

# HEADTEACHER BULLETIN

Thursday 19.12.24

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

Dear Parents/Carers,

I write to you one final time before the end of the calendar year as a very proud Headteacher! What a year it has been, with so much to celebrate and it is always an opportunity at this point in the calendar to reflect on what we have achieved together.

Firstly, thank you to all of you that completed the recent parent/carers survey, the feedback is as always much appreciated and as valuable as ever. We use your feedback to continue to move the school forwards and to work on any areas or issues that you raise. To see that **97% of parents/carers would recommend the school to another parent or carer** is amazing to see. This sums up the remarkable connection that we have with you all, as we work together to support your child both academically and pastorally. I can assure you that we do not take this support for granted and we will ensure that there is no complacency as we enter 2025.

There has been a conscious shift over the last three years at KSS, to continue to support students pastorally and to know them all as individuals in order to personalise our support but also to relentlessly improve the academic expectations that we have for your child. I am delighted to share that this drive and determination has been recognised nationally. The school is officially the **tenth most improved school in England for our Year 11 outcomes (2024)**. This is testament to the hard work and collective efforts of our school community and is an achievement that we should all be proud of.

A further reflection as we look back on the year are the digital enhancements that we have made through Mrs Weaver and her work in leading our 'Showbie' roll out on our new iPads, that were launched in October. There have been some great strides made in the way that we feedback to students about their learning and how we also make adaptations to support students in completing their secure tasks each lesson.

Finally, the last week has summed up why our staff and students feel so positively about our school. We have held celebration assemblies that 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 attendance and attitudes to learning. This sense of pride was compounded by various other rewards events this week and it culminated with the reward trips, which have been such a highlight. We believe at KSS that students meeting our expectations consistently should always be recognised and we have had a record number of students attend many activities this week. It is not just rewards trips though, yesterday Mrs Hawthorne and Mrs Postlethwaite both led Year 11 trips to support Maths and Health & Social Care studies. This demonstrates once more our relentless and unwavering focus upon academic success.



Yours faithfully,  
Mr S Frost

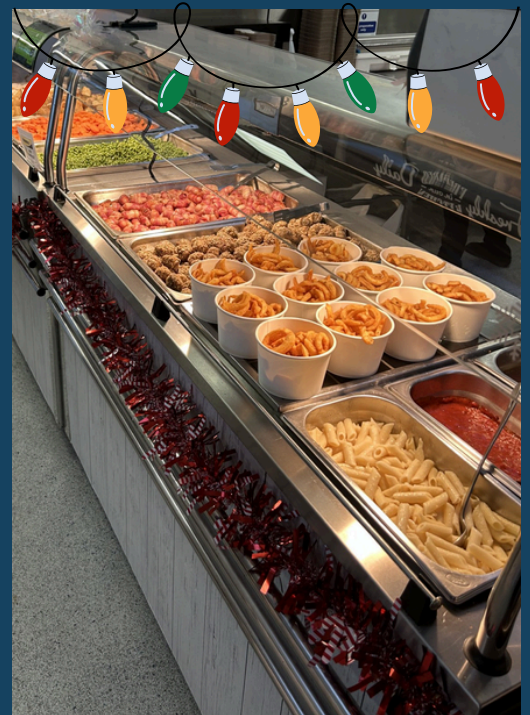
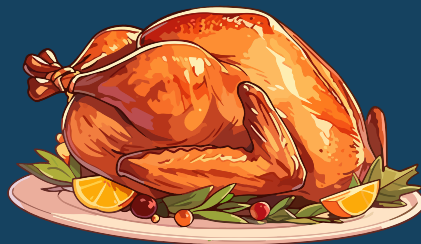


# Headteacher Reward Lunch

The final reward lunch of 2024 and what a lunch we had! We were spoilt with a delicious Christmas lunch from our wonderful catering team.

A huge well done to the students named below for their amazing efforts and consistent application of our Core Values this term.

Alfie  
Tamara  
Tristan  
Heather  
Ava  
Finn  
Lewis  
Brooke  
Lilly  
Josh  
Mason  
Fox  
Maisie  
Gracie



# 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://kidsgrovessecondary.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.



# New Mini Bus

We are delighted to share that we have received our new mini bus! Mr Harris, has started to use the bus each day for our morning and afternoon pick ups and drop offs. It is great to see our new logo out and about on our local roads, along with our slogan "If you do enough small things right, **BIG THINGS** can happen". Please give Mr Harris a wave if you see him on his travels.



# Careers and Further Education



Last week, our Year 11 students visited, and took part in Taster Sessions at Newcastle College. After an introductory talk on the different options available to them when they leave, and a free breakfast, they got to experience sessions in an area of interest to them.

