

# HEADTEACHER BULLETIN

Friday 15.11.24

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

Dear Parents/Carers,

The second half term is well under way. We are well into the mock examination window and the Year 10 to Year 7 performance assessments start very soon. It is really pleasing to see that attendance has improved this half term and the school is in the top 20% of all schools nationally, which is really pleasing. We know that attendance is the biggest barrier to student progress, so to see so many students with excellent attendance makes us very proud.

Thank you for all of your support with ensuring that your child has positive attendance especially during the assessment period as its vital that assessments are not missed.

Over the course of the last two weeks there have been a number of key events that have taken place that we are celebrating within this edition of the bulletin.

These include the fantastic Year 11 progress event, the Year 7 form tutor evening and the remembrance event that both had excellent turnouts. We never take for granted the support that our parents/carers give to the school & its amazing to see an 85% turnout for the Year 11 progress event and 90% for the Year 7 event.

As we enter the final half of the term, we have so much to look forward to once the important assessments are completed.

The Year 11 mock results meetings will take place so that we can support students with their final run in to the summer exams. We also launch the '12 Days of Christmas' attendance initiative and Miss Potts has been working hard to secure some amazing prizes for students with 100% attendance from the 29th of November to the 17th of December.

Our digital champions will be meeting with Mrs Weaver to shape the digital strategy further and we have the 'Kidsgrove's Got Talent' showcase to look forward to and the Christmas jumper day, topped off with Christmas lunch.

The final two days of the term will see the Christmas reward trips take place with a visit to Cinebowl, which is always an end of term highlight. The bar is set very high this year and we expect our students to meet this challenge to be eligible for the trip.

Finally, I wanted to take this opportunity to recognise the hard work of our wonderful staff at KSS. I can honestly say that I have never worked with such a committed and dedicated team of professionals. The culture at the school is our greatest strength and we are looking forward to sending how the culture is impacting student progress once the performance assessments are completed. In January a report will come home to you, so that you can see how your child is progressing in their subjects.



Yours faithfully,  
Mr S Frost

## Upcoming Events

**Friday 22nd of November - MP visit to KSS**

**Tuesday 26th of November - Digital Champions**

**Wednesday 27th of November - Launch of the 12 Days of Christmas**



**PROUD TO  
BE  
KSS**



# Attendance

**WOW!**

## KSS AUTUMN TERM ATTENDANCE

**Whole School = 94%**

**Year 7- 96.55%**

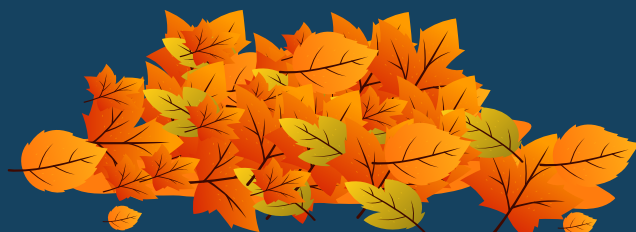
**Year 8- 93.7 %**

**Year 9- 92.5%**

**Year 10- 91.96%**

**Year 11- 93.24%**

**National Average  
Attendance: 92.6%**





# Enrichment



Kidsgrove  
Secondary  
School

## NOV-DEC

## EXTRA CURRICULAR ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### MONDAY

Lunchtime  
13.30-14.00



Science support

KS3

Room 23 – Dr Ma

After School  
15.05-16.05



Science club

Y7 and Y8

Science Rm – Miss Wood

### TUESDAY

Lunchtime  
13.30-14.00



Science support

KS3

Room 23 – Dr Ma

After School  
15.05-16.05



Dance club

Open to all

Fitness Suite – Ms Wagstaff



Photography club

KS4 GCSE

Technology – Digital Hub



Art club

Open to all

Room 10 – Miss Mason

### WEDNESDAY

Lunchtime  
13.30-14.00



Choir

Open to all

Room 26 – Ms Wagstaff

After School  
15.05-16.05



Drama club

KS3

Room 26 – Ms Wagstaff



Art club

Open to all

Room 10 – Miss Mason



Kitchen garden club

Open to all

Tech – Mrs Bryan and Ms Morrell



KS3 Football

KS3

Changing Rm – Mr Hilditch

### THURSDAY

Lunchtime  
13.30-14.00



Music

Open to all

Room 26 – Ms Wagstaff

After School  
15.05-16.05



GCSE Open studio

GCSE Art

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



Duke of Edinburgh

Y9-11

Room 7 – Miss Hud and Mrs Weaver

### 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  
Starts AFTER Assessments

All Years

Hall – Ms Hambleton

# Duke of Edinburgh



Ten students in years 9 and 10 have begun their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award this half term.

