

# HEADTEACHER BULLETIN

Friday 17.1.25

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

Dear Parents/Carers,

I write to you for the first time in 2025, in what has been a disrupted first few weeks back due to the snow and cold conditions. Thankfully the temperature has risen considerably and we are back to normal, which is a relief, as we have so many exciting events planned and wish to start the year with a bang.

Thank you for all of your support in ensuring that your child is meeting our high expectations of uniform and equipment for our January return. We have spent this week reinforcing our high expectations through assemblies delivered by Mr Till and the students have responded brilliantly. Mr Till has launched '**January Jumpstart**' which is an exciting attendance challenge with a reward for students at the half term end for those with high attendance. As this is a relatively short half term we are hoping plenty of students will meet the threshold for the rewards on offer.

The first batch of progress reports have been sent home digitally via Arbor to Year 10 and Year 11 parents/carers last week and Years 7, 8 and 9 parents/carers will receive progress reports today.

We are trialing a paperless progress report for the first time through our new Arbor system.

The report highlights your child's subject performance and how each child compares to the rest of the year group each subject. You can also find attendance and behaviour data, which I am sure you will find useful at this checkpoint.

We have been busy analysing the assessment data for all year groups over the Christmas break and we are delighted to see so many students perform well in their December performance assessments. As we enter the Spring term, teachers are busy working hard on addressing any gaps in students knowledge and developing subject specific skills.

On our return, a number of Year 11 students have undertaken their first formal GCSE examinations in Health & Social Care and Hospitality & Catering respectively. We cannot wait to see how they have performed when these early entry results come into school at the end of March.

Although the term is only two weeks old, we have also already had a theatre visit for Year 8 to see 'The Three Musketeers', which was led by Mr Old. The students were a credit to the school and the performance was very useful for their English curriculum and subject knowledge. It really was an action packed show. Yesterday, Year 8's also took part in a Staffordshire University visit led by Mrs Weaver. There are lots of images and further details within this edition of the bulletin.

In the next week, we have the Year 11 parents evening taking place on Thursday 23rd of January and on the 24th of January, we have the student council led 'Digital Tournament' taking place, which the students are very excited for.

It is already an action packed half term and next week we launch the 'Frost v Till, year 10 challenge (more details will be shared via our Facebook page over the next few weeks) and we have our second enrichment day of year.

## Upcoming Events

**Wednesday 22.1.25 - Enrichment Day**

**Thursday 23.1.25 - Year 11 Parents Evening (4pm to 7pm)**

**Friday 24.1.25 - Student Council Digital Tournament**

**Monday 27.1.25 - Holocaust Memorial Day**

**Thursday 6.2.25 - Year 10 Parents Evening (4pm to 7pm)**



Yours faithfully,  
Mr S Frost

# Year 11 Parents Evening

Year 11 Parents evening will be a **face to face** event in the school hall on **Thursday 23rd January 2025**.

Appointments are now available to book on School Cloud:

<https://kidsgrovesecondary.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

We will also have colleges in attendance for you to speak to about Post-16 choices.

We look forward to seeing you there.



# Attendance



Attendance

# JANUARY

J U M P   S T A R T



13th Jan - 7th Feb

**100% Attendance  
January half-term**

**Breakfast & brew  
Gift card prize draw**

Kidsgrove Secondary School

**Attendance Matters**

#StopTheDrop



# Attendance

**Whole School:  
93.6%**

**YEAR 7 - 96.5%**



**YEAR 8 - 93.9%**

**YEAR 9 - 91.3%**

**YEAR 10 - 90.7%**

**YEAR 11 - 90.4%**

**National Average: 91.9%**



Kidsgrove Secondary School

**Attendance Matters**

#StopTheDrop



# Form Attendance



Kidsgrove Secondary School

**Attendance Matters**

#StopTheDrop

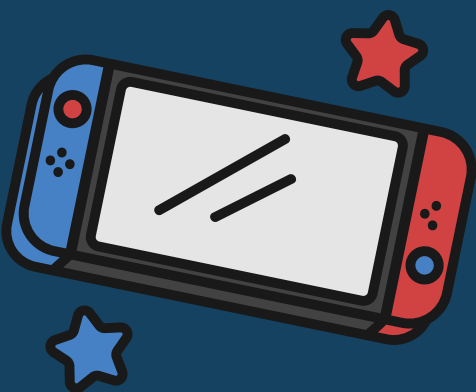


# Digital Tournament

The student council have been working hard over the last few weeks planning the upcoming digital event next Friday. They have collectively planned every aspect with Reece chairing the meetings and ensuring each council member has an active part to play.

We have a host of teams signed up to do battle... who will be crowned 'KSS Digital Champs 2025!?'.

The final showdown of the tournament will be live streamed via 'Youtube' to all classrooms. Its going to be brilliant!



