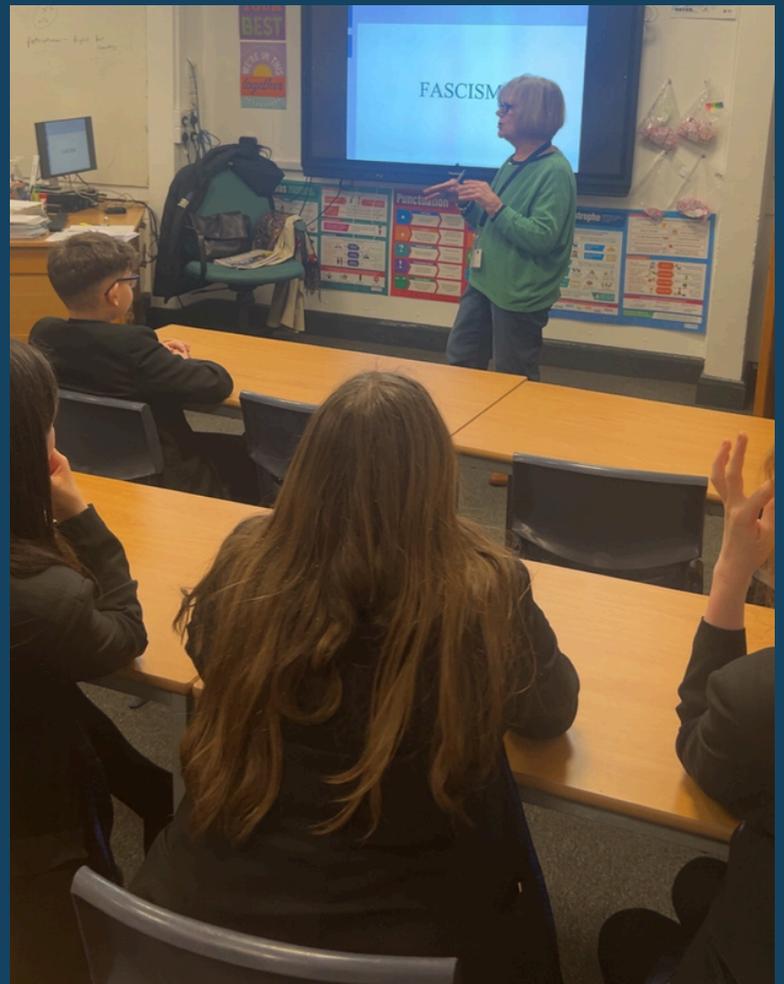
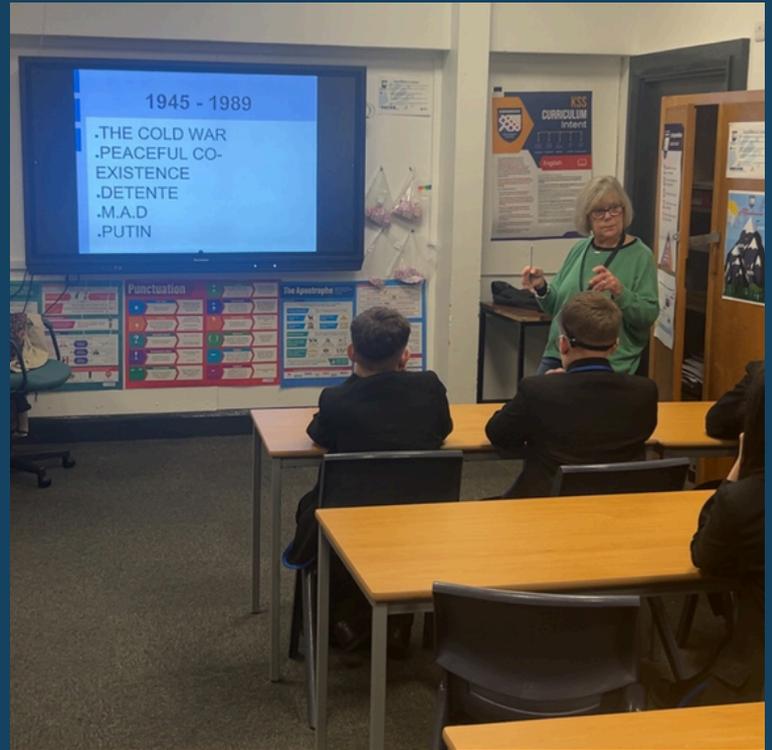


