

HEADTEACHER BULLETIN

Friday 18.7.25

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Can you believe the summer break has arrived. What a year it has been and over the last 39 school weeks we have seen students reach new heights in lots of different and remarkable ways. The school continues to go from strength to strength and we are excited to welcome our new Year 7 cohort on the third of September, officially as KSS students. The school isn't purely growing in terms of numbers, the culture continues to drive improvement and development in all areas and we are reaching new heights as each term passes.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support with everything we have achieved this academic year and the way in which you have collectively supported learning, enrichment, trips and events, it makes such a difference knowing that you are with us every step of the way. It is certainly something that we do not take for granted, this was summed up with the fantastic parental attendance at the recent sports day and at the summer show earlier this week.

I wanted to mention specifically in this edition of the bulletin, the summer show. Since taking up the KSS headship in September 2021, it has been a dream of mine for the school to host a summer play. I was delighted to receive the news from Ms Wagstaff and Mr Gillespie that they wanted to put together a 'The Wizard of Oz' production & after countless auditions, rehearsals and even a primary school showing, the whole school came together to watch the show on Wednesday afternoon. It was truly brilliant, and it was clear that we have so many talented students on the stage, treading the boards and supporting back stage by organising the lighting, sound and props. We cannot wait for our next summer showcase, with Mr Gillespie already pitching ideas to me about what this show could be!

Finally, from all of the KSS staff we would like to wish you all a relaxing summer holiday. We have Year 11 results day coming up on the 21st of August and we cannot wait to welcome our leavers back to school for what we hope will be a really successful set of outcomes that rewards them for their hard work.

When we return we are holding two INSET days on Monday the 1st and Tuesday the 2nd of September, with Year 7's attending on Wednesday the 3rd of September and all year groups returning on Thursday the 4th of September. We cannot wait to welcome back our students for the new academic year and it will be amazing to see what they can achieve.

Upcoming Events

Yours faithfully,
Mr S Frost

Thursday 21.8.25 - Year 11 Results Day (10am)

Wednesday 3.9.25 - Year 7 Only

Thursday 4.9.25 - All Students Return

Saturday 13.9.25 - DofE Expedition

Friday 26.9.25 - Macmillan Coffee Morning

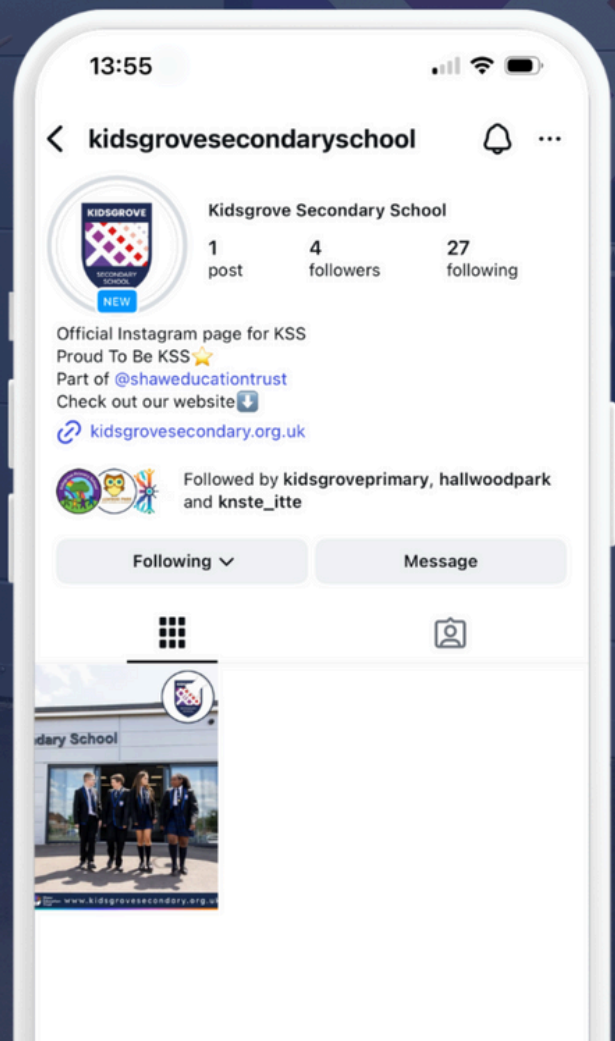




Shaw
Education
Trust

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PROUD TO
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KSS



Head Students 2025-2026

We are delighted to share that after closing our application window last week, myself and Mr Barker-Brown had the privilege of interviewing nine students for the 2025-2026 Head Student positions. All of the students performed brilliantly and impressed us with their interview technique and ideas for next year. Congratulations to each and every student and we cannot wait to see what next year will bring!

