

HEADTEACHER BULLETIN

Thursday 18.12.25

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Dear Parents/Carers,

The end of the autumn term has arrived and what a final few weeks it has been, full of learning and enrichment!. We have certainly ended the term with a bang, with 'Kidsgrove's Got Talent' concluding events. The talent showcase is certainly a calendar highlight and it never ceases to amaze myself and the staff, what wonderfully talented students exist within our cohort. There will be photographs uploaded to our Facebook page in due course.

As we reflect on the last 12 months, as we reach the end of 2025, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of our parents/carers that support the school so brilliantly. This year has seen the school move forward even further, as we continually strive to improve all aspects of our provision. The recent Year 7 and year 11 parental surveys have blown us away and confirmed the strength of our parental partnership. This amazing feedback has also validated the decisions that the school leaders have made in terms of curriculum, pastoral and safeguarding provision. It is genuinely heartwarming to see how positively you feel about the deal that your child is getting at KSS.

Over the last two few days we have held our end of term reward trips and in school end of term activities. These have been brilliantly received by the students and staff. On Wednesday, we also held our Year 11 mock results assembly, and we are delighted with how the Year 11 students have performed. There is a drive and determination within the group to have a successful set of results come August. On our return in January we will be analysing the progress data following the recent performance assessments and we cannot wait to see how students have performed. We will be holding year group results assemblies in January and a progress report will be heading home to you, which we hope will provide you with useful progress information.

Finally, no end of term newsletter would be complete without mentioning our amazing celebration assemblies. A special mention to Mr Till for organising and delivering these assemblies with the support of our admin team. These assemblies truly encapsulate our achievement culture at KSS. It is a delight to see students recognised for their work in lessons, their contribution to the wider school and for their exceptional attitudes to learning across all subjects. Well done to all students that received a certificate and a subject badge!

Finally, a few housekeeping notices. A reminder that school is closed to students tomorrow (Friday 19th of December 2025). The school will reopen to all students on Monday the 5th of January 2026. We cannot wait to welcome students back for the spring term, which plans to be an exciting one. We have the 'Uncertainty Experts' programme for Year 10, further lecture series sessions, parents evenings taking place and even a Maths department trip to Disneyland Paris.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous new year.

Yours faithfully,
Mr S Frost

Upcoming Events

Monday 5.1.26 - School reopens for all students

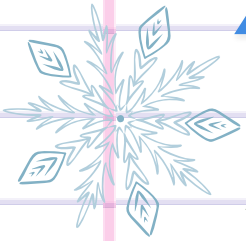
Monday 12.1.16 and Tuesday 13.1.26 - Year 11 mock result meetings

Wednesday 14.1.26 - Results assemblies (Years 7,8,9,10)

Monday 19.1.26 - Enrichment Day

Thursday 22.1.26 - Year 11 parents evening (4pm to 7pm)

ATTENDANCE



WHOLE SCHOOL: 94.6%



YEAR 7- 97.2%

YEAR 8- 95.3%

YEAR 9 - 91.7%

YEAR 10- 93.4%

YEAR 11- 94.6%



NATIONAL AVERAGE: 92.1%

BEST FORM YTD: 7BJE

BEST HOUSE: Bright



Headteacher Reward Lunch

Our Headteacher's Reward Lunch was a fantastic way to end a truly brilliant term. It was wonderful to celebrate students who have shown exceptional effort, attitude and commitment throughout the term. This was an extra special reward lunch as we also had Kidsgrove Primary School students join us with their Headteacher, Ms Cunliffe. What a great way to end the week and to jointly celebrate excellence from our students.

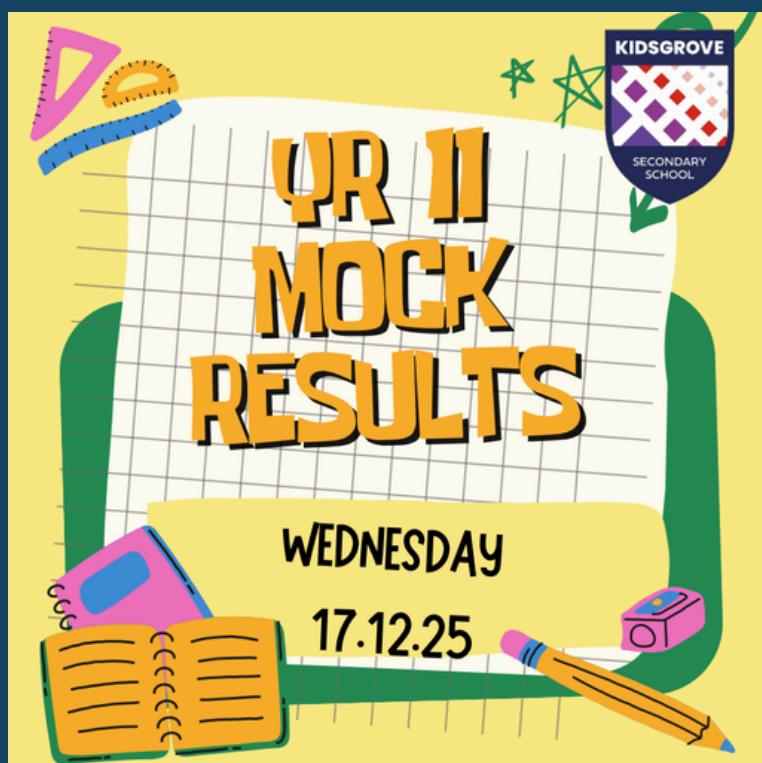


Year 11 Mock Results

Yesterday Year 11 students received their mock results envelopes in a special results assembly. There was excitement but also a fair few butterflies in the room as the students revealed their grades.

Whatever the outcome of the mock results for each student, we are very proud of them. The effort and dedication, especially since September and the determined focus from the vast majority of the group is clear to see.

Myself and Mr Barker Brown will be meeting students during the second week back after the break to look at next steps. For now, relax, unwind and recharge ready for January.



Christmas Jumper Day 2025

A huge thank you to all of our students and staff who took part in the recent Christmas Jumper Day and helped raise money for 'Save the Children'.