**PROUD TO
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KSS**



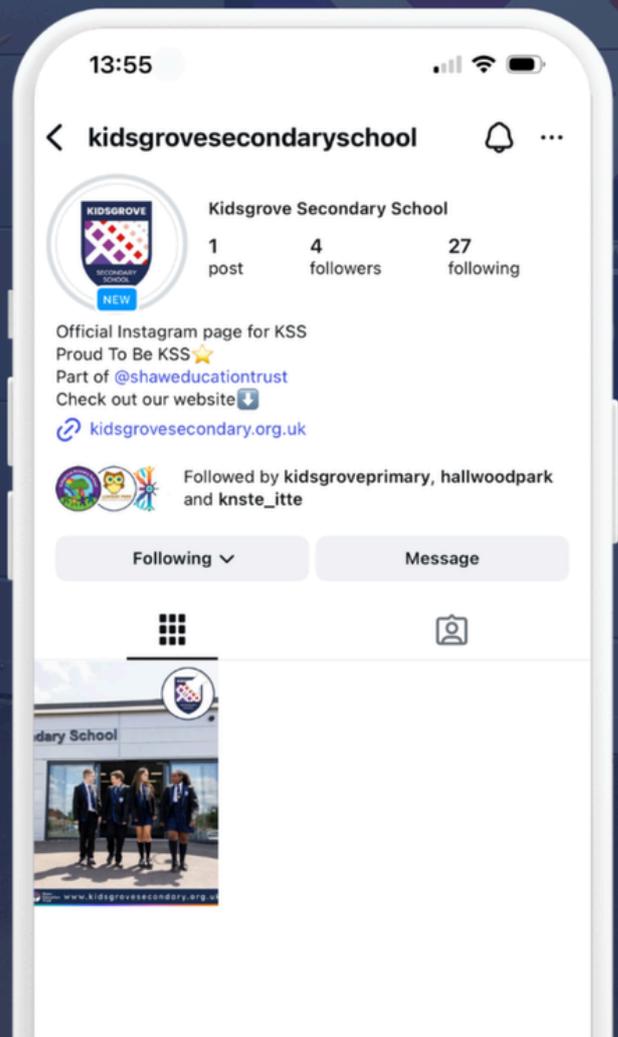
KSS Lecture Programme

Kidsgrove Secondary School hosted its third and final after-school lecture today, welcoming Dr Pauline Elkes from Staffordshire University. Dr Elkes delivered a powerful and thought provoking session on the Holocaust and fascism, exploring how these historical events continue to shape and influence the world we live in today. It was an important and deeply meaningful lecture that encouraged reflection and discussion. Mr Jessup expressed how extremely proud he was of the students' engagement, insight, and maturity throughout the session. Well done, KSS!



WE'RE NOW ON INSTAGRAM!

FOLLOW US @KIDSGROVESECONDARYSCHOOL



Debate Club

Our brand-new Debate Club, led by Mr Jessup and Mr Hilditch, has officially got going and what a way to start!

KSS students took part in their first official debate, tackling the bold motion:

“US President Donald Trump should be granted the territory of Greenland.”

Students argued for and against, showing brilliant critical thinking, confident speaking and respectful challenge throughout. The discussion was lively, thoughtful and exactly what Debate Club is all about.

A fantastic start — we can't wait to see where the next debates take us!



OUR ENRICHMENT CLUBS YOU'RE MOST WELCOME

ARE YOU SPORTY?