Congratulations

HEAD STUDENTS



Phoebe
Head Girl



Sophie
Deputy Head Girl



Tommy
Deputy Head Boy



Reece
Head Boy



Olivia
Head Student



Holly
Head Student



Maisie
Head Student



Talula
Senior Prefect



Freddie
Senior Prefect



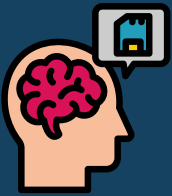
**PROUD TO
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Quality of Education Update

Quality of Education Spotlight on Learning – Retrieval Practice

At Kidsgrove Secondary School, we are proud of our focus on evidence-informed teaching strategies that help pupils learn more and remember more over time. One of the key areas we're developing as part of our Learning Steps approach, and Engage Task, is retrieval practice – and with the long summer holidays approaching, it's the perfect time to explore how this can support your child's learning now and in the future.



What is retrieval practice?

Retrieval practice is the process of actively recalling information from memory – like answering a quiz question or explaining something learned in class. Rather than simply re-reading notes or highlighting textbooks, retrieval strengthens the brain's ability to retain and apply knowledge over time.

In other words, the more we try to remember something, the better we remember it. It's like exercising a muscle – the more you use it, the stronger it becomes.



Why does this matter – especially over the summer holidays?

Research shows that long breaks from school can lead to what's known as "learning loss", particularly when knowledge hasn't yet been secured in long-term memory. Retrieval practice helps prevent this by keeping learning "alive" in the brain.

By encouraging small, simple retrieval activities during the summer, you can support your child in maintaining what they've worked so hard to learn this year – and give them a head start for September.



Quality of Education Update



How can you help at home?

You don't need to be an expert in the curriculum to support retrieval. Here are some easy, effective strategies you can use at home:

Use flashcards – Ask your child to make question-and-answer flashcards on key topics from this year. Test them for five minutes a day.

Encourage 'brain dumps' – Ask them to write down everything they can remember about a topic without looking at notes, then check and add what they missed.

Quiz casually – Turn mealtimes or car journeys into quick-fire quiz sessions. "Can you name three things you learned in science this year?"

Teach to learn – Ask your child to teach you something they've studied. Explaining ideas aloud strengthens understanding.

Use retrieval apps – Tools like Seneca Learning, Quizlet or BBC Bitesize include ready-made quizzes for KS3 and KS4 topics. Even short, regular practice (10–15 minutes a few times a week) can make a real difference.

**GOOD
THINGS
AHEAD**

Looking ahead to September

When pupils return in September, those who've kept their memory active will feel more confident and less overwhelmed as they build on what they already know. Retrieval will continue to play a key role in lessons, with frequent low-stakes quizzing, knowledge recall and spaced practice built into our curriculum. Thank you for your continued support. We wish you a restful and enjoyable summer, and we look forward to welcoming pupils back in September, ready to retrieve, recall and thrive!





ATTENDANCE



WHOLE SCHOOL: 93.6

YEAR 7- 95.5%



YEAR 8- 93.7%

YEAR 9 - 92.8%

YEAR 10- 92.5%

NATIONAL AVERAGE: 90.1%

BEST FORM YTD: 7CH

BEST HOUSES: WEDGEWOOD



Form Attendance



Kidsgrove Secondary School

Attendance Matters

#StopTheDrop



New Year 7's

LET'S HAVE A TOAST!

Welcome Breakfast

You and your parents/carers are invited to a welcome breakfast on Wednesday 3rd September to welcome you to Kidsgrove Secondary School.

Day: Wednesday 3rd September

Time: 9am

Place: Go to the main hall

We can't wait to see you there!

Ms Hambleton

Assistant Head Teacher (SENDCo)/ Primary Transition Lead



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London 2025

In the penultimate week of term, a group of Y8 students visited London to take part in the Tudor Trail and cultural enrichment. Over the course of three days, students visited numerous London sites, experienced theatres, parks and museums and walked over 20 miles doing so.

As ever, their behaviour, attitudes and resilience shone through and it was fantastic to see them showing so much interest in a range of learning opportunities outside of the classroom. Thank you to Mrs Weaver for planning and leading this amazing visit.



London 2025



London 2025



London 2025




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

London 2025



Staff Spotlight

This edition of the Headteacher Bulletin we will be shining the spotlight on Mrs Weaver. Mrs Weaver is our Assistant Headteacher who leads Teaching and Learning along with Personal Development, Careers and Work Experience. She is such a positive staff member and her energy is infectious.



Staff Spotlight Who's Who at KSS

How long have you worked at the school?

21 Years!

What do you love most about working at KSS?

The community feel - I love the team I work with and the students.

What inspires you at work?

Knowing that I might be shaping someone's future, helping them find their voice or direction—that inspires me to bring my best every day.