They must volunteer for 3 months, learn a skill for 3 months and take part in a physical activity for 3 months. Their favourite section is then continued for a further 3 months. They will also be completing an overnight expedition next year. We are having training sessions after-school to prepare them for this adventure.

Through the DofE programme young people have fun, make friends, improve their self-esteem and build confidence. They gain essential skills and attributes for work and life such as resilience, problem-solving, team-working, communication and drive, enhancing CVs and university and job applications.

Here are some examples of what our students will be doing:

"I've chosen to volunteer for Modern Language Club, to help students improve their language skills." – Pheobe

"I've chosen to learn the skill of e-sports because it's fun and educational." – Lighton

"For my skill, I am going to learn how to sew." – Lyla

"For volunteering, I am helping in a children's play club, to help them learn and develop". – Olivia

"For skill, I am learning to juggle to improve my hand-eye coordination." – Olivia

"For my DoE, I am learning the drums for my skill, as I enjoy playing the drums and want to learn how to properly play an instrument." – Finn



**Our first Expedition Preparation session focused around OS map skills such as grid referencing, distance and map symbols. The students did brilliantly!**



# Arbor - Student Portal

To further strengthen our information sharing with students we are delighted to have launched the newly created Student Arbor Portal. Each year group received their own assembly outlining the key features and setup. This not helps student organisation, but also develops students sense of responsibility.

The screenshot displays the Arbor Student Portal interface. At the top, the 'Arbor Student Portal' title is prominently displayed. The interface is divided into several sections:

- Header:** Includes the 'KIDSGROVE SECONDARY SCHOOL' logo and the 'Arbor' logo.
- Navigation Bar:** Features icons for Home, Notifications, My Calendar, Help Centre, and Sign Out.
- Main Content Area:**
  - Lesson schedule:** A green box containing 'Previous lesson' and 'Next lesson' details.
 

Previous lesson	Next lesson
14:05 - 15:05 Thu, 24 Oct 2024 Science (Gen): Year 7: 7k/Sc1 > Room: 23 Dr Ma	08:40 - 09:10 Mon, 04 Nov 2024 Registration (Gen): Year 7: 7kt/Rg2 > Room: 11 Mrs Hawthorne
  - Statistics:** A section showing attendance and behavior points.
 


Attendance (2024/2025)	Positive Behaviour Points - this term	Negative Behaviour Points - this term
97.3% This year: 97.3% Last 4 weeks: 92.9%	42 This year: 42 points Last term: 0 points	-6 This year: -6 points Last term: 0 points
  - Neutral Behaviour Points - this term:** Shows 0 points for this year and last term.
  - Assignments that are due:** Lists '7ks/Pe1: TEST (Due 04 Nov 2024)' with a link to 'Waiting for student to submit'.
  - My Calendar:** A list of upcoming lessons.
 