# Uniform Expectations

As we enter the new calendar year, we continue to reinforce our high standards and expectations of which we are extremely proud. Mr Till wrote to all parents/carers at the end of last academic year about the equipment and uniform guidelines that have been in place from September. Whilst we appreciate reasonable adjustments are required for students with medical needs, incorrect uniform will be challenged. 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.



**PROUD TO  
BE  
KSS**



# 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.





# Uniform Expectations



Long sleeved school hoodie  
(for PE only).



Short sleeved school PE polo shirt.

Black shorts/training trousers or plain  
black sports leggings.

Sports trainers with non-marking soles  
&  
Football boots (bladed studs are not  
permitted).

\*Please note additional compulsory sport specific equipment:

- Shin pads (Football and Hockey)
- Gum shield (Hockey and Rugby)
- Hair bobble (Tie long hair back – all PE lessons)



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KSS





NATURAL MINERAL WATER  
**BUXTON**



**nsmind**  
North Staffs

# Maccas Movers

Running group for  
beginners aged 13-16

Aimed at people aged 13-16 who want to improve their mental wellbeing through being physically active in a supportive and friendly group. Whether your aim is to reduce stress, improve your mood, run a 5k or meet new people. Our qualified run leader will take you from Couch to 5k in 12 weeks, giving you the confidence to keep going.

"I was apprehensive about joining a running group, but it's changed my life"  
Quote from a previous Couch to 5k member.

Join our new free 12 week Couch to 5k programme, in partnership with Buxton, starting on Saturday 11th January 2025.

Hanley Park  
Every Saturday Morning  
10:30am - 12:30pm

Register by contacting us:  
reception@nsmind.org.uk  
01782 262100

For more information  
Visit [www.nsmind.org.uk](http://www.nsmind.org.uk)



01782 262100



reception@nsmind.org.uk

# Communication Update

At KSS we pride ourselves on answering any queries and always being available to support you when you need it.

**If you have any messages, queries or concerns that you would like the school or key staff to be aware of about your child, please contact us in the following ways:**

**Call Reception at 01782 948250.**

**Call Miss Potts on the attendance line by pressing the relevant option via the school telephone number (outlines above).**

**Email [parentsupport@kss.set.org](mailto: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.**

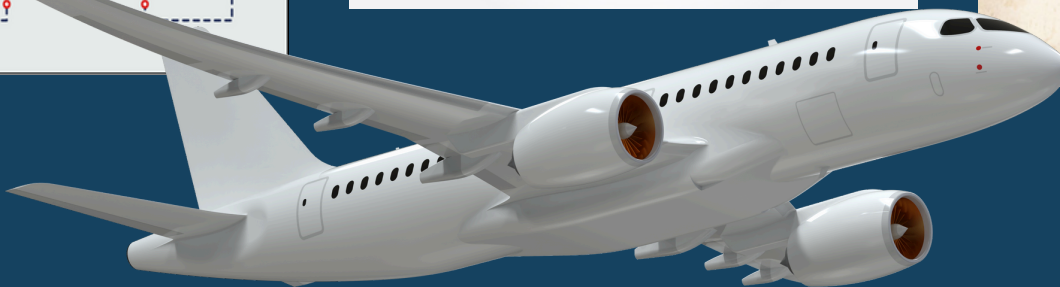
**Email [communications@kss.set.org](mailto:communications@kss.set.org) (this is checked daily). This is for upcoming events, trip queries, term dates and administration queries.**

**Email [kim.hambleton@kss.set.org](mailto:kim.hambleton@kss.set.org), for any SEND queries or concerns.**



# Berlin 2025

The planning for 'Berlin 2025' is well underway for Year 9 and Year 10 students. We have 30 spaces available and the spaces are filling up fast. If any student wishes to attend, please see Ms Wood on reception who will add your name to the list. Your place will be secured once the deposit has been paid via Parent Pay.