Proudest moment/ best memory at school so far?

Academically, it's when we see students do well, and I see them grow a love of geography. I also love taking field trips both in the UK and abroad and feel very proud that we can give students, the opportunity to experience these.

Quick Fire Questions

Tea or coffee? *Coffee*

Dogs or cats? *Dogs*

Morning person or night owl? *Morning Person*

Favourite takeaway? *Indian*

One word to describe yourself? *Enthusiastic*



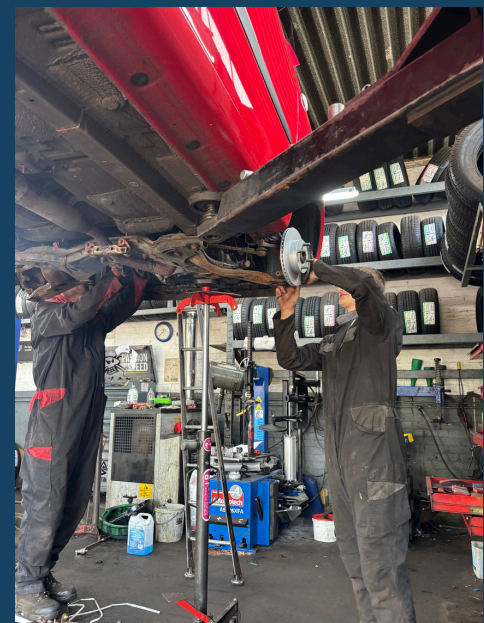
Mrs Weaver
Assistant Head Teacher



Y10 Work Experience

This month, our 10 students had the opportunity to attend a work experience placement. Work experience at school is a short-term placement where students spend time in a real workplace. It gives them a chance to step outside the classroom and experience what it's like to have a job. The goal is to help students learn new skills, explore possible careers, and gain confidence by seeing how the world of work operates.

It was great to visit our students in different settings and see how they were thriving in the World of Work.