It was fantastic to see so many festive jumpers around school and, more importantly, to see our community coming together to support such an important cause. Your generosity and enthusiasm will help make a real difference to children and families who need it most. Thank you for spreading Christmas cheer and showing true community spirit.



THANK YOU



KSS Alumni

What always fills us with pride is to see our leavers go on to do amazing things. We recently have welcomed back Ryan to the school as he presented his course project linked to his public services qualification. We were delighted to hear that Kacey and Kenzie are doing well with their Hospitality and Catering course and we were delighted to see that Fox is smashing A-level studies. Although these young adults are no longer on roll at the school, they will always be a part of team KSS.



AMAZING





FOX SHUFFLEBOTHAM

Previously: Kidsgrove Secondary School

Studies: A Levels in Psychology, Art and BTEC Criminology

My Ambition: I'm planning to use College to further study Criminology or Psychology, but my options are open.

"T'S BEEN EASY TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH SIMILAR INTERESTS, AND I FEEL I BELONG."

“ I chose the Sixth Form College because of the community – my sister also studied here and spoke highly of the staff and students. The excellent courses also influenced my decision to study here.

I've joined the Musical Theatre Society, which has been welcoming and fun. College is more independent, and staff support our learning and help to manage workloads.

I travel by bus, which takes only 40 minutes, and the student finance has helped with travel and art equipment. **”**

FROM YOU TO US



English

We were delighted to be joined by Manactco theatre company at the beginning of December, who performed an abridged version of 'A Christmas Carol' to our Year 10 and Year 11 students to support their studies of the novella for their English Literature GCSE!

Students had the opportunity to see the text performed and asked questions to the actors about the performance and about how to get into acting!.



Years 7, 8 and 9 have had new elements added to their English lessons:

The main focus for KS3 students is Literacy heritage- students will be reading some of the best fiction from throughout history, developing their academic and critical analysis skills. This term we have read the following texts:

Year 7: Oliver Twist

Year 8: Sherlock Holmes

Year 9: Jane Eyre



Mastery Writing: Students now have one lesson every two weeks which has a spelling, punctuation and grammar focus.

For example, Year 8 have been focusing on capital letters, full stops and using commas accurately throughout their writing. We at Kidsgrove believe that strong technical accuracy in our students' writing will support their goals, both while they remain in school and as they leave us and head off into the wider world.

And we have our Reading Fluency lessons: students are encouraged to read aloud to each other from a variety of texts, developing how quick they read, how they punctuate their readings and how they express themselves when they do. These elements will help create more confident readers.



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

Shaw Education Trust

Kidsgrove Secondary School

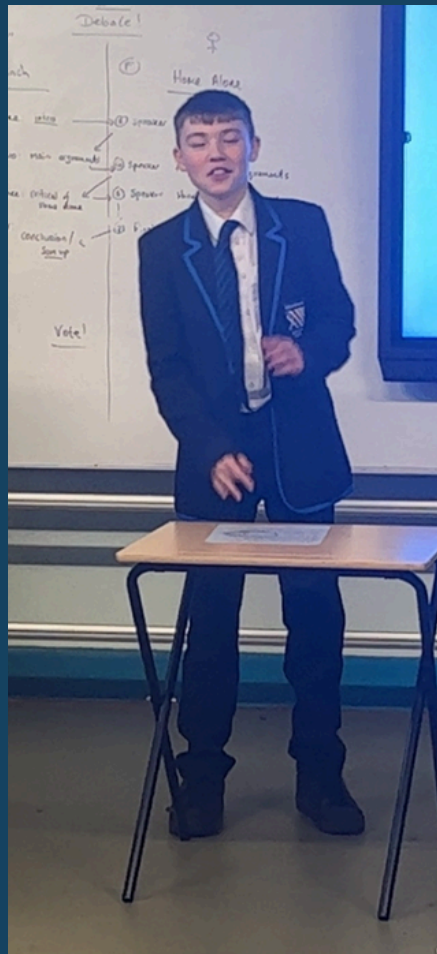
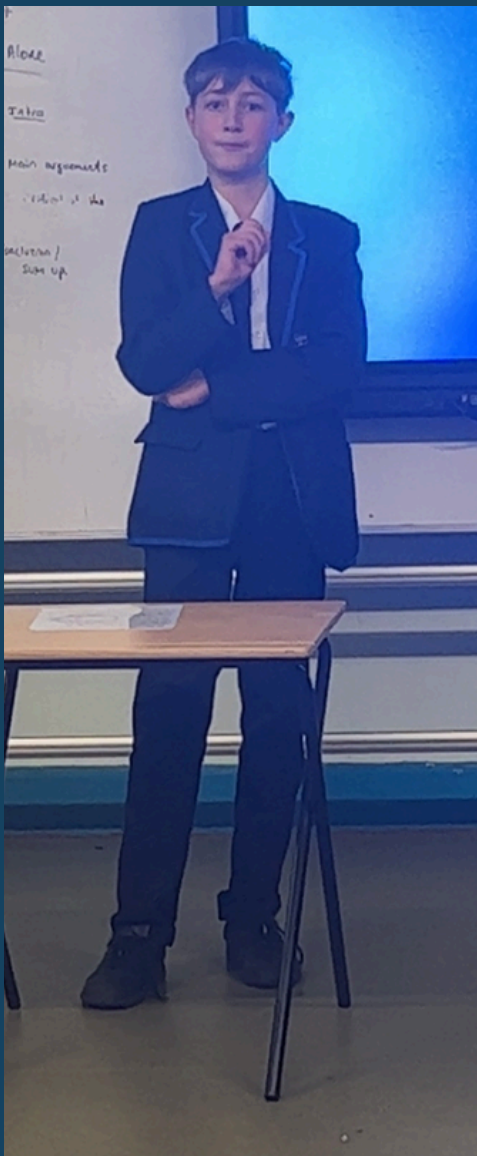
Attendance Matters

