

HEADTEACHER BULLETIN

Friday 13.9.24

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Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a fantastic start to the academic year and although we are only two weeks in, it's been an action packed start to 2024-2025.

The Year 11 students have already enjoyed an amazing trip to Munich, Year 7's have settled in brilliantly to KSS life, Year 10 have started their GCSE studies with a real drive and purpose, with Years 8 and 9 maturing well into their respective year groups.

Over the next few weeks we have lots more events planned, with an Inspector Calls theatre visit, a Spanish trip and a Salford Keys Humanities visit, all to enhance GCSE studies.

We have a our exciting enrichment programme starting from Monday the 16th of September. There are a range of clubs that your child is free to join from 3.05 to 16.05 daily. We hope to see lots of students attending these sessions and more information can be found within this bulletin.

I am delighted to share that the new year has seen a great start to our whole school attendance drive. Ms Potts has been delighted with the early signs and we are looking forward to continuing our excellent record of being well above the national attendance average each week.

Thank you to all of our Year 7 parents/carers who have completed our recent parental survey regarding how your child has settled into life at KSS. We are delighted to know that your child is enjoying school and that they feel supported in what can be a daunting transition. We have looked at the feedback that you have provided and as a result we have formed a new parent email address that will hopefully further enhance our parental communication. From Monday, please email parentsupport@kss.set.org for any specific queries or information regarding your child, Mr Till has written a letter home regarding this new initiative.

Finally, thank you for your continued support and a reminder that I hold a Headteacher drop in, every Friday morning from 9.10am to 9.45am for any parent/carer that has any questions or queries.



Yours faithfully,
Mr S Frost

Upcoming Events

Wednesday 25.9.24 - Year 11 Theatre Trip

Thursday 26.9.24 - European Day of Languages

Wednesday 9.10.24 - Year 11 Spanish Trip

Thursday 10.10.24 - World Mental Health Day

Friday 11.10.24 - Year 10/11 Humanities Trip



Enrichment Activities

SEPT-OCT		EXTRA CURRICULAR ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES		
MONDAY				
After School 15.05-16.05		Science club	Y7 and Y8	Science Rm – Miss Wood
TUESDAY				
After School 15.05-16.05		Dance Club	Open to all	Fitness Suite – Ms Wagstaff
		Reading club	Open to all	Reading Room – Ms Tucker
WEDNESDAY				
After School 15.05-16.05		Drama Club	KS3	Room 26 – Ms Wagstaff
		GCSE Art and Design	GCSE Students	Room 10 – Miss Mason
		Kitchen Garden Club	Open to all	Tech – Mrs Bryan and Ms Morrell
THURSDAY				
Lunchtime 13.30-14.00		Music	Open to all	Room 26 – Ms Wagstaff
After School 15.05-16.05		Open studio	Open to all	Room 10 – Miss Mason
		Netball	Y7, 8 and 9	Changing Rm – Ms Wagstaff
		Netball	Y10 and Y11	Changing Rm – Ms Hambleton
		KS4 Football	Y10 and Y11	Changing Rm – Mr Till
		Reading club	Open to all	Reading Room – Ms Tucker
FRIDAY				
Lunchtime 13.30-14.00		Chess club	Open to all	Room 2 – Mr Old
		Pride Club	Open to all	Room 14 – Miss Ayers
After School 15.05-16.05		Trampolining	Y9, 10 and 11	Hall – Ms Hambleton
		KS3 Football	Y7 and Y8	Changing Rm – Mr Till



KS4 Reward Trip

Y10 & Y11 REWARD TRIP



FRIDAY 18TH OCTOBER



96% ATTENDANCE

LESS THAN 8 BEHAVIOUR POINTS

KIDSGROVE



SECONDARY
SCHOOL



PROUD TO
BE
KSS





Munich 2024



It was an absolute pleasure to lead a visit to Munich this week. The students were an absolute credit to us and I would like to thank the parents for supporting the school in providing the students with an unforgettable and valuable educational experience. The trip was action packed with History, Geography and Art GCSE content that will be invaluable for students as they work through their Year 11 studies.

Thank you to Mr Hilditch, Miss Potts and Mrs Weaver for joining me and supporting the students so brilliantly.