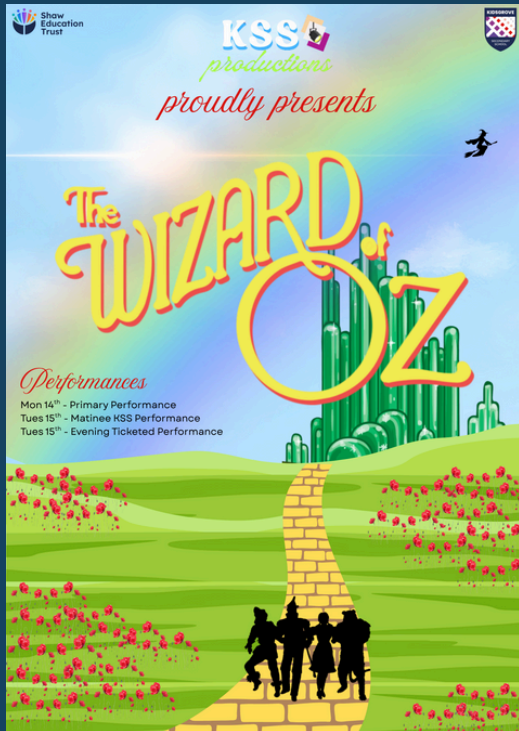
Y10 Work Experience



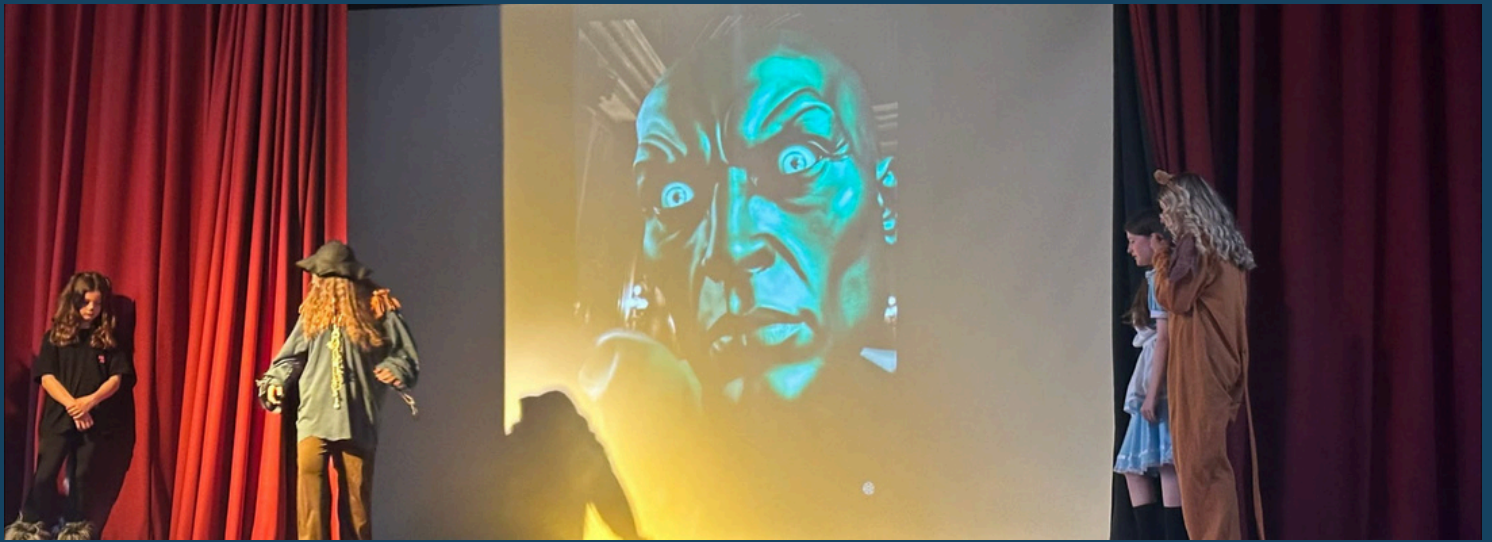
Wizard of Oz



What a show! Thank you to everyone involved in the fantastic 'The Wizard of Oz' production. It was a terrific showcase of our students incredible talents. Well done everyone who was involved, you were all amazing and a big thank you to all of the parents & carers that came along to watch.



Wizard of Oz



Headteacher Reward Lunch

Well done to every student that was nominated for the final Headteacher Reward Lunch of the academic year. The students were treated to a delicious buffet thanks to our wonderful kitchen staff. The majority of students selected were chosen for their engagement and performance in the recent district athletics competition at Northwood stadium. The school was praised for its excellent standards of behaviour and sportsmanship by the event organisers and we wanted to pass onto students how grateful we are.

Well done!



Sports Day

What a day, the sun was shining and school records were smashed in one of our most competitive sports days yet.

Thank you to all parents & carers that attended and thank you to all of our competitors. We cannot wait to do it all again next year.



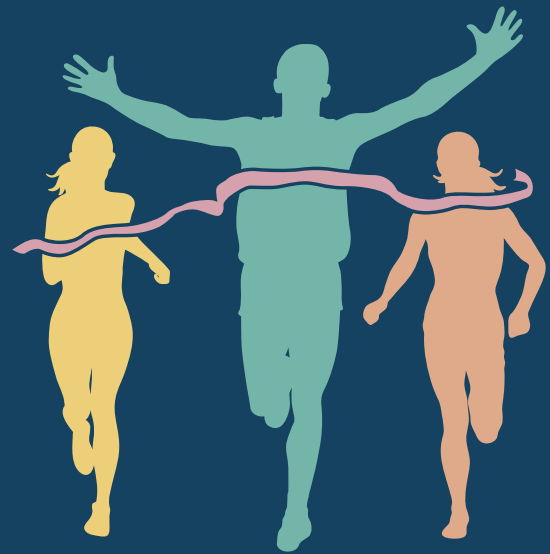
Sports Day



well★done



Sports Day



Sports Day



**GREAT
EFFORT**



**PROUD TO
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KSS**



Sports Day





BRONZE

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Earlier this month, a group of our Year 11s completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a nationally recognised program that builds confidence, resilience, and valuable life skills. To achieve the award, students took on four fun and rewarding challenges: Volunteering (giving back to the community), Physical (getting fit or improving in a sport), Skills (learning something new), and a two-day, one-night expedition that they planned, trained for and completed as a team.