#StopTheDrop

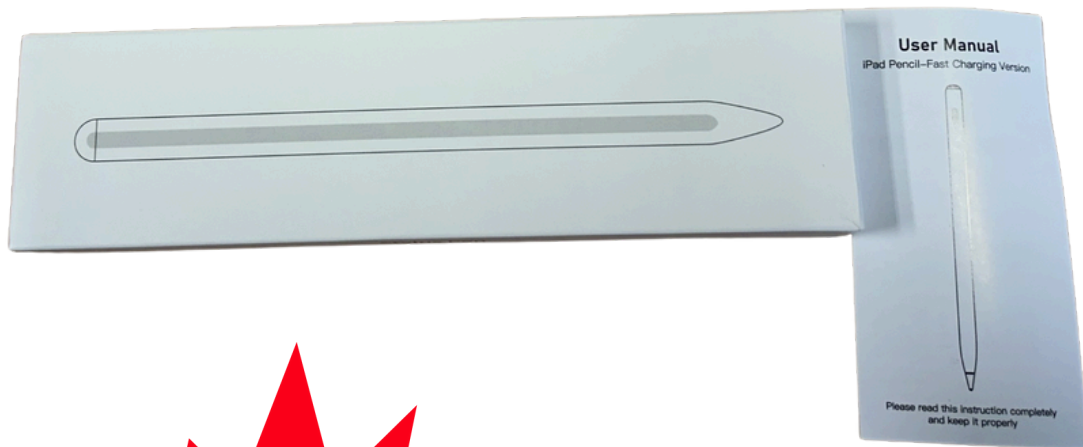
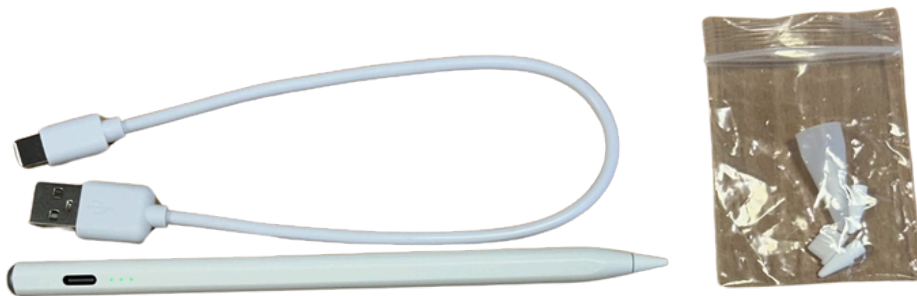


English

Mr Jessup was thrilled to see his year 8 students engaged in a debate during their English class this week. Watching students debate their ideas, in this instance about Christmas films, was brilliant to witness! Great skills developed and a great attempt executed by all. A lovely early start to the Christmas festivities!.



Smart Start



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

Maths

The Maths department ran a competition across Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 last week to see which form group could collectively get the most XP points on Sparx Maths.

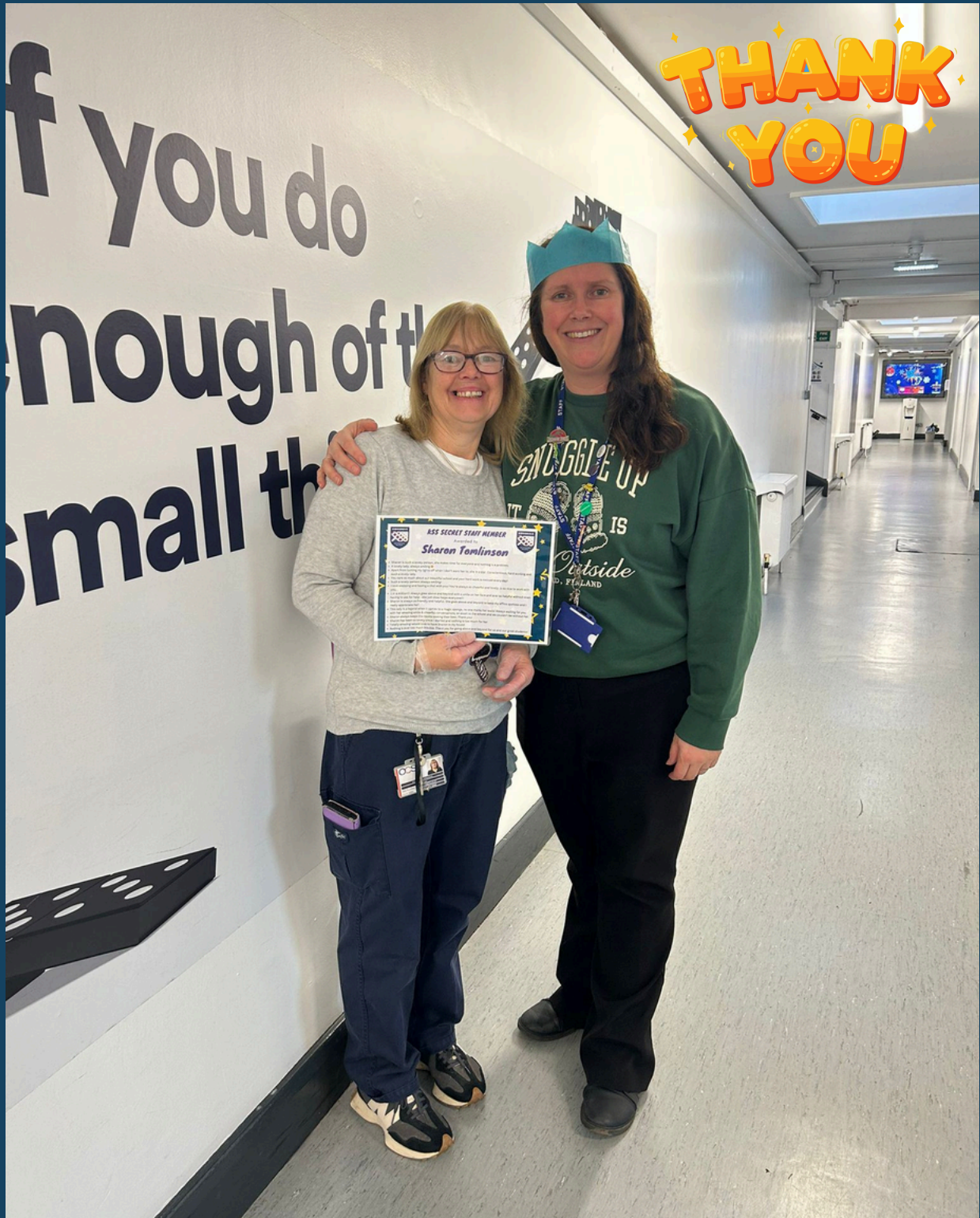
XP points were collected by students for their compulsory weekly homework, XP Boost (designed to offer additional practice and reinforce learning seen in their homework) and Target (more difficult work set to challenge students).