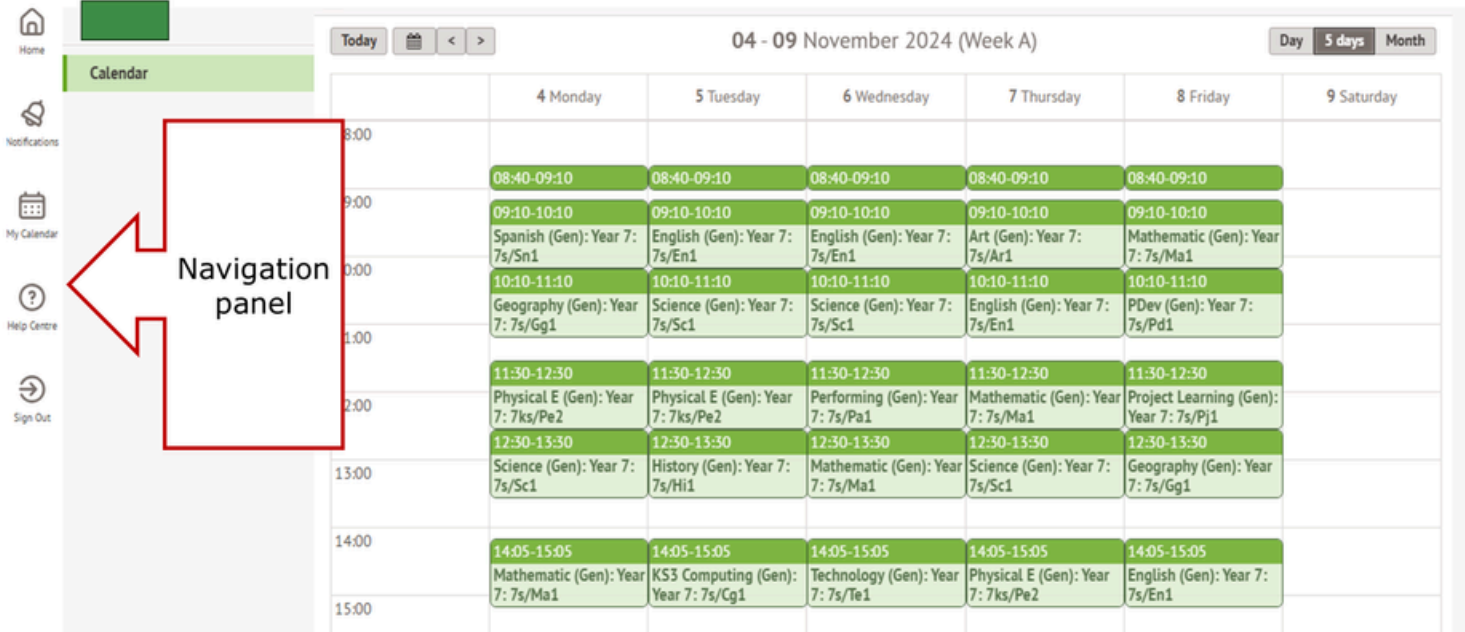
Time	Lesson
08:40 - 09:10	Registration (Gen): Year 7: 7kt... 11
09:10 - 10:10	Spanish (Gen): Year 7: 7s/Sn1 6
10:10 - 11:10	Geography (Gen): Year 7: 7s/Gg1 7
11:30 - 12:30	Physical E (Gen): Year 7: 7ks... GYM
12:30 - 13:30	Science (Gen): Year 7: 7s/Sc1
14:05 - 15:05	Mathematic (Gen): Year 7: 7s/... 14
  - My Courses:** A list of courses including Art, KS3 Computing, Geography, English, History, and Mathematic.

Red annotations highlight specific features:

- A red box labeled 'Lesson schedule' points to the 'Previous lesson' and 'Next lesson' section.
- A red box labeled 'Statistics' points to the 'Attendance' and 'Behaviour Points' section.
- A red box labeled 'Calendar' points to the 'My Calendar' section.
- A red box labeled 'Assignments/Homework' points to the 'Assignments that are due' section.

# Arbor Student Portal





The screenshot displays the Arbor Student Portal interface. On the left is a navigation panel with icons for Home, Notifications, My Calendar, Help Centre, and Sign Out. A red arrow points to this panel with the label "Navigation panel". The main area shows a calendar for "04 - 09 November 2024 (Week A)". The calendar table lists lessons for each day from Monday to Saturday, with time slots from 8:00 to 15:00. Lessons are color-coded by subject: Spanish (blue), English (orange), Art (green), Mathematics (purple), Geography (pink), Science (light blue), Physical Education (yellow), History (light green), Technology (light orange), and KS3 Computing (light purple).