Munich 2024




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

 **PROUD TO BE KSS**  



Munich 2024



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



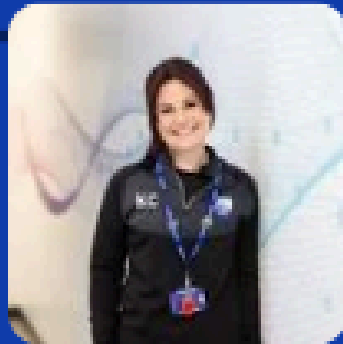
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BE
KSS**



LEARNING SUPPORT TEAM



**MEET
THE
TEAM**



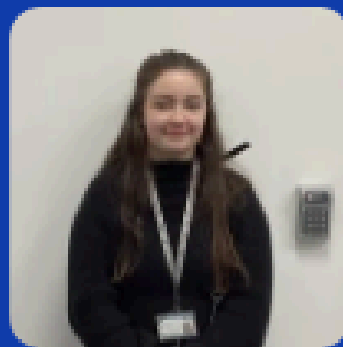
Ms Hambleton
SENDCo



Mrs Beard
HLTA



Mrs West
Teaching Assistant



Miss Tucker
Teaching Assistant



Miss Longmore
Teaching Assistant



If you feel that you need extra support in lessons or that you are struggling, please speak to one of the team.

SEND

Our goal as educators is to empower all learners, fostering an inclusive environment where every child can achieve their full potential.

Our staff are committed to supporting every child's right to an equitable and high-quality education.



If you feel that your child is struggling more than usual, and that there may be an underlying reason for this, you can make a parental referral. Ms Hambleton can then investigate this further and provide your child with the support that they need.



Year 7 - Welcome

A message from Mr Till...

Welcome to the Kidsgrove Secondary School! It has been wonderful to see the return of our new Y7 cohort following the transition week held last year. This is an exciting new chapter in your life where you'll explore new subjects, meet new friends, and discover more about yourself. While the journey may feel a little daunting at first, remember that every challenge is a chance to grow. Your teachers, classmates, and the school community are here to support you every step of the way. Embrace this fresh start with an open mind, a positive attitude, and a readiness to learn. Secondary school is full of opportunities—let's make the most of them together!

Thank you to all the parents and carers for their support and feedback in the recent Y7 survey. A copy of the pictured letter has been sent out to Y7 parents/carers that adds some clarification to some key questions.

In addition we have the newly created inbox for parental support/queries that will help streamline your communication:
parentsupport@kss.set.org

Kidsgrove Secondary School
01782 948250
communications@kss.set.org
Gloucester Road, Kidsgrove, Stoke-on-Trent, ST7
Headteacher: Mr S Frost

12th September 2024
Dear parents/ carers

Re: Feedback from Year 7 Parents

We would like to say a big thank you to those parents who have responded to our feedback questionnaire about their child's first week at KSS. We are always very open to feedback and appreciate the lovely comments about what we have done well, as well as having the opportunity to clarify some areas that are not clear.

I have compiled the most commonly raised points below and hope that this information resolves some of the questions raised.

Assessments and sets
We have completed baseline assessments in some subjects in the first week to help with our setting process. The results from these assessments will be used alongside data and information received from your child's Primary school to ensure that they are placed in appropriate sets in the coming weeks. We regularly review sets throughout the year and will communicate with you if any further set changes are needed.

Equipment
Our expectations for 'Smart start' have been communicated during the transition events and are available on the website via this link: [Smart Start | Kidsgrove Secondary](#)

iPads
There has been a delay in receiving the covers for the iPads which has meant we have been unable to issue these. We are rolling out brand new 10th Generation iPads to all students starting with Year 7 as soon as these cases are received in school but there is a supplier issue which is currently out of our hands. We hope for this to be resolved shortly.