# Half Term 3 Enrichment



Kidsgrove  
Secondary  
School

## JAN - FEB

## 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



Art Open Studio

Open to all

Room 10 - Mrs Mason

### WEDNESDAY

Lunchtime  
13.30-14.00



Choir

Open to all

Room 26 - Ms Wagstaff



Young Carers Club

Invites

Conference Room - Ms Potts

After School  
15.05-16.05



Graphic Design Club

KS3

Room 15 - Ms Morrell



Drama club

KS3

Room 26 - Ms Wagstaff



Art Open Studio

Open to all

Room 10 - Mrs Mason



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 - Mrs Mason



Netball

Y7, 8 and 9

Changing Rm - Ms Wagstaff



Trampolining Club

Y7

Changing Rm - Ms Hambleton



Reading club

Open to all

Reading Room - Ms Tucker



Duke of Edinburgh

Y9-11

Room 7 - Miss Hud and Mrs Weaver



Cooking club

Open to all

Tech - Week 2 - Mrs Bryan

### 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

All Years

Hall - Ms Hambleton



KS4 Football

Y10 and Y11

Changing Rm - Mr Frost

# Careers and Further Education

## Year 8 Campus Visit to Staffordshire University

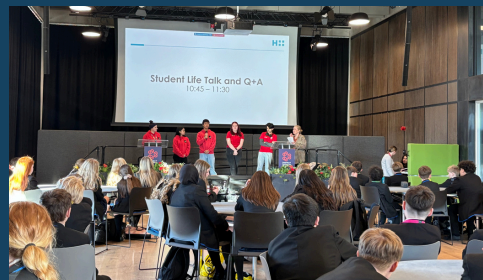


At the start of December, we shared how we will be working alongside Higher Horizons this year to raise awareness of Higher Education opportunities.

This week our Y8s have experienced Higher Education life at Staffordshire University organised by Higher Horizons.



Following an introduction into what University life involves, the students got to meet the Student Ambassadors who talked about courses, job opportunities, society and student life. As part of the Q & A with the Students Ambassadors, our Y8s posed fantastic and probing questions touching on societies, courses, independence and student finances.



During the University tour, we got to see the library, gym and sports hall, student accommodation and the various subject centres as well as one of our groups getting to see the University's Formula 1 Car.



# Careers and Further Education

## Year 8 Campus Visit to Staffordshire University



After dinner we split into three different workshop groups.

In Art and Design, we took part in a Zine workshop where we talked about 'agency' in art and got to create our own zines. Some really original and interesting designs.



During the Engineering workshop, the students had to design and build their own vehicle with the aim of transporting a load in the most efficient way. We have some real budding engineers for the future.



Finally, the Law workshop focused on what would happen to society if certain laws were removed. Brilliant oracy skills displayed through debate.

As staff, it was great to hear the students talking so positively about their experience with most of our group saying that they would definitely be thinking about University in the future.



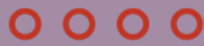


WORLD

# Book Day

— MARCH 6TH —

Book Swap\*\*The Masked Reader\*\*Swap the story writing challenge\*\*Bookmark making and lots more!



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



**PROUD TO BE KSS**



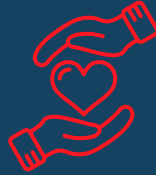


# Enrichment Day

Next week we have our second Enrichment Day of this academic year. These support our Personal Development curriculum and focus on a variety of activities throughout the year. On Wednesday, students will follow a different timetable which focus on our main Personal Development strands.



Health and Wellbeing



Relationships



Financial Capability



Citizenship



Careers Info and Guidance



Will focus on 'Looking after our future selves'. They will take part in a health and safety and first aid workshop and an energy drinks session. They will also have three sessions led by representatives from Higher Horizons introducing them to Higher Education.

Y8s will focus on 'Being a good citizen'. They will participate in workshops with the emphasis on first aid, LGBTQIA+ and their future careers. NCS will also be working with them as they take part in a Youth Consultation around what they like, and feel could be improved in Stoke on Trent for young people.



## Y9



For most of the day, our Y9s will be working with the Army Outreach Team taking part in the Elite Skills Academy. Following a careers presentation to contextualise the day's activities, the workshop will give students a taste of Army teamwork and problem solving, with a wide range of hands on and confidence building activities.

Our Y10s will start the day taking part in the 'Rise' core skills development programme. They will work collaboratively in teams to complete curriculum and future careers linked challenges. We are also going to launch our **work experience** for them.



Y11s will be introduced to the NCS programme, who will be working with them over the next few months in their Personal Development lessons. They will also take part in the Youth Consultation around what they like, and feel could be improved in Stoke on Trent for young people.

COMING SOON

# What's next?



As parents, we want our children to succeed in life and feel confident about their futures. One key way to support them in achieving this is by ensuring they are aware of the many opportunities available to them after high school. Understanding their options for further education can make a significant difference in a student's journey. We, as a school, are committed to supporting students with this.

## ESPORTS

Letters have gone out to Y10 students regarding the rearranged ESports Taster Session at Newcastle Under Lyme College. **Please can I ask that reply slips come back Mrs Weaver or Miss Wood on Reception by Monday 20th January.**




### ESports Taster Session

Are you interested in ESports, game design or learning about Newcastle College's ESports Vocational offering?

If **yes...** you may be interested in attending the session we have got the opportunity to take part in.





**Date:** Tuesday 28th January  
**Time:** Within school time – whole day event  
**Sessions:** 4 sessions based around ESports, game design, business and IT as well as taking part in a Rocket League tournament.



As part of National Apprenticeships Week in February, our Y10 students will be visiting the Big Apprenticeship Expo in Stoke, providing them with the opportunity to meet and connect with a wide range of apprenticeship providers as well as exploring what apprenticeship options there are.