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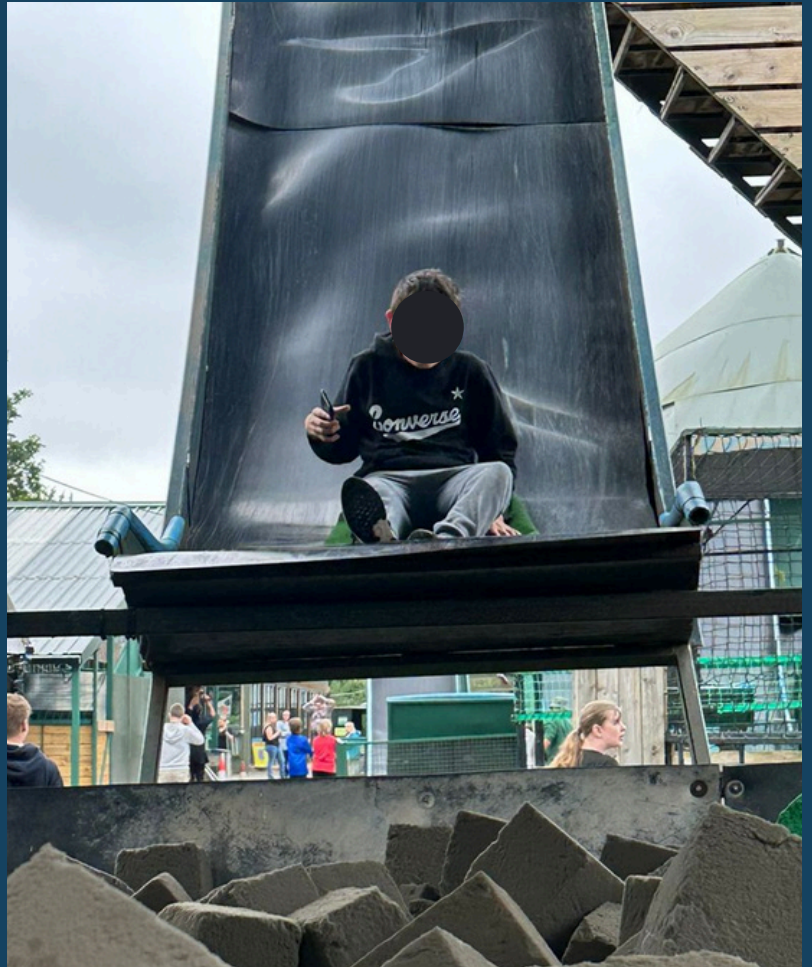


Reward Trips

The reward trips are always such a great way to end the term. We had two separate trips this summer with KS4 students attending the Trafford Centre for some retail therapy and the KS3 students attending the Crocky Trail. A great time was had by all of the students and a big thank you to Ms Hambleton and Mr Till for organising both visits.



Reward Trips



Reward Trips





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



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Celebration Assemblies

The highlight of the term... our famous celebration assemblies were held this morning.

There was so much to celebrate and it appeared that more students than ever have been recognised for their hard work and commitment to learning with so many certificates and subject badges given out. Well done to each and every nominee.