🏆 Get active, get fit, and show off your skills!
Football, Netball, Trampolining, Fitness Club and Dance Club

ARE YOU A CREATIVE GENIUS?



🎨 Create. Perform. Shine.
Open Art Studio, Crochet Club, Performing Arts Drop In,
Music Club



STRATEGIC THINKER



♟️ Think fast. Play smart. Have fun.
Board Games, Chess Club, Darts Club, Lego Club



KNOWLEDGE SEEKER



📖 Feed your brain and flex those intellectual muscles!
Debating and Politics, Science Support Club, Duolingo Club,
Coursework and Chill



PEOPLE PERSON

LET'S GO

ADVENTURE

🌍 Discover yourself while you discover the world.
🌟 Switch Club, Duke of Edinburgh, Health and Social

For more details, see your form poster in your classroom

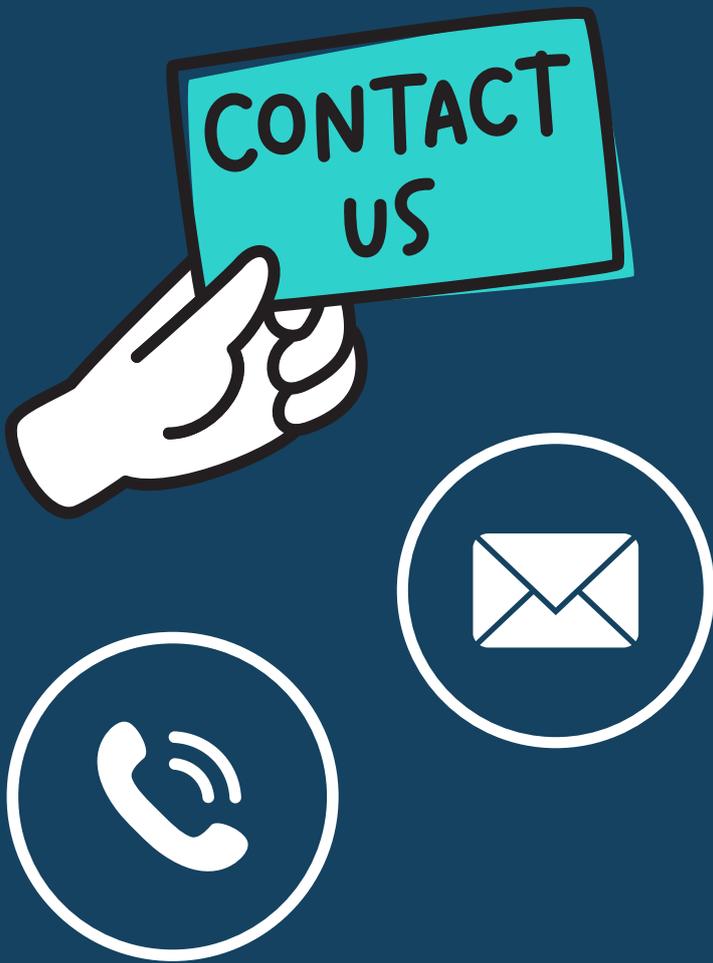
Science

Year 8 students wanted to know why the fine features of some statues, made of limestone, are lost after years of being outside, so we investigated!

In our topic on 'Acids & Alkalis' we investigated the reactions between acids and metal carbonates, as limestone is a metal carbonate and sometimes, rain falls as acid rain. Students compared different metal carbonates to determine which reactions were most vigorous.

Students were able to write word equations to describe their reactions.