**Could I ask Y10 parents to check their Arbor app or emails for the letter regarding this trip and click on the link to complete the consent form. Thank you.**

## Y10 WORK EXPERIENCE

Next week we will launch the Y10 Work Experience programme. This will be a week's experience from Mon. 30th June – Fri. 4th July.

Our students will be responsible for sourcing their own placements, but if you are able to support students during this week, please could you contact the school office on [communications@kss.set.org](mailto:communications@kss.set.org).



# THANK YOU



# Feedback

We would like to gauge your feedback on how we run parents evening at KSS. Please scan the QR code or follow the link below to provide your viewpoint.

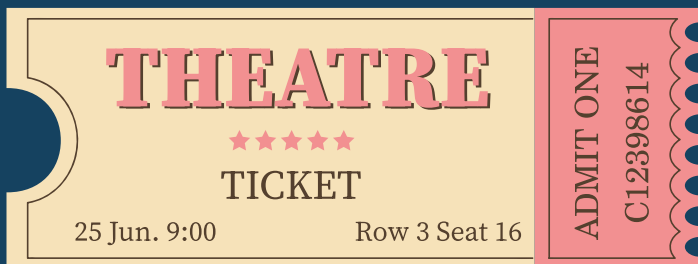
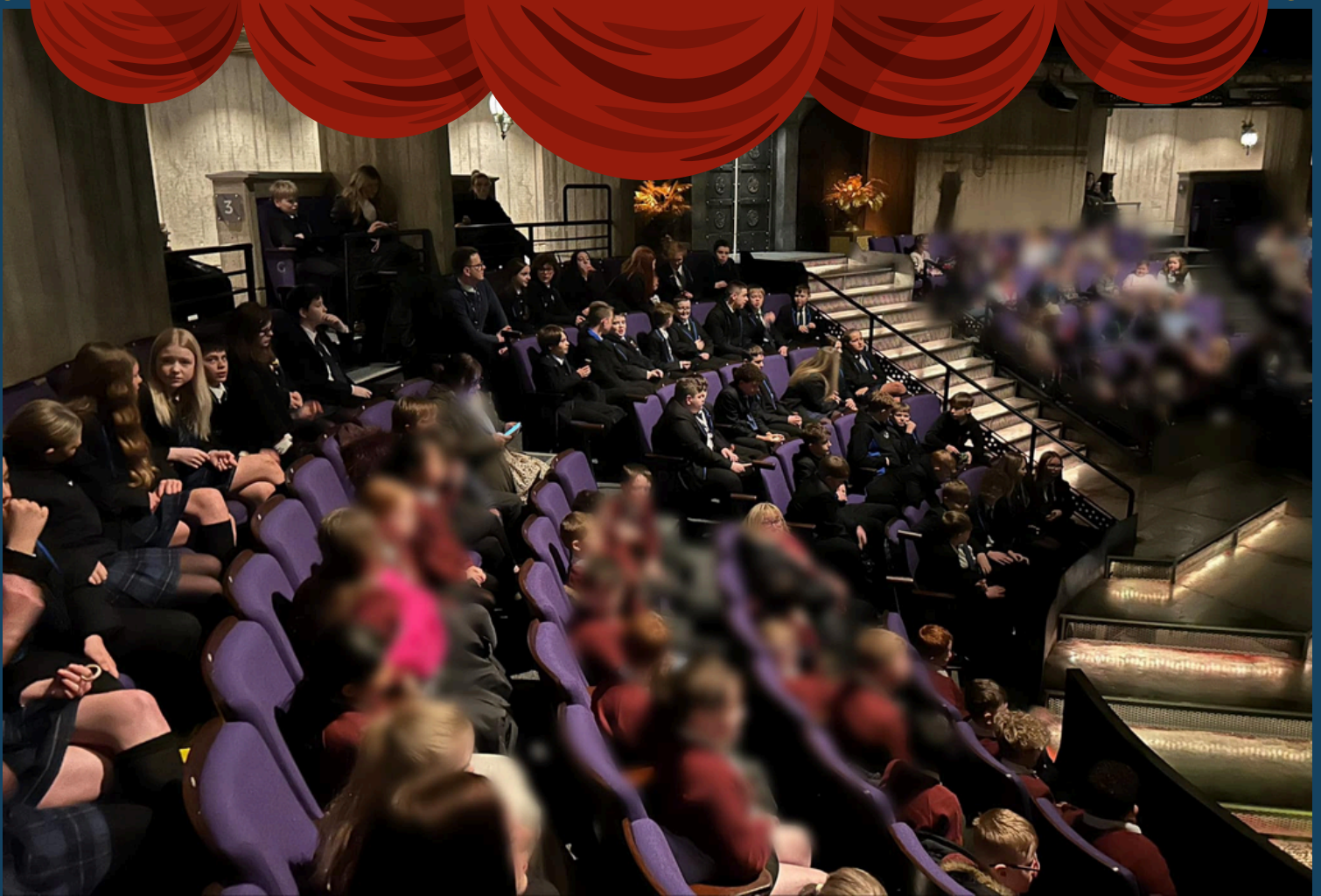
<https://forms.office.com/e/sds41Tyi60>

## KSS Parents Evening Format



# Theatre Visit

Year 8 enjoyed a marvellous day out at the New Vic Theatre to watch their swashbuckling performance of The Three Musketeers. It was an action packed show, full of swordplay, music and dance. A good time was had by all!