Celebration Assemblies



Celebration Assemblies



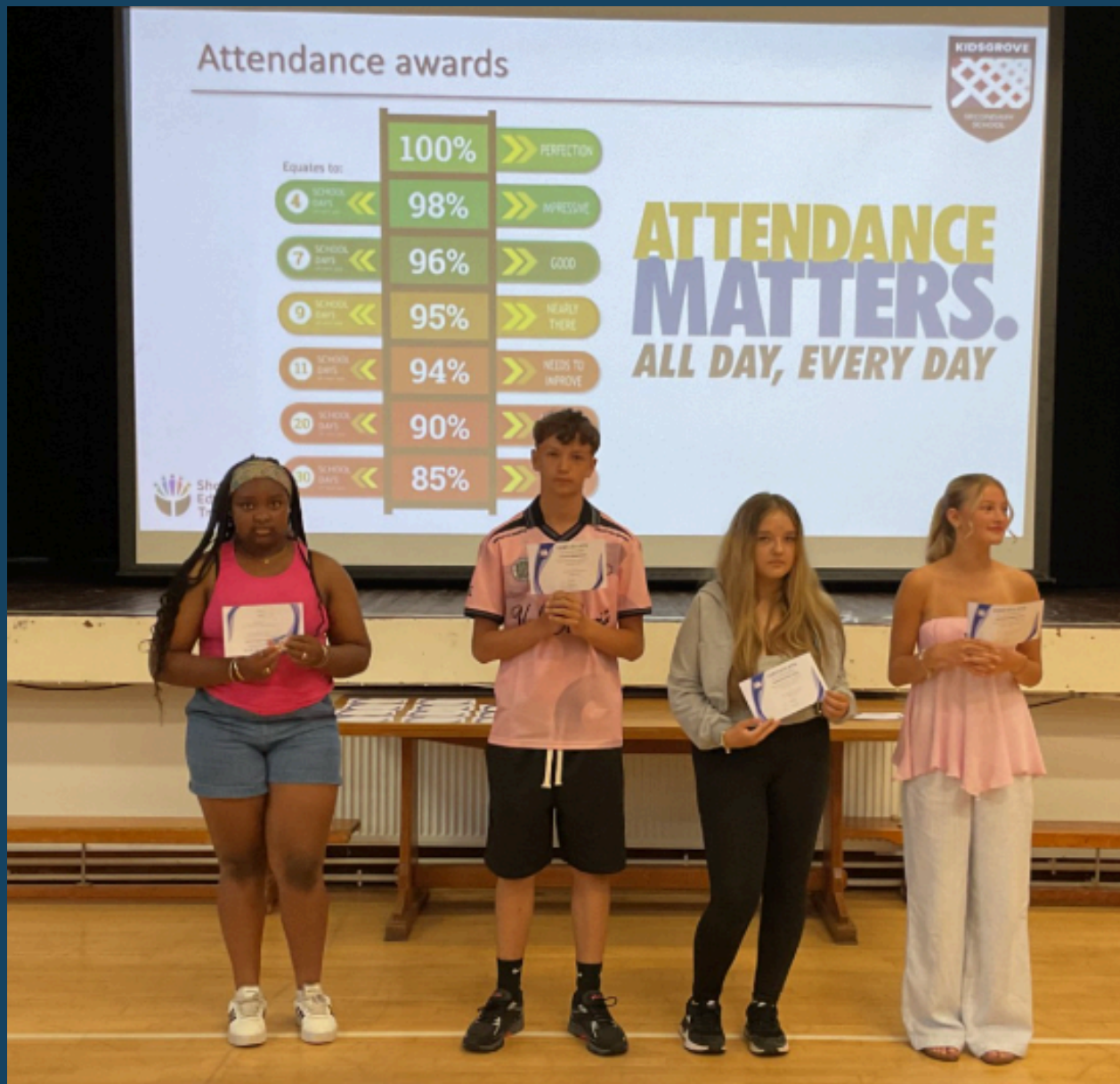
Celebration Assemblies



Celebration Assemblies



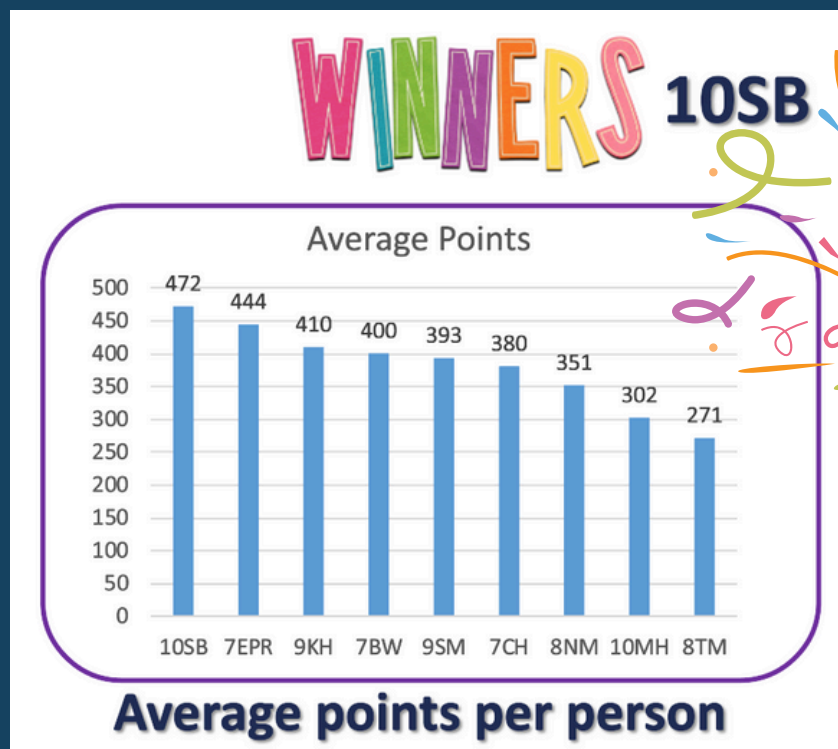
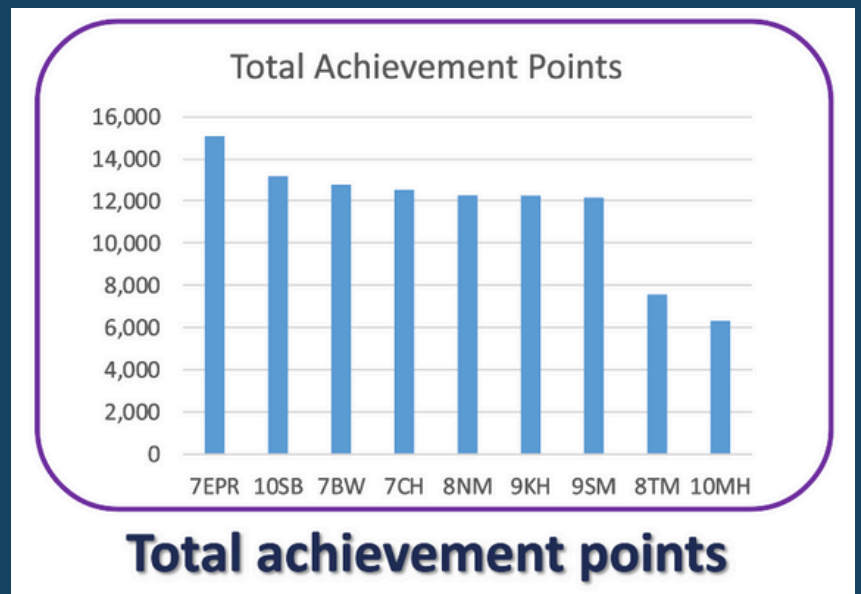
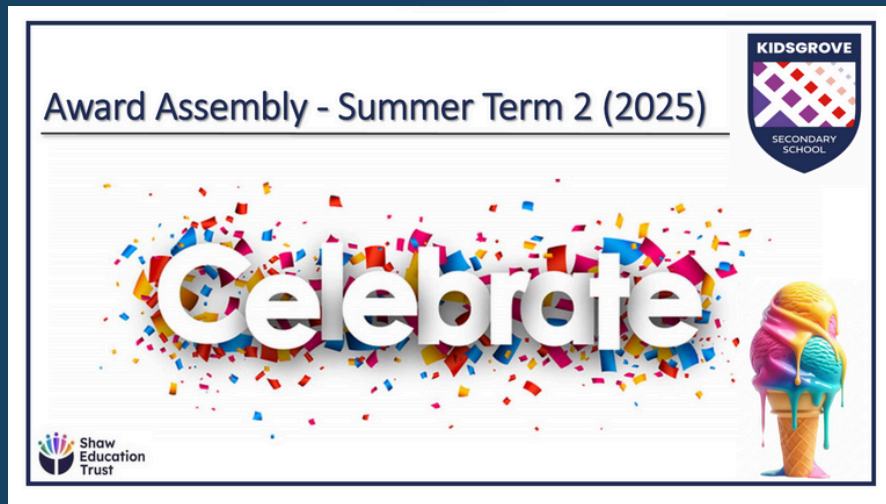
Celebration Assemblies