	4 Monday	5 Tuesday	6 Wednesday	7 Thursday	8 Friday	9 Saturday
8:00	08:40-09:10	08:40-09:10	08:40-09:10	08:40-09:10	08:40-09:10	
9:00	09:10-10:10 Spanish (Gen): Year 7: 7s/Sn1	09:10-10:10 English (Gen): Year 7: 7s/En1	09:10-10:10 English (Gen): Year 7: 7s/En1	09:10-10:10 Art (Gen): Year 7: 7s/Ar1	09:10-10:10 Mathematic (Gen): Year 7: 7s/Ma1	
10:00	10:10-11:10 Geography (Gen): Year 7: 7s/Gg1	10:10-11:10 Science (Gen): Year 7: 7s/Sc1	10:10-11:10 Science (Gen): Year 7: 7s/Sc1	10:10-11:10 English (Gen): Year 7: 7s/En1	10:10-11:10 PDev (Gen): Year 7: 7s/Pd1	
11:00						
12:00	11:30-12:30 Physical E (Gen): Year 7: 7ks/Pe2	11:30-12:30 Physical E (Gen): Year 7: 7ks/Pe2	11:30-12:30 Performing (Gen): Year 7: 7s/Pa1	11:30-12:30 Mathematic (Gen): Year 7: 7s/Ma1	11:30-12:30 Project Learning (Gen): Year 7: 7s/Pj1	
13:00	12:30-13:30 Science (Gen): Year 7: 7s/Sc1	12:30-13:30 History (Gen): Year 7: 7s/Hi1	12:30-13:30 Mathematic (Gen): Year 7: 7s/Ma1	12:30-13:30 Science (Gen): Year 7: 7s/Sc1	12:30-13:30 Geography (Gen): Year 7: 7s/Gg1	
14:00	14:05-15:05 Mathematic (Gen): Year 7: 7s/Ma1	14:05-15:05 KS3 Computing (Gen): Year 7: 7s/Cg1	14:05-15:05 Technology (Gen): Year 7: 7s/Te1	14:05-15:05 Physical E (Gen): Year 7: 7ks/Pe2	14:05-15:05 English (Gen): Year 7: 7s/En1	
15:00						



# Attendance Advent Event

As the darker days creep in, we are rewarding all students with a free advent calendar that maintain 100% attendance throughout the month of November. This is a great example of resilience which is one of our core values, and deserving of recognition.







# CHRISTMAS REWARD TRIP

TO QUALIFY:  
NO MORE THAN 8 NEGATIVES  
NO MORE THAN 2 DAYS OF ABSENCE

THE QUALIFYING WINDOW RUNS FROM:  
11TH NOVEMBER TO 6TH DECEMBER



**DECEMBER 18TH 2024 (YEAR 7 & 8)**  
**DECEMBER 19TH 2024 (YEARS 9,10,11)**

**CINEBOWL**  
**(ICE SKATING, BOWLING, CINEMA)**



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BE  
KSS**



# Year 11 Intervention Challenge

We have been delighted by the focus of the Year 11's this term. To reward the students that attend after school interventions, we would like students to write their name on a token and pop into the intervention box outside Mr Frost's office.

Every now and again Mr Frost will empty the box and reward the students with the most intervention tokens.

Keep working hard Year 11's!

KEEP UP  
• the good •  
WORK





Join us after our Christmas Market with Go Kidsgrove for

# Kidsgrove Lantern Parade

& Christmas Light Switch On

La Piccola Pizzeria Brass Band and Carol Singers Bubbles  
Warwick's Fun Fair Staffordshire Police and Fire Mascots Candy n Carts  
Singing and Dancing Christmas Fairy

Saturday 30th November  
Meet at St Thomas' Church to set off at 4:45pm

Lantern Making Workshops are at Kidsgrove Labour Club  
16th & 23rd November 11am-4pm  
Free but donations to Go Kidsgrove welcome





# Spanish



We will soon be starting a virtual Language Learning club for students in years 7, 8 and 9.

Students can work towards their Bronze Award and receive a certificate when they achieve it. There will then be the opportunity to work towards Silver and Gold Awards too.

For each award, students have to complete a certain number of days learning independently on the duolingo app on their ipads, and a set number of challenges which will be emailed out.

Look out for an email with the start date!

# *¡GRACIAS!*





# Spanish

Standards of work in year 9 and 10 Spanish are exceptional this year. Students are being especially focused and diligent.