Communication and logins
We apologise for any teething problems with communications over the last week. We have moved from SIMs to Arbor as a school and this has caused some issues that we have had to iron out. The Headteacher's bulletin is sent out every two weeks and important information emailed or text home in addition to this. If you haven't received any emails from the school please could you contact us to check we have the correct email address on file. Parent logins for ParentPay and Arbor will be sent home next week and we have now set up a dedicated email address for parents to reduce the likelihood of emails being lost in the system coming through the main school inbox. If you need to contact the school please use the email address parentsupport@kss.set.org

If there are any further questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely
A Till
Mr A Till
Senior Assistant Headteacher

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Key Dates

Autumn Term

- **Thursday 6th October**- Year 6 Open Evening
- **Friday 11th October**- Year 10/11 Geography field trip
- **Friday 18th October**- KS4 Scarefest Trip
- **Friday 25th October**- Staff INSET (School closed to students)
- **Monday 28th October**- Half Term Week (School closed)
- **Wednesday 6th November**- Year 11 Progress Evening
- **Monday 11th November**- Year 7/8 Remembrance event
- **Monday 11th November**- Year 11 Mock exams (2 weeks)
- **Friday 15th November**- Children in Need (Non-Uniform)
- **Monday 25th November**- Year 7-10 Assessments (2 weeks)
- **Wednesday 11th December**- Headteacher Reward Lunch
- **Thursday 12th December**- Year 11 Mock Result Meetings
- **Tuesday 17th December**- Christmas Showcase & Christmas Dinner.
Christmas Jumper Day
- **Wednesday 18th December**- Year 7/8 rewards trip
- **Thursday 19th December**- Year 9/10/11 reward trip
- **Friday 20th December**- Staff INSET (School closed to students)



Uniform Expectations

As we enter the new academic year, we would also like to remind parents, carers and students of the messages delivered at the end of last academic year in preparation for 2024-2025.

We are extremely proud of our high expectations around uniform and

Mr Till wrote to all parents/carers about the equipment and uniform guidelines that are in place from September. Below is a visual reminder of the uniform expectations:



School blazer (Blue trim and new school logo for all year groups).

Blue and black stripe tie for all year groups.

Plain white long or short sleeved with a stiffened collar, top button and capable of taking a tie.

Tailored, black with waistband and zip. The trousers must be of normal length, without decorations. Tight fitting, low cut, jeans or 'jean style' trousers are not acceptable.

Black socks.

Black low-heeled shoes, enclosed at the heel and toe. No boots, trainers, canvas pumps or logos.



Uniform Expectations



School blazer (Blue trim and new school logo for all year groups).

Blue and black stripe tie for all year groups.

Black V-neck school jumper (optional).

Tartan skirt (alternative to trousers) - on the knee or slightly below allowing for 2 cm growth. Worn without belt.

Black socks or black or neutral-coloured tights. Socks are not to be worn above the knee.

Black low-heeled shoes, enclosed at the heel and toe. No boots, trainers, canvas pumps or logos.



KIDSGROVE SECONDARY ATTENDANCE



**WHOLE SCHOOL
YEAR TO DATE:
95.4%**



BEST FORMS

7CH - 99.2%



8NM - 97.7%

BEST YEAR GROUP

Y7 - 97.8%



FOLLOWED BY Y8 - 97.4%

BEST HOUSE



BRIDGEWATER

KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED!



**OCTOBER
ATTENDANCE
REWARD!**

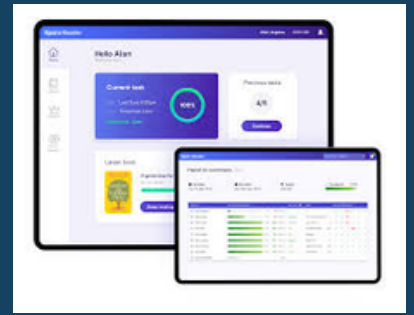
Kidsgrove Secondary School
Attendance Matters

#StopTheDrop



English

Sparx Reader



Sparx Reader is up and running from Monday 16 September.

Sparx Reader is an engaging and supportive platform in which pupils can develop their reading and literacy skills, with the options to change text and background colours, enlarge the text and check the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary. By developing these skills, we can ensure our pupils develop the necessary life skills to function and be successful adults.

All students are expected to complete at least 300 Sparx points per week, which roughly equates to 30 minutes of focussed reading. Last year, the highest number of points was achieved by Sophie E with over 74,000, which equates to an impressive 125 hours of reading across the academic year.

Let's see who can beat that score this year!