Celebration Assemblies

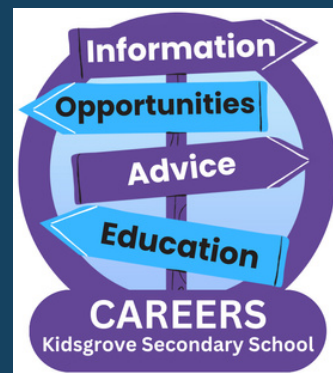


Celebration Assemblies



Careers @ KSS

Our careers provision has continued to go from strength to strength this year. As part of our quality assurance, we use Compass+, an online tool used by schools to track and evaluate how well they are meeting these benchmarks. It allows us to plan, monitor, and report on the impact of our careers programme, ensuring all students receive comprehensive and targeted support.



Following our end of year review, we are extremely pleased to announce our Gatsby Benchmark progress and will continue to develop this even further in the next academic year.

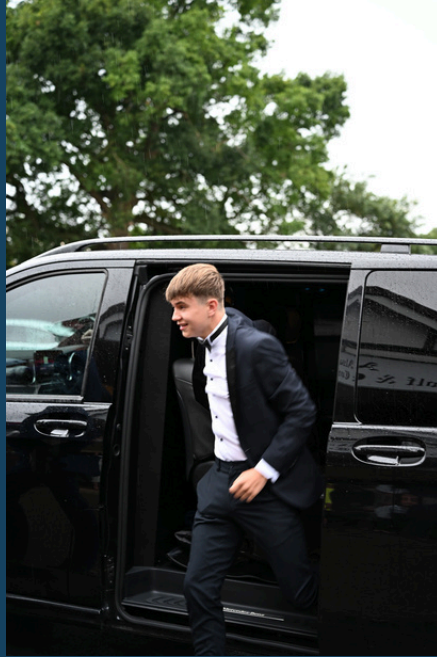
Gatsby Benchmark	% achieved in latest evaluation i
1 - A stable careers programme	100%
2 - Learning from career and labour market information	100%
3 - Addressing the needs of each pupil	100%
4 - Linking curriculum learning to careers	100%
5 - Encounters with employers and employees	100%
6 - Experiences of workplaces	100%
7 - Encounters with further and higher education	95%
8 - Personal guidance	100%

Understanding the Gatsby Benchmarks and Compass+ Evaluations

The Gatsby Benchmarks are a framework of eight key principles that define high-quality careers education in schools. They help ensure students are well-prepared for their future by providing meaningful encounters with employers, clear guidance on career paths, and practical experiences in the workplace and further education. The benchmarks cover areas like linking curriculum learning to careers, providing personal guidance, and exposing students to a range of education and employment opportunities.