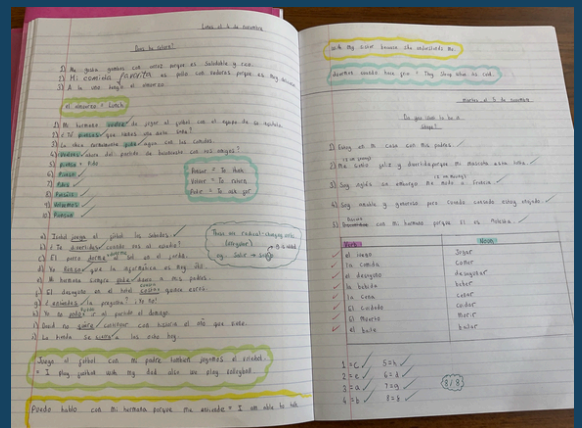
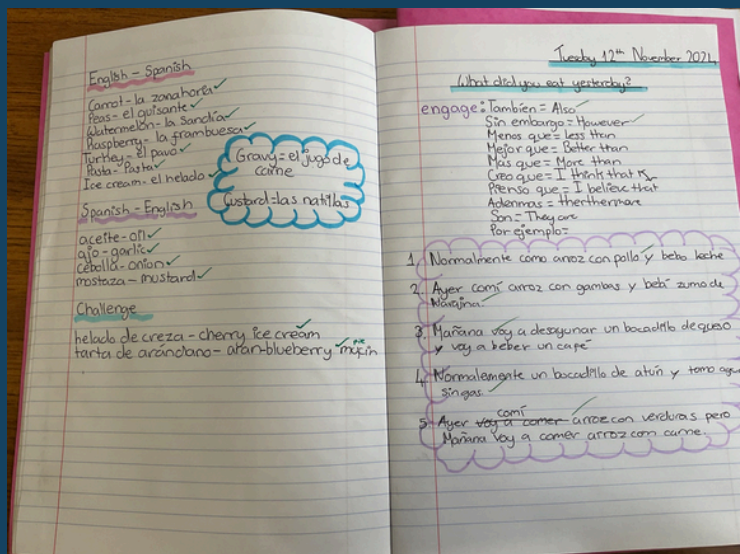
The year 10s have started a new specification. Their first topic was relationships and identity, and they are currently learning about living a healthy life.

I have been particularly impressed with their speaking, which will be tested in the upcoming assessments. Skills examined are their pronunciation in a "reading aloud" task, their ability to describe pictures in the "photo card" task, and their ability to answer questions in the "role play" task.

Year 9 have got this to look forward to next year if they choose Spanish as an option. If the standard of this year's work is anything to go by, they are going to be incredible.



Buenas tardes!



When your teacher asks you, read aloud the following text in Spanish.

Mi amiga vive en un pueblo en el campo.

Le encanta estar al aire libre.

En el futuro quiere vivir en España.

En mi región hay ciudades bonitas.

Tienen edificios interesantes, como iglesias y mezquitas.

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

KIDSGROVE SECONDARY SCHOOL  
**PROUD TO BE KSS**  
Shaw Education Trust

# Spanish

Year 11 Spanish students took a day trip to Manchester this term. We travelled by train to Piccadilly and took a scenic walk to the Art Gallery, looking at some of the different areas of a big city.

Once inside, they did a Scavenger Hunt in small groups, searching for specific pieces of Art which had been described for them in Spanish. Students had some time to practice answering Spanish questions relevant to the day, as preparing for their Speaking Mock exam.

We then went to a Spanish restaurant for lunch. Students ordered their food in Spanish and tasted traditional dishes such as tortilla. For some, it was their first time in a restaurant, so we discussed the norms and expectations.



¡POR FAVOR!







# Spanish



Buenos  
día



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BE  
KSS





# DIGITAL CHAMPIONS

Do you want to be at the cutting edge of our new iPad's?

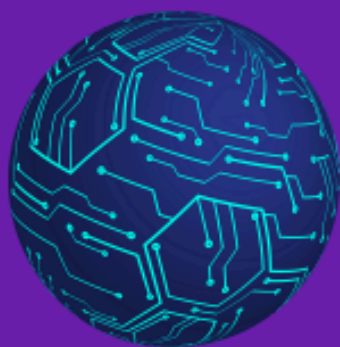
Do you have a passion for digital innovation?

Do you know the latest apps that will push students to a higher level?

Watch this space...

Mrs Weaver is forming a digital champions team.

Could it be you?



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# Science

In Science, 8S have been learning about 'pressure' and its applications.

Using their knowledge, they were able to predict and explain what would happen to a can that was heated over a Bunsen burner then quickly placed into a bowl of water... the students were surprised when the can collapsed!

Well done 8S!