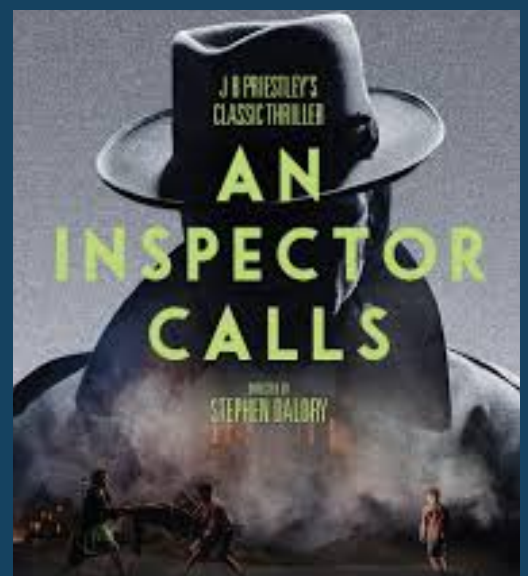
Regent Theatre Trip

The English department is pleased to announce the date of its first theatre trip of the year.

We are booked in to see An Inspector Calls at The Regent Theatre in Hanley.

Wednesday 25 September at 2pm.

Places, I'm afraid, are limited, so ensure you make any payments onto Parent Pay as soon as possible.



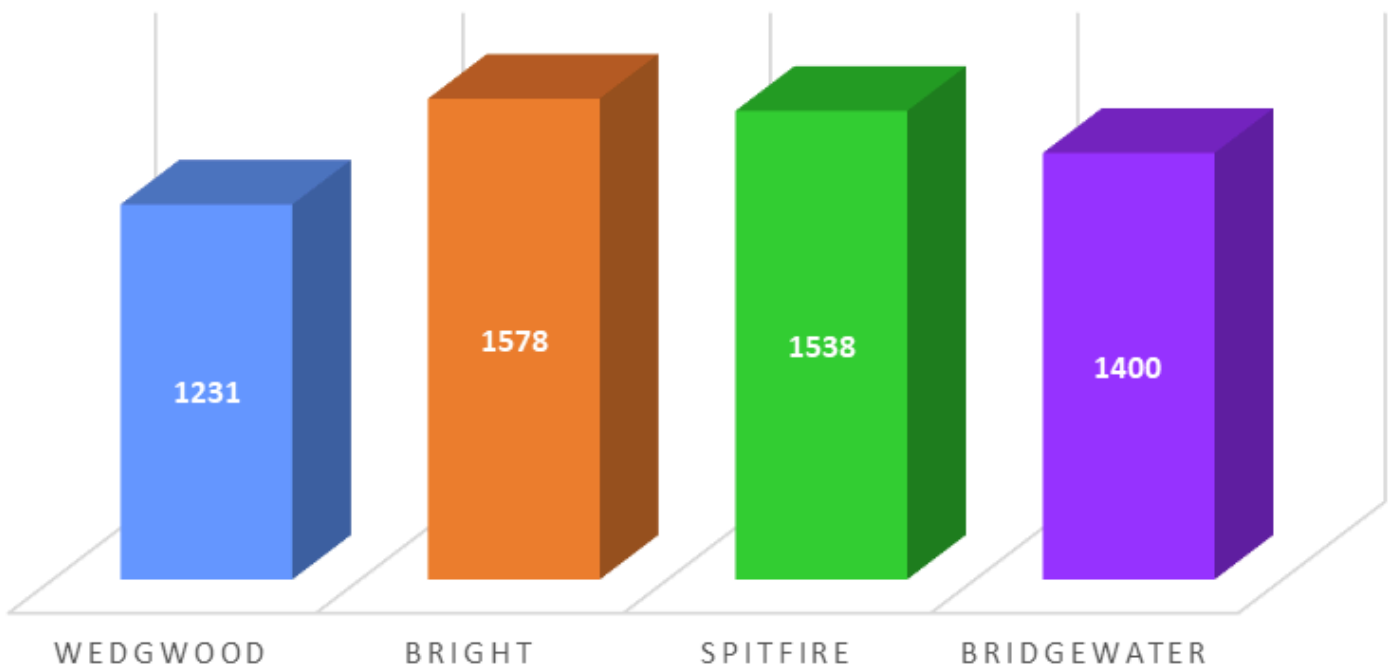
House Update



The House competition has been reset and all points went back to zero at the start of the term.