It was such a pleasure to have so many students go and find Mrs Frost at break and lunch times to tell me how many XP points they had achieved during the week. KSS certainly loves a competition. A huge well done to 7EG!



Secret Staff Member

Our recent Secret Staff Member was the wonderful Sharon, one of our amazing cleaners, who was recognised for her hard work and dedication in looking after our school site. The comments from staff were truly amazing and perfectly summed up just how highly thought of Sharon is. Her care, pride and commitment to keeping our school clean and welcoming do not go unnoticed and make a huge difference every single day. Thank you, Sharon, for everything you do — we are very lucky to have you!



KSS
Inclusion Team

Breakfast Club

8.10am to 8.30am

POP ALONG IF YOU WANT
SOMEWHERE CALM TO START
YOUR DAY

 READING ROOM

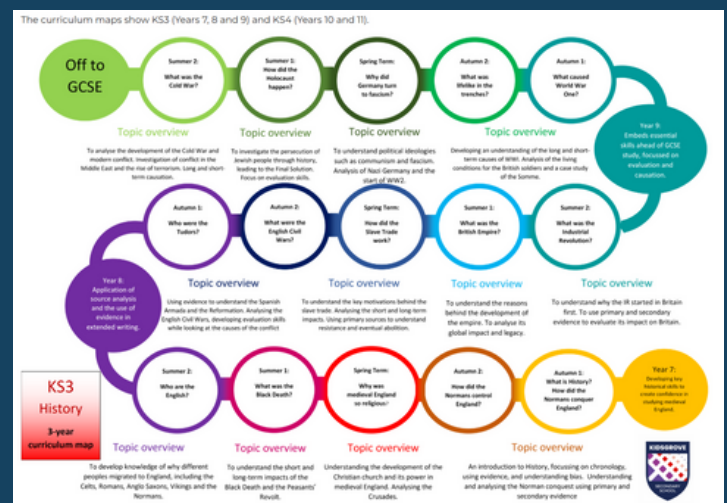
KSS Curriculum

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.

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



Meet the Staff

It has been seven weeks since Mrs Todd joined us as our new receptionist at KSS. What an impact she has made already and she has already formed some brilliant relationships with staff, students and parents. We are delighted to have her as the face of our wonderful school.

Below are a few words from Mrs Todd herself...

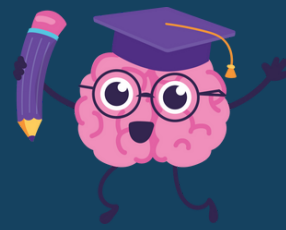
My first 7 weeks here at KSS have been an absolute pleasure and it has felt like I have never been anywhere else. I have settled in so well and that is thanks to the staff, students and parents making me feel so welcome.

I am a mum to two daughters, and I have two Grandsons Harry and Reggie and a dog called Biggie and I love spending time with my family. I love to cook and read when I can. I bring years of experience as a Receptionist to KSS and it is my happy place as I love being able to meet and help people. I will enjoy seeing the children thrive and I will help them in anyway I can. I look forward to 2026 and the start of a new term.

I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a very prosperous New Year and look forward to seeing you in 2026.



Quality of Education



A Focus on Recall, Retrieval and Quizzing in Lessons:

Over the last few weeks, our students have been experiencing a strong and deliberate focus on recall and retrieval in their lessons. This approach is being supported through the effective use of Showbie assessments and quizzing, helping pupils to strengthen their learning and build long-term memory.

What do we mean by recall and retrieval?

Recall and retrieval refer to pupils actively bringing information back to mind that they have previously learned. This might include recalling learning from the previous lesson, last week, or even from an earlier unit of work.

Research shows that regularly retrieving information helps students to strengthen their long-term memory and make learning more secure. Each time students retrieve information, the learning becomes more firmly embedded, making it easier to access in the future.



Quality of Education



Quizzing throughout the lesson:

Showbie assessments, taking place on pupils' iPads, use low-stakes quizzing to assess student prior knowledge. This might involve recalling learning from the previous lesson, last week, or a previous unit.

Quizzing is not limited to the start of lessons. It is used at different points to support learning, including:

- Hinge questions – carefully chosen questions asked partway through a lesson to check whether pupils are ready to move on.
- Exit tickets – short quizzes or questions completed at the end of a lesson. These help teachers assess understanding across the whole class and use this information to plan the next lesson effectively.

By regularly practising recall and retrieval through Showbie assessments and quizzing, students are developing stronger memories, deeper understanding and greater confidence in their learning.



House Points

As we draw the curtain on another busy, brilliant and action-packed term, it's time to shine a spotlight on something that truly brings our school together – House Points! 🏆

Across the term, students have earned points for positive behaviour, excellent attendance, hard work in lessons, kindness to others and living our school values every single day. The enthusiasm, determination and healthy competition shown by all four houses has been fantastic to see 💜