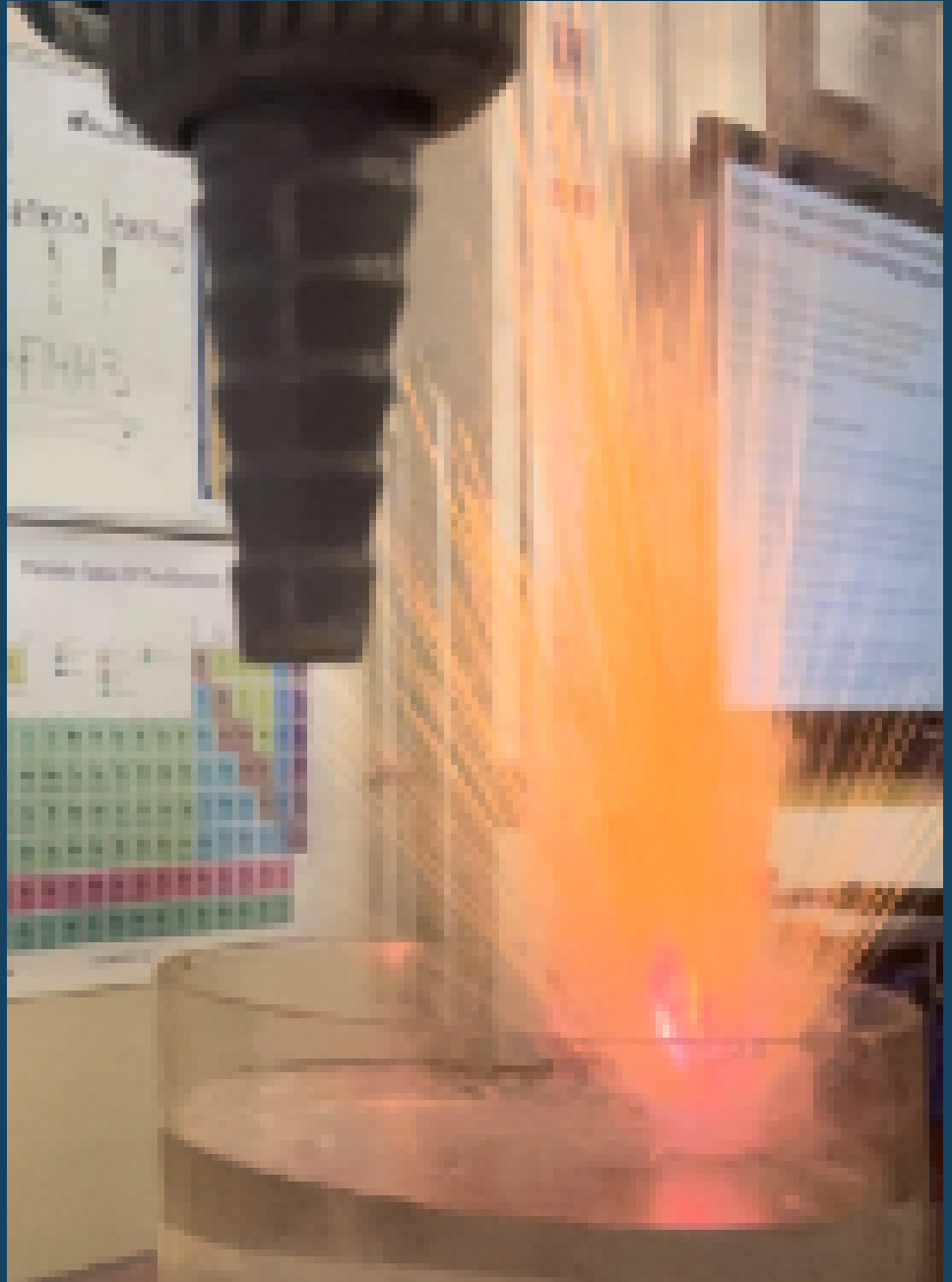


# Science

In Science, 9S have been experimenting with Alkali metals. They have been investigating the reactivity of the alkali metals when placed in water.

Well done 9S!

Wow!







# KIDSGROVE CHRISTMAS MARKET

@ Kidsgrove Town Hall

FREE  
ENTRY

SAT 30TH  
NOVEMBER

10AM  
- 3PM

**FOLLOWED BY CHRISTMAS  
LANTERN PARADE AND  
LIGHT SWITCH ON**

HANDMADE  
ITEMS

STRINGS AND SUNSHINE  
COMMUNITY UKUELE  
BAND  
CAKES AND SWEET TREATS

CRAFTS

REFRESHMENTS



**PROUD TO  
BE  
KSS**





# Year 11 Hospitality and Catering

We have been amazed in lessons at the tremendous quality of the recent hospitality and catering lessons.