Students have made a great start and the totals so far are as follows...

TOTAL HOUSE POINTS



CORE VALUES



Maths

We have had a wonderful start to the term in the Maths department this week.

Year 7 have started to look at methods of calculating and have made an excellent start getting used to expectations of maths work at secondary school! We have been very impressed so far year 7, keep it up!

Year 8 have started the term by reviewing work on fractions, decimals and percentages in order to look at percentage change and how we can work out things like discounts and interest. Students have been exploring how to do this mentally as well as efficiently using a calculator.

Year 9 have also started with a number theme and have been reviewing percentages in order to look at reverse percentages finding out how things like how much something would have cost before a discount has been applied.

Year 10 are making an excellent start to the GCSE course and will be reviewing key areas of maths and learning more about exam-style questions and techniques whilst building on the knowledge from key stage 3.

We are so pleased to see year 11 come back and make such a positive start to their exam year. We have lots of opportunities coming up for students to really push themselves in the run up to mock exams and beyond and to support them in achieving the best grades they can. Look out for emails about masterclasses, intervention sessions and more!





KIDSGROVE SECONDARY SCHOOL



OPEN EVENING THURSDAY 3RD OCTOBER

5.00pm-7.30pm

Presentation in the
main hall at 5.30pm
and 6.30pm



01782 948250
communications@kss.set.org



Science

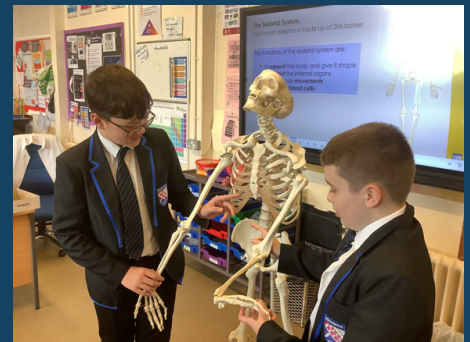
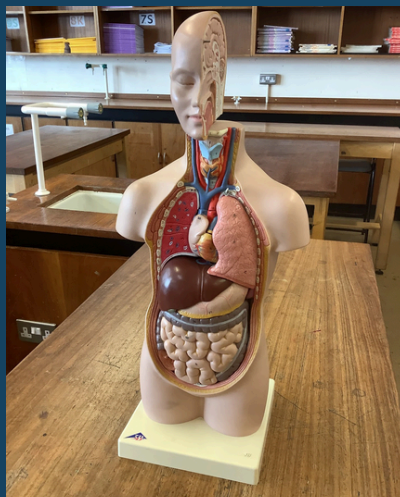
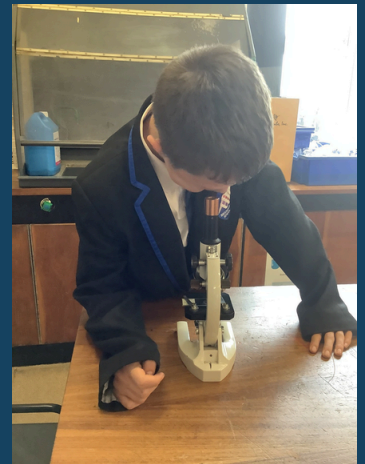
What a fantastic first few weeks we've had in Science, the year really has started with a bang with all these wonderful practical lessons!

Year 7 have started to explore the world of Biology and looking at Cells. We've also been learning how to ask scientific questions and what proper investigations look like.

Year 8 have learning about the muscular and skeletal systems, using our very own Science mascots, Gerald, Fred and Carl! We've even investigated muscle strength, using our previous knowledge of forces and new found understanding of these body systems.

Year 9 have entered the realm of microbiology, refreshing themselves on their microscope skills and even practicing aseptic technique with the agar plates.

Our KS4 students are recapping previous concepts and getting organised to begin their GCSE course new topics. Its wonderful to see the students in Science after their well deserved break away and look forward to an exciting year ahead!




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

 **PROUD TO BE KSS** 


Student Council

The students voted for their form group student council representatives in the first week of the new academic year.

We are delighted to share the nominated student council members for 2024-2025 below.

Well done to everyone nominated and I am looking forward to working with you all.