🌟 Final House Points Totals 🌟

● Wedgwood – 18,938 🏆 1

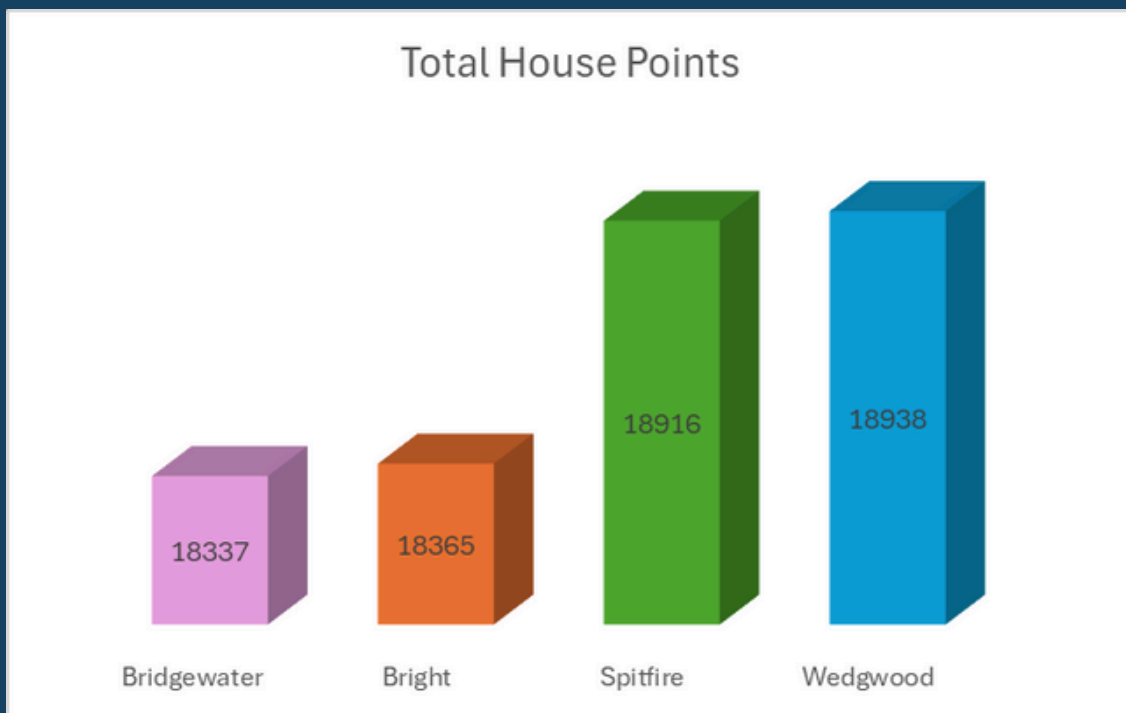
● Spitfire – 18,916 🏆 2

● Bright – 18,365

● Bridgewater – 18,337

A huge congratulations to Wedgwood House, who take the win by the narrowest of margins! 🎉 The competition went right down to the wire, with Spitfire just 22 points behind, showing incredible consistency, resilience and teamwork right to the very end 🔥

🌟 Well done everyone – and congratulations Wedgwood! 🌟



Christmas Baking

Mrs Bryan and Ms Tipping-Brown have had a great last few days of the term. The KSS Festive 'Bake Off' was an great way to spend the final few lessons of December. As you can see the competition was impressive and some of the results smelt and tasted incredible. Well done to all of the students that took part.



Christmas Baking



yum!



100% Club

Wow... What can I say about the 44 students that were inducted into the 100% club hall of fame at the end of the autumn term. This morning these students joined myself and Mr Till for a special rewards breakfast to celebrate amazing attendance and zero negative points for the whole of the autumn term. What an achievement!

Well done to:

Kirsti
Isla
George
Tristan
Riley
Oliver
Ellie
Fallon
Hettie
Maisie
Jasmine
Daniel
Giancarlo
Olivia
Neave
Liam
Olivia
Liam
Lily-Mae
Jasmine
Teddy
Myla
Katelyn
Cailen
Ella-Jean
Nyla
Ronnie
Ella
Isabella
Isla
Oliver
Charley-Rose
Blake
Joseph
Aidan
Alfie
Amelia
Alana
James
Harrison
Joe
India
Camden
Cassidy

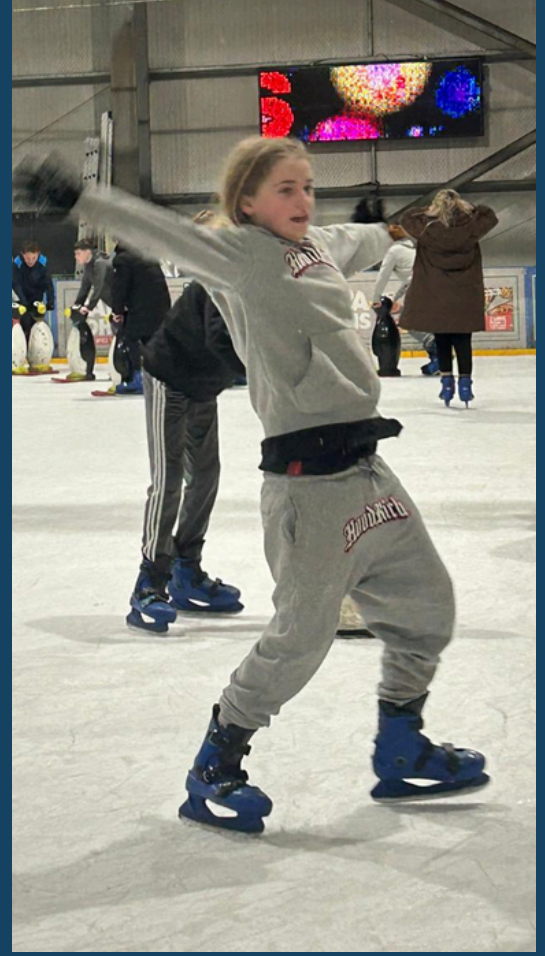


Reward Trips

The key stage reward trips went down a storm this week, with two separate days at Cinebowl in Uttoxeter. The students had a brilliant time ice skating, watching a film and bowling. You can see from their faces in the photographs below how much they loved it. Well done to all students that attended for meeting the trip criteria.