Below are some images of what the students have been cooking up.

I am sure you will agree the food looks amazing!

*yum!*



**Delicious**





# Year 11 Hospitality and Catering



# Maths

Year 9 have been looking at circles in maths recently. They have been discovering the links between the circumference of a circle and the surface area of a cylinder.

As we continue this unit, we'll be calculating volume which I'm sure will be put to good use over the festive period when working out how many sweets fill a tub of celebrations or how many pringles can fit in a can!

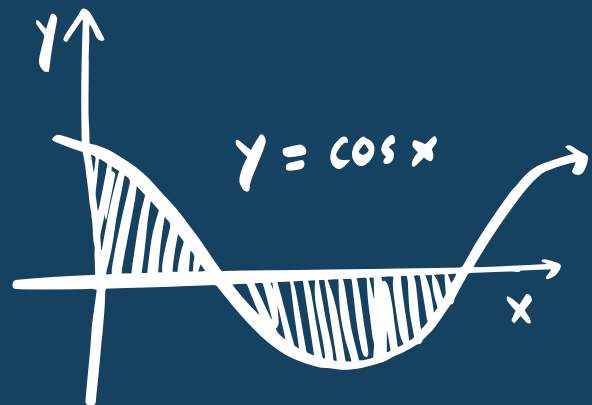




# Maths

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind students in KS3 where to access their revision for the upcoming subject assessments. When you log into Sparx maths as normal for homework please click the Sparx logo in the top left corner then select "Revision & Assessments".

From here you select the term 1 assessment, and you will be given relevant questions to practise. We'd like to wish you all the best of luck in your assessments, we're sure you'll do brilliantly!



**Welcome to Sparx Maths**  
What would you like to do today?

My Homework

Revision & Assessments

**Click here**



# Sparx Reader

Please ensure that you complete your 300 points per week. Sparx Reader is a great way to increase your vocab and understanding of texts that are vital for your lesson progress.

Congratulations to the following students, who have the highest number of points so far (in total):

Sophie  
Holly  
Alexia  
Reece  
Amber  
Joshua  
Amy  
Tristan  
Olivia  
Abi G  
Victoria



The following students have the highest number of points this year:

Alexia  
Ayla-Jayne  
Tristan  
Amber  
Joshua  
Alex  
Harry  
Thomas  
Jasmine  
Holly  
Jasmine



Well done to these students!

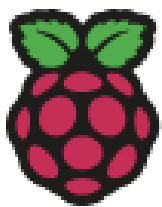




# Computing

We are thrilled to announce that our KS3 pupils have successfully completed the UK-wide Bebras Challenge in their computing lessons this half term!

This initiative, organised by the Raspberry Pi Foundation in partnership with the University of Oxford, aims to enhance computational thinking in students aged 6-19. With over 3 million participants from more than 80 countries last year, the challenge provides a unique platform for young minds to develop problem-solving skills. We can't wait to share updates on our students' performance! #BebrasChallenge #Education #RaspberryPi #ComputationalThinking



**Raspberry Pi  
Foundation**



UNIVERSITY OF  
**OXFORD**

The UK  
**Bebras**  
Challenge

4-15 November



Six animals need to be put in six pens.

An animal cannot be in a pen that shares a fence with an animal that eats it.

The arrows in the diagram on the right show which animals eat each other:  
frogs and chickens eat worms,  
wolves eat sheep and chickens,  
foxes eat chickens.

**Question:**  
Drag the animals below to the correct pens, so that none of the animals get eaten.  
(There may be more than one correct answer. Don't forget to press Save.)

The puzzle interface shows a 3D isometric view of a 3x3x3 cube maze. Above the maze is a row of six animal icons: a fox, a sheep, a chicken, a worm, a frog, and a wolf. To the right of the maze is a diagram showing the eating relationships between the animals with arrows: a frog eats a worm, a chicken eats a worm, a wolf eats a sheep and a chicken, and a fox eats a chicken.

The beavers and dogs had a competition. In total nine animals took part.

The nine participants had the following scores: 1, 2, 2, 3, 4, 5, 5, 6, 7.

No dog scored more than any beaver.

One dog tied with a beaver.

There were also two other dogs that tied with each other.