# What is my child learning?

One of the strengths of KSS is the fantastic curriculum that we deliver to all students.

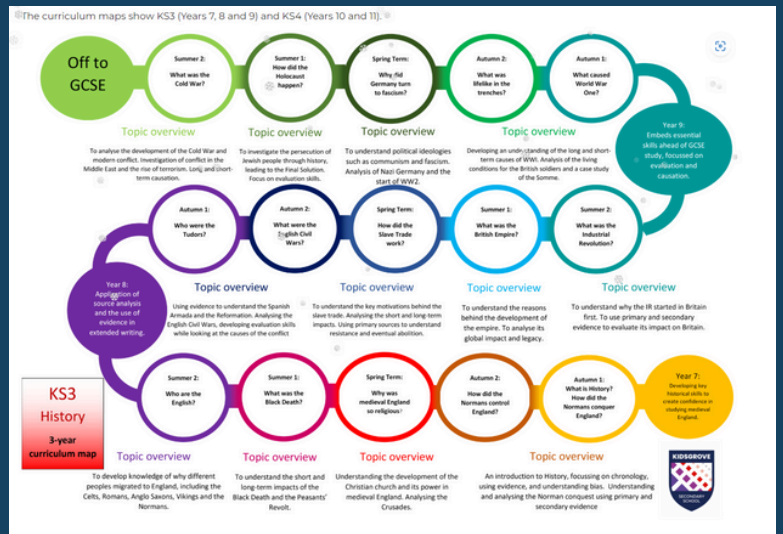
When Ofsted visited the school last year they were impressed with our subject curriculums and how the students were taught the key themes.

From the recent parent & carer survey, a common area for feedback is that you are interested to know more about is the curriculum and what your child is learning.

To find out more, please scan the QR code below or visit the website @ <https://kidsgrovesecondary.org.uk/curriculum/subject-curriculums>

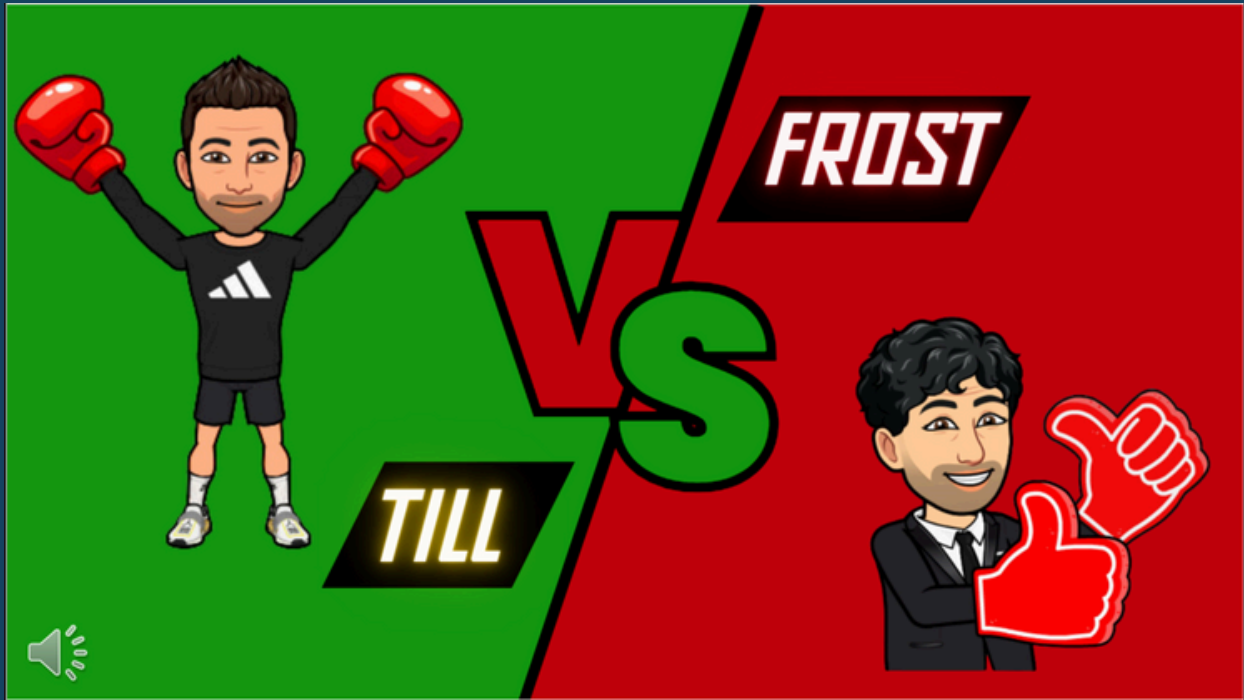


Once on the website you can click on each subject, read about the curriculum and even follow a map to see the key topics and content.