Year 11 Prom



Year 11 Prom





Year 11 Prom



House Points

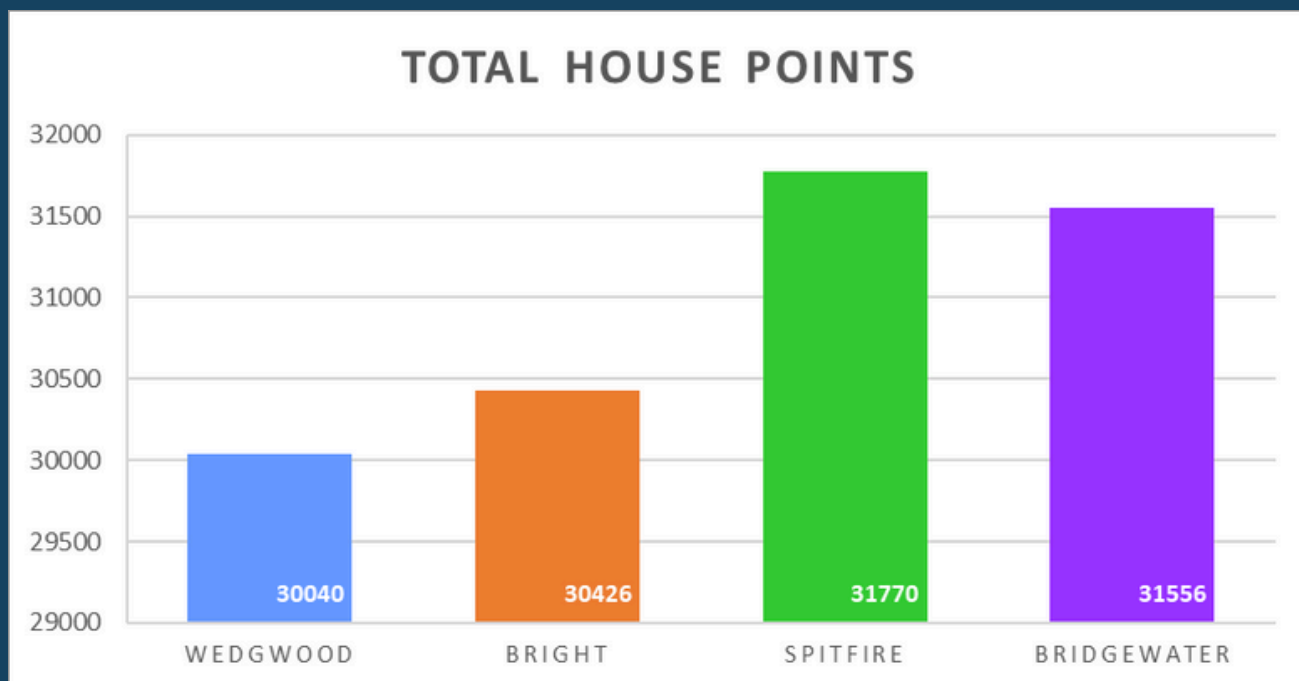
As we reach the end of another successful academic year, I am delighted to share the final House Points totals. Throughout the year, students have demonstrated outstanding effort, teamwork, and resilience, earning points in recognition of their achievements both inside and outside the classroom.

🏆 Congratulations to **Spitfire** House, who have secured the top position this year with an impressive total of 31,770 points!

Close behind, **Bridgewater** House also performed exceptionally well, earning 31,556 points. **Bright** and **Wedgwood** showed tremendous spirit and determination, completing the year with over 30,000 points each; a fantastic achievement.

These results are a testament to the commitment and enthusiasm of our students, who have worked hard in lessons, contributed positively to the school community, and supported one another. I would also like to thank all staff members who have encouraged and motivated their house members throughout the year.

Let's continue this momentum into the next academic year and see which house will rise to the challenge!



Safeguarding

In early July, Mr Till formulated and chaired the Kidsgrove Safeguarding Partnership. This involves a network of agencies, the local authority, local constabulary and the two secondary schools, within Kidsgrove, working in collaboration to support the families and young people of our community. The first meeting held at Kidsgrove Secondary School looked at:

- Sharing knowledge and good practice regarding safeguarding concerns within the local area.
- Identifying trends that could have a direct or indirect impact on our community.
- Ensuring the safeguarding education of our young people is consistent and aligned.
- Understanding the barriers our families face and what services are available for them.



Attendance



The poster features a torn paper effect with the main text. In the top left is the Kids Grove Secondary School crest. In the top right are two donuts. On the right side is a school uniform consisting of a grey sweater, a white shirt, and a pink tie. In the bottom left is a blue pencil holder filled with various colored pencils. The background is a mix of red, purple, and dark blue shapes.

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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
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Shaw Education Trust



The banner has a purple and grey background with a rocket ship illustration on the right. The text is white and blue.

Kidsgrove Secondary School

Attendance Matters

#StopTheDrop

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