**Question:**

How many dogs took part in the competition?

2

3

5

6

7



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# COMING SOON



REGISTER NOW



## KIDSGROVE'S GOT TALENT

Have you got a talent?

Dancing? Singing? Comedy? Play an Instrument?  
Juggling? Football Skills?



**Tuesday**  
17th December 2024

**Start From**  
14.00



Please email Miss Wagstaff if you wish to  
audition: [billie.wagstaff@kss.set.org](mailto:billie.wagstaff@kss.set.org)



**PROUD TO  
BE  
KSS**





# Year 11 Progress Evening

Last week we hosted a Y11 progress evening.

This was an opportunity for students and parents to discuss current progress and next steps in preparation for their upcoming mock examinations. It was also a chance for students to meet with local further education providers to talk about post 16 options.

Thank you to everyone who attended and had those invaluable discussions to enable students to reach their potential!

Also a huge thank you to the local colleges for providing the vital knowledge and information that our students need to access their next steps.





## YEAR 11 PROGRESS EVENING

THE MOST IMPORTANT EVENING  
FOR YOUR CHILD THIS TERM











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



# Year 11 Progress Evening

Our Y11 Progress Evening was really well attended by Y11 students and their parents/ carers last week. Many thanks to those parents who left feedback.



**"Very informative  
and all questions  
were answered."**

**"Having the colleges and  
sixth forms there was  
good"**

**The little bags with the revision  
incentives & the map of the rest  
of the year were really great. "**

**"Great event and very  
helpful for the kids and  
parents."**

**4.88**

Average Rating







# Remembrance Event

On Monday, our year 7 and year 8 students held a Remembrance event for parents.

Students designed and organised the event, on their own, during project learning lessons. The event showcased: poetry based on war poetry from the past, diary entries based on soldiers in the trenches, a dramatisation of the Christmas Day truce, and a swing dance.

Well done to all of the students for their hard work; we are very proud of you!





# Remembrance Service



We had the honour of representing KSS in the Kidsgrove Remembrance parade.

A big thank you to Reece, Amy, Giancarlo and Elsie.

Thank you to Mrs Weaver for taking the students along with her son Joseph.

Our students demonstrated our core values superbly as we remembered those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

It was also great to see a former student, John, walking in the parade!

[#proudtobekss](#) [#lestweforget](#)





# Remembrance Service





# Children In Need 2024

£720 raised!

An amazing effort by Team KSS!

Thank you to all staff and students for all of their support and generosity with such a great cause.

**KIDSGROVE**  
SECONDARY SCHOOL

**Friday  
15th November  
2024**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**BBC Children in Need**

**NON UNIFORM DAY!**

Choose to wear your own clothes for a **£1** donation. This will be collected on the door as you arrive.

*Have a go...*

Guess how many sweets are in the sweet jar. Nearest guess wins the jar. **50p** a go!



In all KS3 PE lessons, our students are taking part in a sponsored Skipathon. Please **donate** using the QR code.

We will be having a bake sale in the **Sandwich Room** next to the canteen at **break** and **lunchtime**. Please pay us a visit.

Sweets and toys will be on sale in the **main corridor** at the **end of the day**. Please pay us a visit.





# Children In Need





# Children In Need





# Children In Need





# COMING SOON



## Please support our **Reverse Advent Calendar**

Choose how you  
can help out!  
It doesn't have to  
be everyday.  
Bring it in to  
Reception and add  
to our collection .

**2ND**  
A tin of  
soup or  
beans

**3RD**  
A packet of  
pasta or  
rice

**4TH**  
Shampoo,  
conditioner  
or shower gel

Once we have  
completed our  
Advent, we will  
take our products  
to support our  
local food bank.

**5TH**  
Biscuits or  
crisps

**6TH**  
Toilet rolls  
or soap

**9TH**  
Tinned meat  
or fish

**10TH**  
Curry  
Sauces

**11TH**  
Cereal or  
tinned fruit

**12TH**  
UHT milk or  
juice

**13TH** Please bring your final donations  
ready for taking to the food bank.

Christmas is a worrying time for people, numbers continue to stay high for using the food bank, in fact it has increased massively since the pandemic and cost of living crisis. For some it is an unexpected bill, for others it is the shortfall in wages or benefits given the continued increase in the cost of living. Anything you can do to help will be very much appreciated.



# 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