Reward Trips



Reward Trips



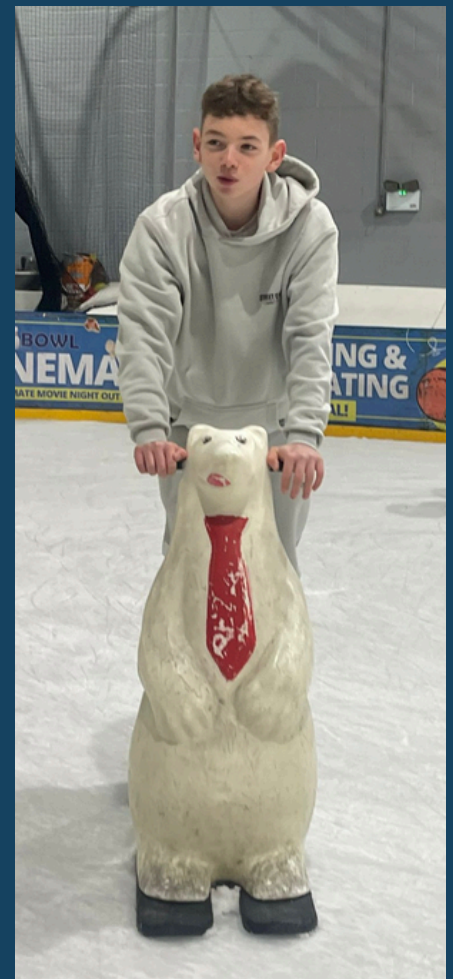
Reward Trips



SUPER!



Reward Trips



Reward Trips



Reward Trips



KSS Lecture Programme

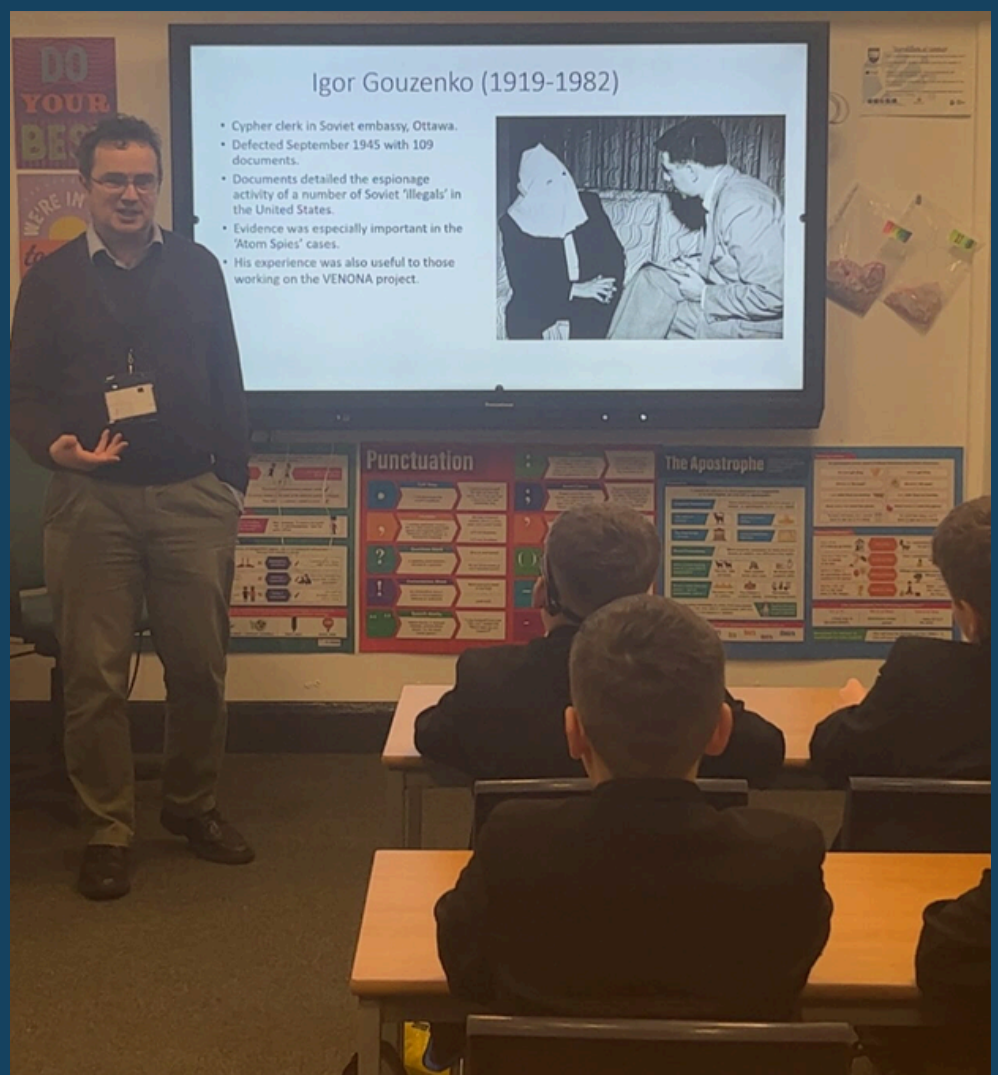


KSS Lecture Programme – Lecture 2

This week, students took part in the second lecture in our KSS lecture programme, exploring the fascinating and secretive world of spies and espionage.

The session delved into British intelligence agencies, the role of spies past and present, and how espionage has shaped key moments in history. Students were captivated as they learned about covert operations, intelligence gathering and the ethical dilemmas surrounding this hidden world.

As always, our students were engaged, curious and thoughtful, asking insightful questions and showing a real enthusiasm for learning beyond the classroom. We're already looking forward to the next lecture in the programme – more exciting learning to come!





**EXCITING
NEWS**

**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**



Meet the Staff

Joining us last Monday is our new pastoral support colleague, Ms White. We cannot wait to see what impact she will have in her new role as she has experience working in schools supporting students. Ms White will be working closely with Mr Till and the team, with a focus upon inclusion. Below are a few words from the lady herself...

"I'm delighted to have joined the Pastoral Team at KSS and already feel very welcome. I can really feel the strong community spirit here and I am very much looking forward to getting to know our students and their families over the coming months. Outside of school, I'm a mum of two young children and enjoy spending time outdoors with my family and our pup Reggie. I bring experience from working in secondary schools in similar roles and I am passionate about supporting young people to feel safe, heard and supported. Have a wonderful Christmas and I look forward to seeing you in 2026!"