## A-Level Psychology and Criminology



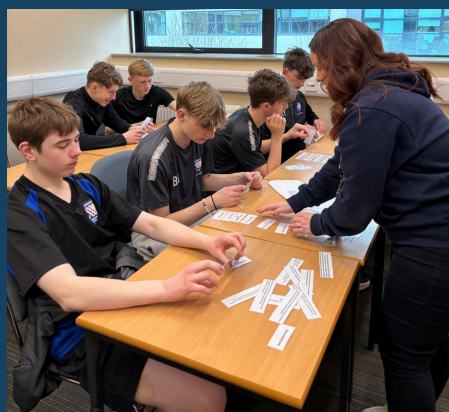
## ESports



## Sports and Public Services



## Hairdressing, beauty and make up



## Health care and early years



# Maths



Wow, what a busy term we have had in Maths!

Students in year 7 have used a mixture of physical and digital manipulatives to learn about calculating with positive and negative numbers.

All year groups took full advantage of the revision materials in Sparx to prepare for their assessments this term. All students in year 7, 8, 9 and 11 now have access to personalised follow-up material in Sparx to fix fluency gaps in their understanding and many have already started on this once they've completed their Sparx homework.

Students in key stage 3 have been using Sparx to practise and improve their times tables knowledge. To complement the excellent 'drop everything and read' initiative the maths department have been getting students to 'stop everything and times' in their lessons to ensure all students have full knowledge of times table facts, helping to build confidence in maths lessons. It's really pleasing to see that since September 97 students have already improved their times table knowledge and fluency!



# Maths



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





# Maths



We are so thrilled by the effort so many of our students put into their homework in maths, that we wanted to give a shout out. All the following students have completed 100% of their homework, on time, every week that they have received it this term;

## YEAR 7

Arthur A, Frankie A, Sofia A, Elliot A, George A, Grace B, Sidney B, Stanley B, Harrison B, Nathan B, Daisy B, Freddie B, Sean C, Jake E, Lucas G, Liam G, Sophie H, Talulah H, Alex H, Ronnie M, Riley P, Anthony P, Jamie R, Blake S, Chloe S-F, Joseph S, Alfie W, Louis W, Alana W, Ella-Grace B, Eliana B, Giancarlo C, Tiana C-G, Seth D, Robbie E, Ayla-Jayne E, Iwan E, Lylah F, Devon G, Jasmine H, Cassie-Leigh H, Macy-Bailey P, Oliver Ph, Charley-Rose P, Harry Q, Jack Q, Tamara R, Andrew R, Frank S, Freddie T, Scarlett T, Francesca V, Katie W, Cassidy W, Jessica C, Ella C-J, Myla C, Jay E, Samuel G, Logan G-B, William G-H, Kyra G, Leo O, Thomas W, Mark C, Lily G, Tamika G, Scarlett G, Amelia H, Elise J, Khaleel K, Vinnie L, Fraser M, Rebecca O, Connor P, Ryan W

## YEAR 8

Tristan B, Lucas B, Joshua B, Harry C, Miles C, Mika G, Oliver G, Tyler H, Sid M, Archie M, Amelia O, Isla S, Will S, Mya V, Darcy W, Jenson-Leigh W, Riley W-T, Hallie A, Riley B, Lewis B, Hayrunnisa K, Darcie K, Charlie L, Jacob T, Theo W, Olivia E, Finley H, Lucas H, Heather T-O, Zak T

## YEAR 9

Kirsti A, Chloe A, Dakota A, Ava B-N, Isaac B, Daisy B, Mollie B, Charlie B, Amy B, Jasmine C, Abi G, Victoria H, Katelyn H, Jamie J, Alexia L, Darcey M, Edie R, Brooke S, Brooklyn B, Maisie B, Liam G, Mystaya H T, Lyla K, Isabella P, Ollie Q, Alfie S, Finn T, Thomas W, Zara-Mae B, Luca G, Shakirah M, Reese S

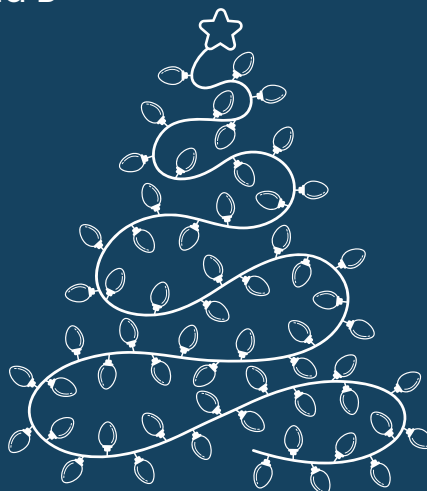
## YEAR 10

Tommy D, Sophie E, Louie H, Brooke H, Leighton H, Reece J, Olivia L, Ellie L, Iona O, Leah R, Pheobe S-L, Olly T, Evie T, George W, Bethany B, Jacob B, Maisey D-F, Libby H, Maddie R, Talula R