KSS STUDENT COUNCIL 2024-2025

7CH – JOSEPH S AND ESME B

7EPR – ZAYN K AND KYRA G

7BW – BLAKE S AND HARRISON B

8NM – JOSH B AND ANGEL W

8TM – TOMMY MC AND RILEY B

9KH – ISAAC B AND FINELY S

9SM – ISABELLA P AND ZARA B

10MH – PHOEBE S-L AND REECE J

10SB – TOMMY D AND SOPHIE E



Spanish

Year 8's are going to be learning about food this term. As well as learning to give their opinions on food, and talk about what they eat, ate and are going to eat, they are going to learn how to be in a restaurant/ cafe in Spain.

As an introduction, we looked into Spanish customs relating to food.

LA COMIDA

FOODS IN SPANISH

La fresa → Strawberry

Pizza → Pizza

Ice-cream → helado

Apple → La manzana

la hamburguesa → burger

Es Comida Española

la fresa el arándano

la piña la sandía

la manzana la uva

la naranja el limón

la cereza

Thursday 5 September
what is Spanish cuisine?

Engage 1. a ✓
2. c ✓
3. c ✓
4. I like to eat ✓
b Everyday I eat ✓
c yesterday I ate ✓
d tomorrow I'm going to eat ✓

Spanish foods:
paella pisto **causa**
coffee with lots of hot milk **riaxa**
toasted style Spanish bread

Breakfast - 7-9 am **Desayuno** (Breakfast) 6-8 am
Lunch = 2-3 pm **Almuerzo** (2nd Breakfast) 11 am
dinner = 10:00 pm **comida** (lunch) 2-3:30 pm
Siesta (lunch) 1-3 pm
merienda (brunch) 6-7 pm
cena (dinner) 10-12 pm
fiestas 12 pm

me gusta la paella.
me encanta la tortilla
odio el gazpacho
me gustaría probar el jamon
no me gusta patatas bravas
me encantan los churros

churros	Jamon	no me gusta
Paella	patatas bravas	gaspacho
odio	me gusta	merienda

This year I am going to try harder in Spanish because I want take Spanish GCSE's

Juues el 5 de septiembre

What is Spanish cuisine

1 a ✓
2 c ✓
3 c ✓
4 a I like eating
b Everyday I eat
c yesterday I ate
d tomorrow I'm going to eat.

5 I I like - Me gusta
I love - Me encanta
I hate Me odio

Spanish foods

causa **Spanish** **rioja**
gaspacho **chirato** **takeaway**
pollo al ajillo **paella** **horilla**
pisto **gambas al ajillo** **patatas**
gambas **ajillo**
pisto **gambas** **ajillo**
patatas **gambas** **ajillo**

Don't switch your fork the fork stays in your left hand

Me gustaria probar paella.

Me no gusta la tortilla

Me no gustaria probar gaspacho

Odio jamon

me gustan

Me encantan los churros

paella	me gustaria probar	paella
merienda	patatas bravas	merienda
me encantan	churros	churros

I feel good about Spanish this year
This year I'm going to get better at presenting

comida

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

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Shaw Education Trust

Attendance



IS YOUR CHILD FACING
BARRIERS TO
SCHOOL ATTENDANCE?

**KIDSGROVE SECONDARY
CAN HELP!**



**WE CAN
SUPPORT
YOU WITH**



- Breakfast On Arrival
- Uniform
- Equipment
- Transport
- School Meals



Kidsgrove Secondary School

Attendance Matters

#StopTheDrop



Fundraising

On the first day of the Summer holidays, Mrs Postlethwaite took part in a Marathon walk in the Peak District to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer support. Macmillan is close to many of our hearts here at KSS and we have put the donations for our two recent non-uniform days towards this charity.

Together, we raised an amazing **£365.31** for Macmillan which was added to Mrs Postlethwaite's other fundraising amount to bring the grand total to **£1144!**

The walk ended up being a whopping **44.4km (27.6 miles)** and took 8 hours and 21 minutes. The total step count was 57,274!

A huge thank you to all students who donated to this amazing cause via the non-uniform days.

Look out for further information about our 2024/2025 charity work coming soon.



I did the Peak District Mighty Hike

www.macmillan.org.uk/mightyhike