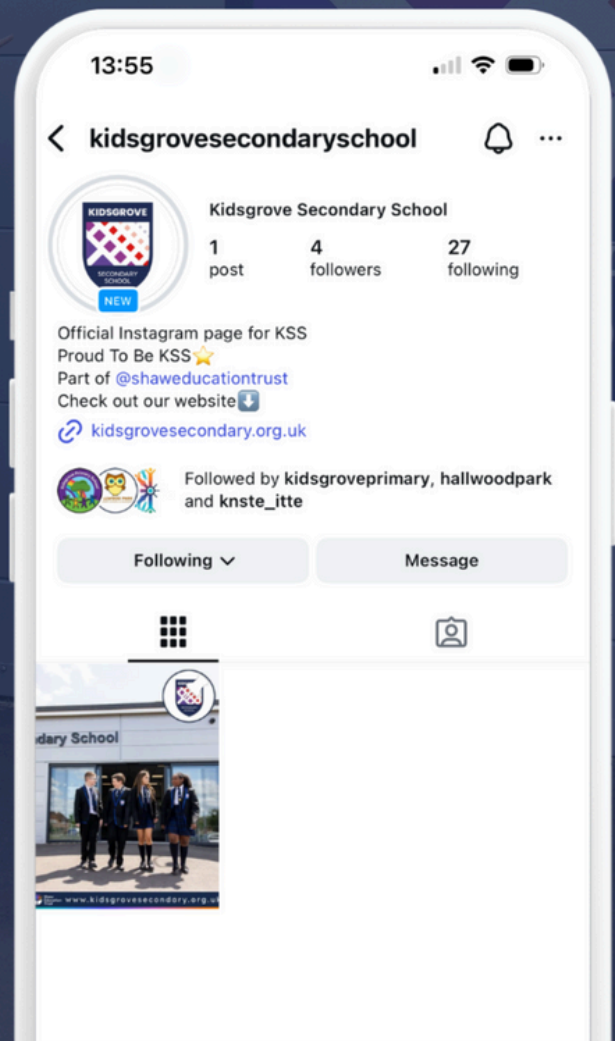




Shaw
Education
Trust

WE'RE NOW ON INSTAGRAM!

FOLLOW US @KIDSGROVESECONDARYSCHOOL



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



**PROUD TO
BE
KSS**



Celebration Assemblies

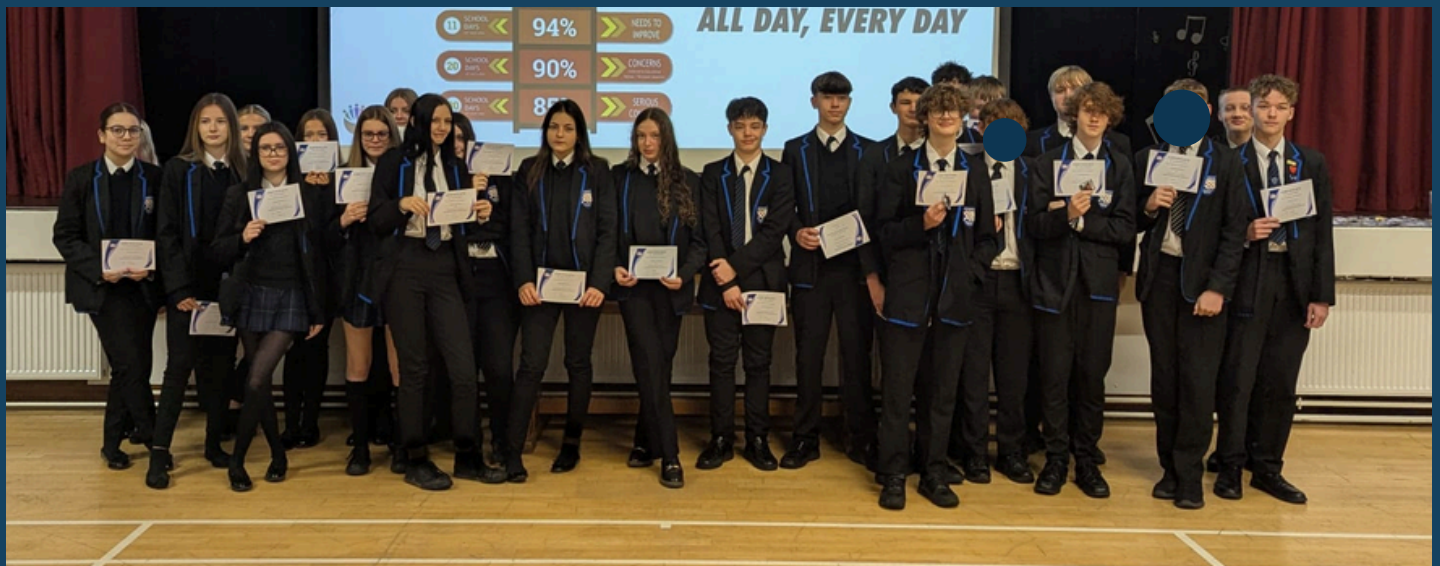
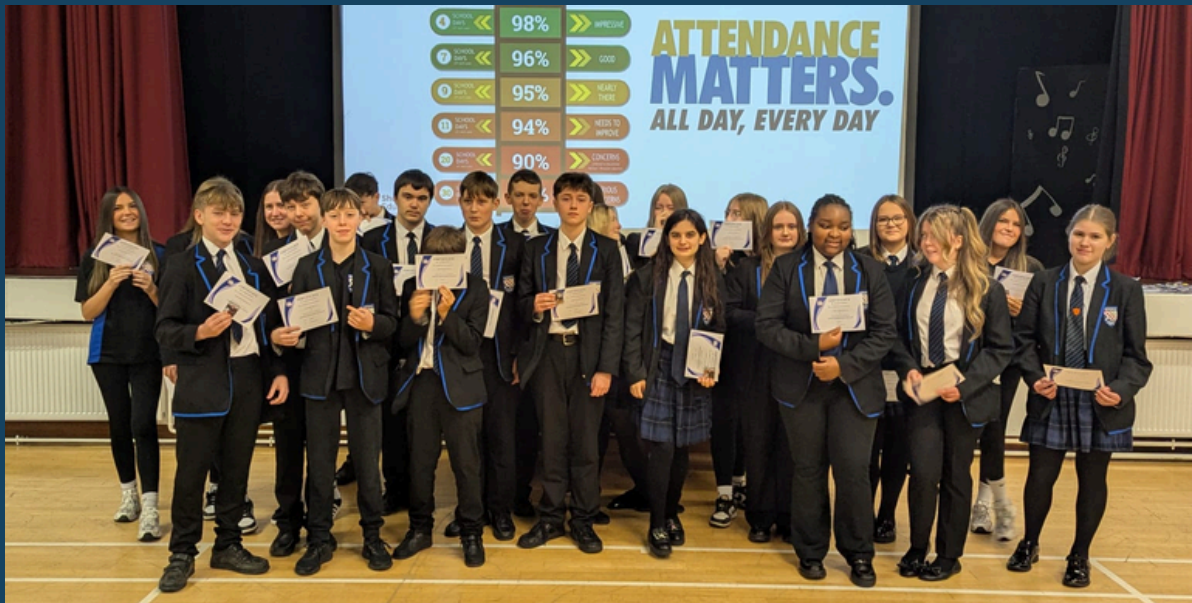
On Monday we held our celebration assemblies, my personal favourite assembly and event of the term. Mr Till organised and led celebrations for each year group and we had some stand out performers across a range of subjects, recognised for hard work and for demonstrating our core values. Well done to each and every student that received a certificate and a subject badge.