# Frost v Till

As part of our agile approach to enhance student engagement in their learning, we are launching the Frost vs Till competition with Y10. The year group has been distributed at random to Team Frost or Team Till and will compete for the overall title. Weekly attendance and behaviour points make up two of the categories with the final two comprising of 'above and beyond/star student tickets', plus the weekly challenge. Who will be crowned overall champions and who are you supporting?



## Frost vs Till – Y10...



| Week | Attendance | Behaviour | Above & Beyond | Challenge |
|------|------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|
| 1    |            |           |                |           |
| 2    |            |           |                |           |
| 3    |            |           |                |           |
| 4    |            |           |                |           |



# History

Year 10 historians have produced some amazing work over the last few weeks. We have been studying more modern examples of warfare in recent lessons and the students have created some amazing Canva posters about 'Total Warfare'.

Well done Year 10!



## Total War

**Full Mobilisation:**

- Nations conscripted millions of soldiers and redirected industries to produce weapons, tanks, and planes.
- Civilians contributed through war bonds, rationing, and labor in factories.

**Economic Warfare:**

- Blockades and destruction of supply lines.
- Allied bombing campaigns targeted factories and transportation networks.

**Propaganda:**

- Posters, films, and speeches rallied support and demonized enemies (e.g., "Keep Calm and Carry On").

**Tanks:**

heavily armed with metal plating and can take several hits. Often dominated the battlefield in divisions.

**Naval:**

Submarines were used to take out supply ships and break off their line of support by sea. Ships were used to transport supplies and soldiers by sea to help the army.

**Gas Attacks:**

no threat to your side, didn't have to be a direct hit, the wind can move the gas to impact more enemy soldiers

**Civilians as Targets:**

- Strategic bombings (e.g., London Blitz, Dresden).
- Atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
- Genocide: The Holocaust targeted Jewish communities and other groups.

**Economic Warfare:**

- Blockades and destruction of supply lines.
- Allied bombing campaigns targeted factories and transportation networks.

**Impact:**

- Over 60 million deaths, including 40 million civilians.
- Cities and economies devastated (e.g., Warsaw, Tokyo).
- Set the stage for the Cold War and the creation of international laws.

**Hydrogen Bomb:**

Mass devastation, Huge loss if life, untold radiation range.

**Aircrafts:**

Used as reconnaissance against enemies and for ariel bombing support. Was a critical part in blitzkrieg.

**Radar:**

Radio Waves were used to detect incoming aircraft. Defenders could direct planes and resources to attack the enemy.

**Trench Warfare:**

Designed for a war of attrition (wearing each other down). To stop the enemy from attacking.

## Total War

**Key Characteristics of Total War**

- Total Mobilization:**
  - All sectors of society are involved, including industry, agriculture, and labor.
  - Civilian populations contribute directly by producing weapons, supplies, or even fighting.
- Unrestricted Warfare:**
  - No clear distinction between combatants and civilians; civilians are often targeted.
  - Use of propaganda and psychological warfare.
- Mass Destruction:**
  - Large-scale devastation, often targeting infrastructure, cities, and non-combatants.
  - Use of advanced weaponry to achieve maximum destruction.

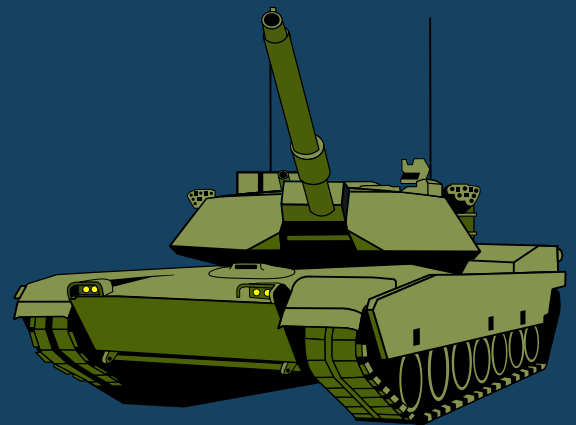
**Weapons Used in Total Wars**  
The weapons used during total wars vary depending on the era. Here are some examples from World War I and World War II, two major total wars:

**World War I (1914-1918):**

- Artillery:** Long-range cannons caused the majority of casualties.
- Machine Guns:** High rates of fire made trench warfare devastating.
- Chemical Weapons:** Chlorine, mustard gas, and phosgene introduced terror on the battlefield.
- Tanks:** Introduced later in the war to break through trench lines.
- Aircraft:** Early use of planes for reconnaissance and bombing.