SAFEGUARDING

Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mr. A Till

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leaders
Ms. H Potts
Mr. J Gillespie

You can speak to ANY member of staff in school.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO REPORT A CONCERN



INCLUSION - SENDCO
MS. K HAMBLETON



SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYBODY'S RESPONSIBILITY



Kingsgrove Secondary School

Ways of contacting us

-  Reception: 01782 948250
-  Miss Potts on the attendance line by pressing the relevant option via the school telephone number
-  parentsupport@kss.set.org
(this is checked continually throughout the day and into the evenings), this is for any pastoral or attendance related queries or support that you may require.
-  communications@kss.set.org
(this is checked daily). This is for upcoming events, trip queries, term dates and administration queries.
-  kim.hambleton@kss.set.org
for any SEND queries or concerns



PROUD TO BE KSS



House Points

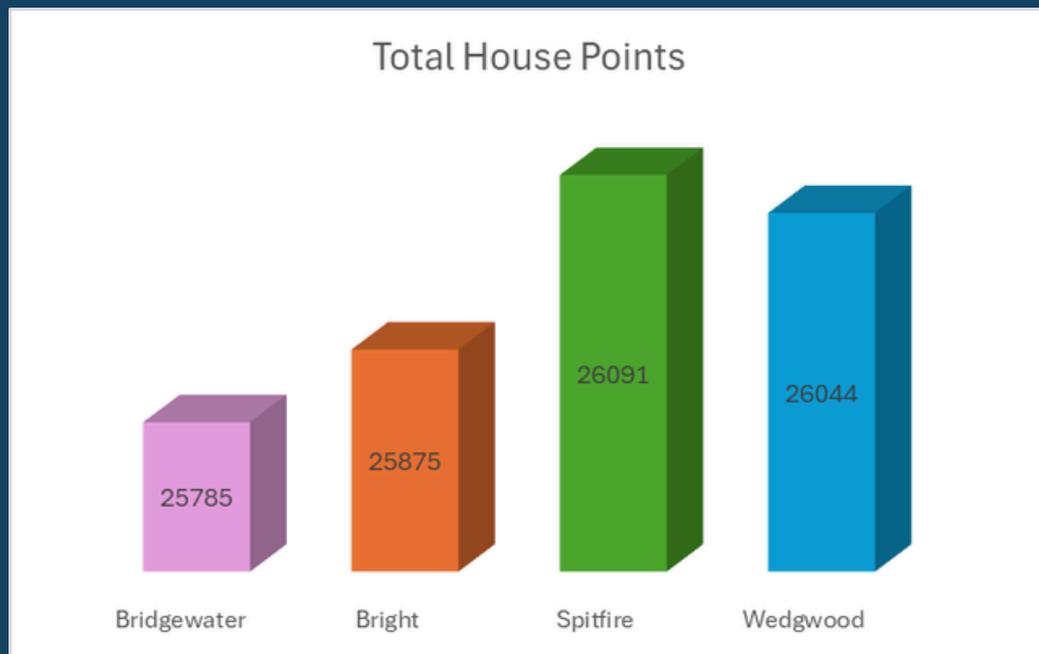
The House system continues to play an important role in recognising student effort, achievement, and contribution across Kidsgrove Secondary School. House points are awarded for positive behaviour, strong effort in lessons, participation in school life, and demonstrating the school's values.

The latest House Point totals are as follows:

- Spitfire: 26,091 points 
- Wedgwood: 26,044 points 
- Bright: 25,875 points 
- Bridgewater: 25,785 points
-

This remains an extremely close competition, with just 306 points separating all four houses. ● Spitfire currently lead the standings, closely followed by ● Wedgwood, with ● Bright and ● Bridgewater also well within reach. The narrow margins highlight the consistent effort and positive contributions being made by students across all houses. Every lesson, every act of kindness, and every example of excellent effort contributes to the overall totals.

With the competition so close, every point awarded will make a significant difference as the houses continue to compete for the top position.





At KSS our students come first and to enable them to be the best version of themselves, we offer a wide range of support!
From a bagel as they enter the building, to providing equipment and mental health support.

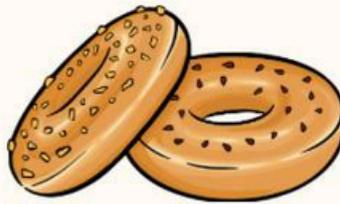


Support at KSS

"If you do enough small things right,
Big things can happen!"



Uniform bank



Breakfast
bagels



Equipment
shop



Free sanitary
products



Mental health
support