## YEAR 11

Lilly B, Fatima B, Owen C, Joel C, Matthew E, Gracie H, Alesha K, Carmella-Rose L, Maisie M, Olivia N, Ebony P, Jack R, Olivia S, Fox S, Liam T, Alfie W, Tyler F, Aaron M-M, Nevaeh M, Amy S, McKenzie S, Lily S, Joshua B

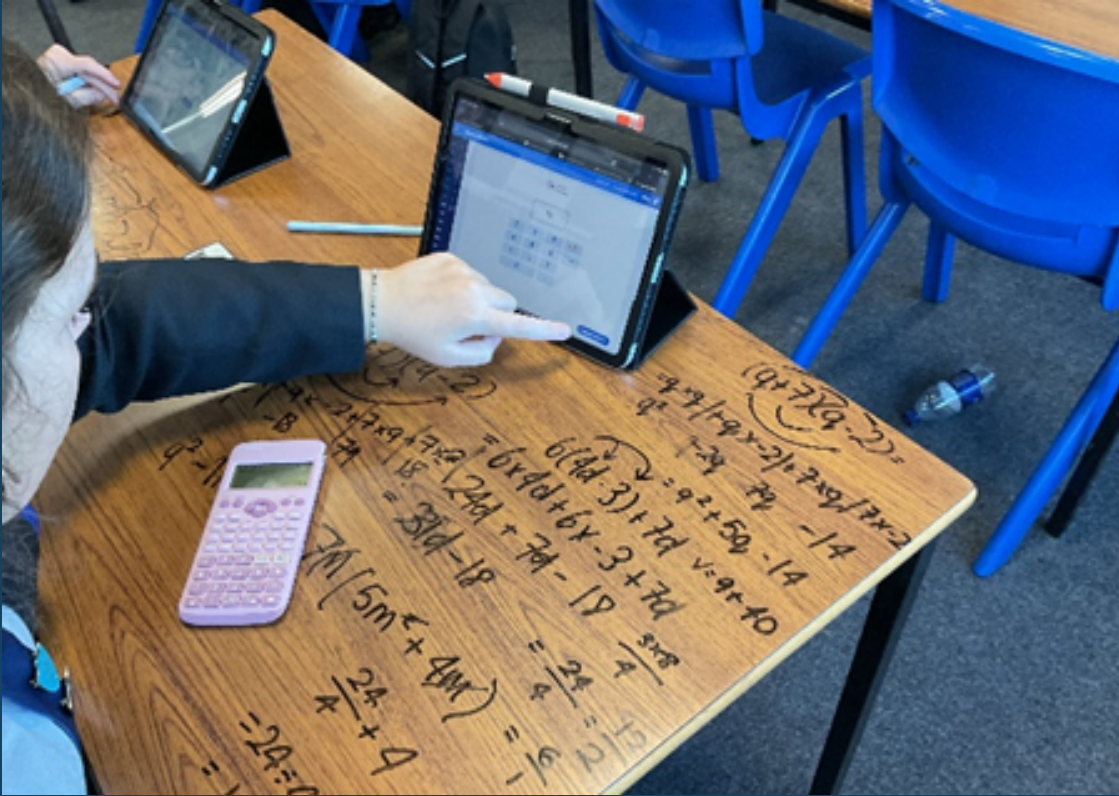
Keep up the great work!



**Wow!**



# Maths



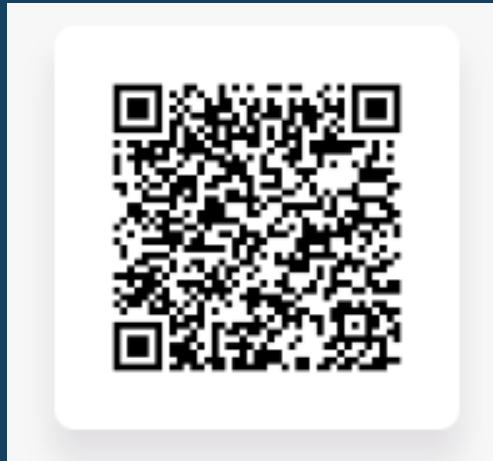
# What is my child learning?