**World War II (1939-1945):**

- Firearms:** Bolt-action rifles, submachine guns (e.g., M16, Thompson).
- Artillery and Tanks:** Advanced tanks like the German Panther and Soviet T-34.
- Aircraft:** Fighter planes (Spitfire) and bombers (B-29 Flying Fortress).
- Naval Warfare:** Aircraft carriers, battleships, and submarines.
- Nuclear Weapons:** Atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945.



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

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SECONDARY  
SCHOOL

**PROUD TO  
BE  
KSS**

KIDSGROVE  
SECONDARY  
SCHOOL

Shaw  
Education  
Trust

# History



## Total Warfare

Total warfare was an all out war where every country was involved, some country's got more destroyed than other country's like Germany that got there buildings bombed and had rubble all on the floor and a lot of people ended up homeless and with put food and water.

Aerial Bombing – Large fires, huge damage, attack from the sky, attackers could sneak in and out undetected, destroy military equipment, kill from a distance.

Artillery guns fire shells to stop the enemies from attacking

Total war is a type of warfare that includes any and all (including civilian-associated) resources and infrastructure as legitimate military targets, mobilises all of the resources of society to fight the war, and gives priority to warfare over non-combatant needs.

Blitzkrieg means total war its a Germany tactic where you hit the hard and fast. Aeroplanes first, tanks and armoured vehicles, half tracks, soldiers then attacked what was left of the army. Mechanised (technology and its mechanical, motorised).

Artillery Gun – firing over a long distance, large damage over a large area.

Gas Attacks – no threat to your side, didn't have to be a direct hit, the wind can move the gas to impact more enemy soldiers.

The war was a war fought without limitations on targets or weapons. The total war was a war that included civilians getting harmed and resources, factories and farming stopped because of the bombs and the amount of population there was mostly because civilians couldn't get to safe places and died.

Radar – Radio Waves were used to detect incoming aircraft.

Defenders could direct planes and resources to attack the enemy. Proactive defence.

Machine Guns were used in the warfare because they were big and can fire from a long distance and can hold lots of ammunition but the down side was they were heavy and bulky and it took more than one person to use it, one soldier to fire the gun and the other to load the gun.

Hydrogen Bomb – Mass Devastation, Huge loss of life, untold impact of radiation.

Aerial Bombing – Large



## Total War

(A war in which everybody is affected)

### Weapons



Lee Enfield Rifle

The Lee-Enfield is a bolt-action, magazine-fed repeating rifle that served as the main firearm of the military forces of the British Empire



M1 Garand

The M1 Garand is a semi-automatic rifle that was the service rifle of the U.S Army during World War 2



Thompson Machine Gun

The Thompson Submachine Gun is a blowback-operated, selective-fire submachine gun, invented and developed by Brigadier General John T. Thompson a United States Army officer, in 1918. It was designed to break the stalemate of trench warfare of World War 1.

### Aircrafts



Hawker Hurricane

The Hawker Hurricane is a British single-seat fighter aircraft of the 1930s–40s which was designed and predominantly built by Hawker Aircraft Ltd. for service with the Royal Air Force



Spitfire

The Spitfire is a British single-seat fighter aircraft used by the Royal Air Force and other Allied Countries before, during, and after World War 2.



Stuka dive bomber

The Stuka is a German dive bomber and ground-attack aircraft. It made its combat debut in 1937 with the Luftwaffe and served the axis in World War 2.

### Tanks



Panzer IV

The Panzer IV, is a German Medium tank developed in the late 1930s and used extensively during the Second World War.



M4 Sherman

The M4 Sherman was the medium tank most widely used by the United States and Western Allies in World War 2. The M4 Sherman proved to be reliable, relatively cheap to produce, and available in great numbers.



Tiger 1

The Tiger 1 was a German heavy tank of World War 2 that began operational duty in 1942 in Africa and in the Soviet Union, usually in independent heavy tank battalions.

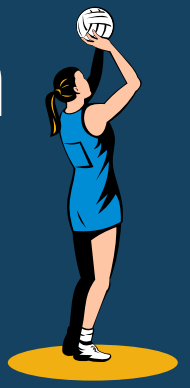




# Physical Education

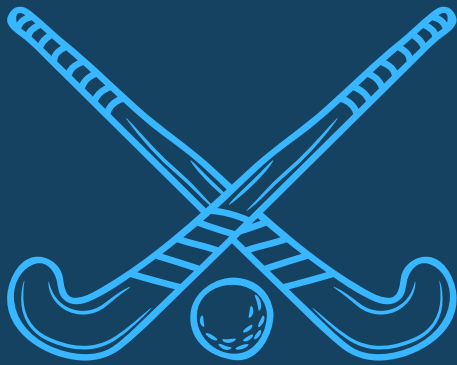


This half term, students will be taking part in the following sports



KS3 (Y7, 8 & 9) Hockey & Trampolining

KS4 (Y10 & 11) Trampolining & Basketball



Please ensure that your child has the correct kit and equipment for each lesson.  
Please note that students **MUST** have **shin pads** and a **gum shield** for Hockey.