Celebration Assemblies



Celebration Assemblies



Celebration Assemblies



Celebration Assemblies



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

🌍 Discover yourself while you discover the world.

🌟 Switch Club, Duke of Edinburgh, Health and Social

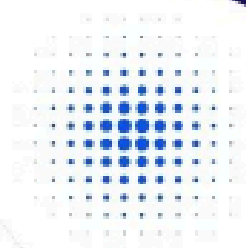
LET'S GO

ADVENTURE

For more details, see your form poster in your classroom



Meet Our Learning Support Team



Ms Hambleton
SENDCo



Mrs Beard
HTLA



Mrs West
Teaching Assistant



Miss Tucker
Teaching Assistant



Miss Longmore
Teaching Assistant



Miss Nicklin
Teaching Assistant

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



**PROUD TO
BE
KSS**



**CONTACT
US**



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



**Kidsgrove 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

The electronic tablets are used to develop pupils' digital skills alongside

www.kidsgroveschool.org.uk



**PROUD TO
BE
KSS**



Science

There was hot chocolate with marshmallows & cream and tubs of chocolates as 7K's reward for achieving the highest XP for Sparx Science this term. A special mention to Jude, Nyla and Ruby for this week's XP of 36,770, 28,070 & 16,570 points respectively just this week!

A huge well done 7K!

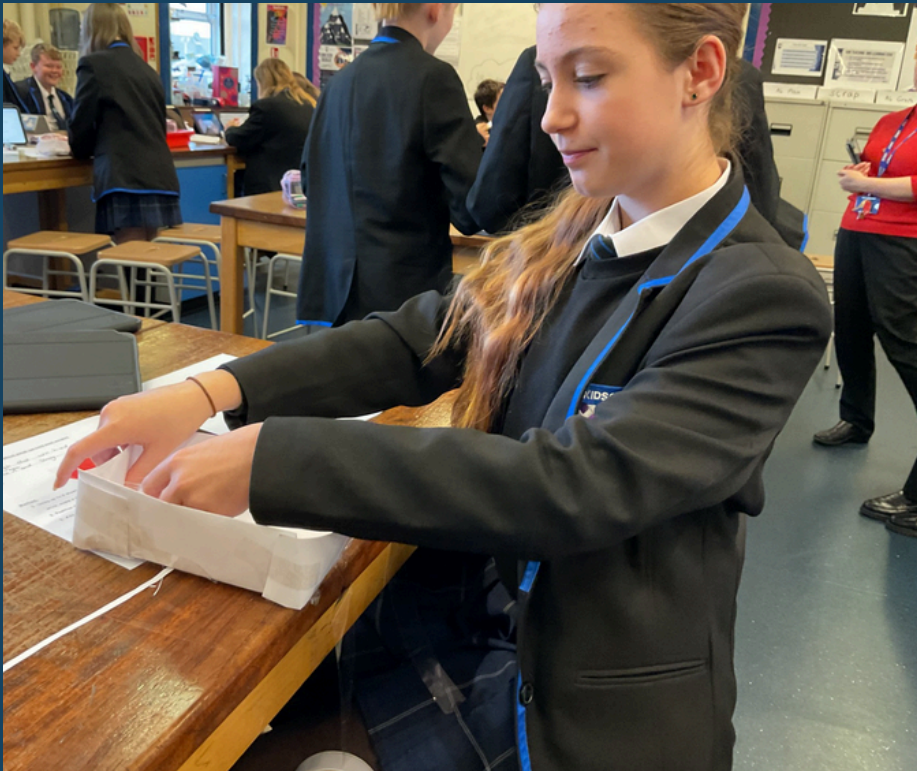


WELL
DONE



Science

Year 7 and Year 8 students have investigated 'Which sleigh will hold the most weight' competition in Science over the last few days. It was great to see students engaged in a festive themed Science challenge. Well done students!



Science



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.



Year 7 Panto Trip

Ms Potts organised a fantastic trip to the panto at the Regent Theatre last Friday to celebrate the best attended form this term, which was 7BJE. A well deserved treat from Ms Potts and the school. The students had a great time and so did the staff, with the Mr Jessup and Mrs Todd joining Ms Potts on the trip.





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.

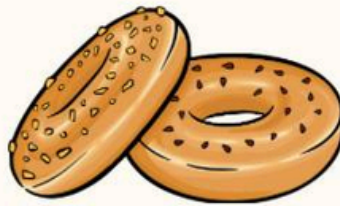


Support at KSS

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



Uniform bank



Breakfast
bagels



Equipment
shop



Free sanitary
products



Mental health
support



Season's Greetings