To ensure that lessons run smoothly and effectively, we are reinforcing the following procedures (please refer to the letter that was emailed home).

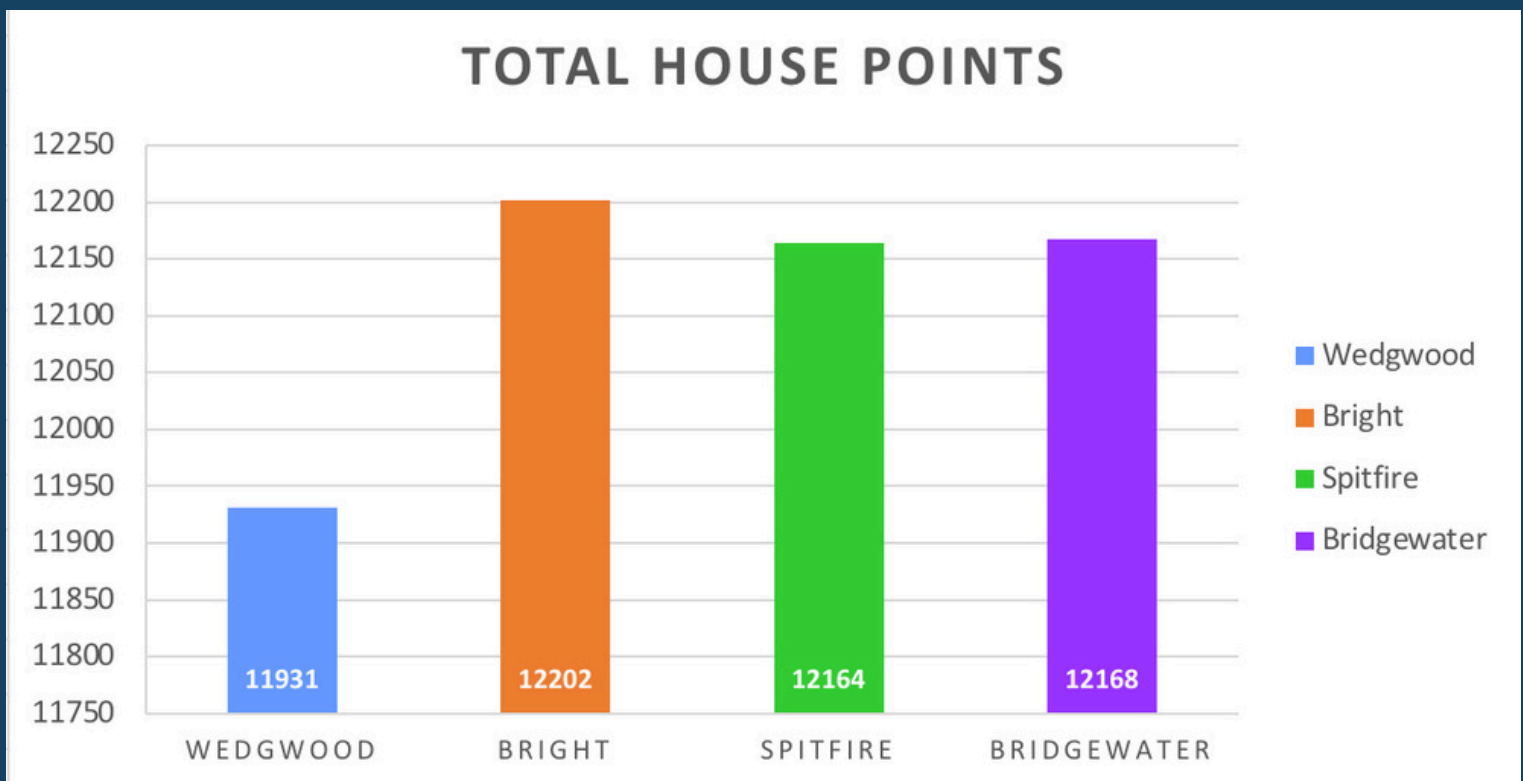
- Handing in Mobile Phones before entering the changing rooms.
- Silent changing in the changing rooms
- Silence as students exit the changing rooms
- Walking sensibly to work area
- Full engagement and effort during lessons

# House Points

Well done to BRIDGEWATER who won the house points challenge for the autumn term.

So far this half term, the points have been coming in thick and fast! At the moment, the winning house is.....

**BRIGHT - a great start to 2025!**



# 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