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

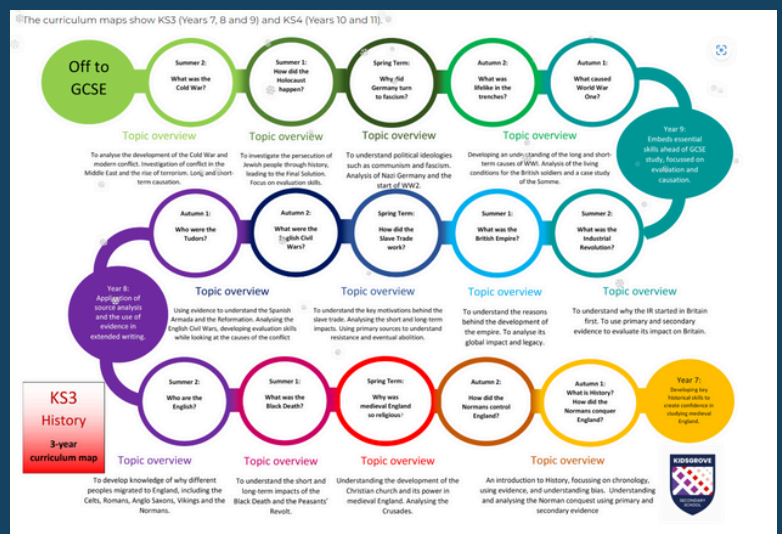
When Ofsted visited the school last year they were impressed with our subject curriculums and how the students were taught the key themes.

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.



# Attendance



**Whole School 94%**

**YEAR 7- 96.7%**

**YEAR 8 -94%**

**YEAR 9 - 92.5%**

**YEAR 10 - 92%**

**YEAR 11 - 93%**

**National  
Average =  
92.8%**



Kidsgrove Secondary School

**Attendance Matters**

#StopTheDrop



# Form Attendance



Kidsgrove Secondary School

**Attendance Matters**

#StopTheDrop





# 12 Days Of Christmas

A huge congratulations to all of our '12 Days Of Christmas' winners! It was amazing to see all students rising to the challenge of being entered into the daily draw.

It was great to see so many students receiving daily prizes and even better when extra prizes were added to the draw.

We had a vast range of prizes from chocolate santa's to football tickets to family swims, and we would like to take the opportunity to thank our local community for helping us with these amazing gifts for our students.

We look forward to next years '12 Days Of christmas' and watching our students shine!



# Digital Champions

Last week our Digital Champions met to plan and launch a **Digital Card Competition**. This was launched in form time, with students submitting their entries to our Digital Champions. We asked Ms Morrell and Mrs Mason to judge and congratulations to Vinnie who's card was chosen as our winner. This will be shared with our local partners. Thank you to everyone for your entries.



**Digital Card Challenge**

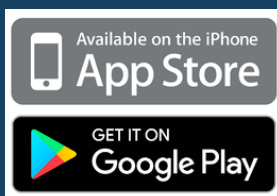
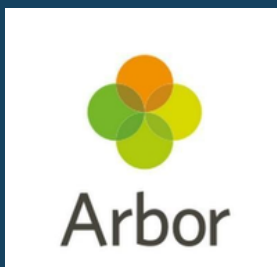
Design a **DIGITAL** card that can be sent to the colleges and companies we work with.

**CHOOSE**  
A Christmas Card  
OR  
A Happy New Year Card

- Make it animated or through still images.
- It should have a message on the front.
- Be creative and original.

Email your entries by Friday 12th December to [digitalchampions@kss.set.org](mailto:digitalchampions@kss.set.org)

**GOOD LUCK**



As a reminder, students are now confidently using the **Arbor App** to access their timetables, achievement and behaviour point. Please could we ask parents to access this as we are able to send communications from the school. It will also enable you to see achievement and behaviour points. Please use the link for any support you need with setting this up.

<https://support.arbor-education.com/hc/en-us/articles>



# English

A big shout out to our Sparx Reader champions, who are leading the way with their reading this term.

Across the school, our students have read over 40 million words this term. That's an average of 118.000 words per student. That equates to 7,500 hours of careful reading at an average of 22 hours per student. Well done!

	First Name	Surname	Year	Total SRP	Total words read	Hours of careful reading
1						
2	Sophie	E	Year 10	81,045	653,935	135
3	Holly	P	Year 10	76,329	593,695	127
4	Alexia	L	Year 9	52,311	598,158	87
5	Reece	J	Year 10	48,066	349,206	80
6	Joshua	B	Year 8	42,781	561,632	71
7	Amber	B	Year 10	42,396	592,173	70
8	Tristan	B	Year 8	36,953	327,270	61
9	Amy	B	Year 9	35,198	264,173	58
10	Olivia	D	Year 9	33,031	350,390	55
11	Abi	G	Year 9	32,938	268,256	54
12	Victoria	H	Year 9	32,410	412,600	54
13	Tyler	H	Year 8	31,580	232,825	52
14	Liam	G	Year 9	31,378	124,507	52
15	Isla	S	Year 8	31,240	261,495	52
16	Maisie	B	Year 9	30,692	272,491	51
17	Matilda	G	Year 8	30,416	164,656	50
18	Harry	C	Year 8	30,235	338,902	50
19	Finley	H	Year 8	29,642	180,815	49
20	Shakirah	M	Year 9	29,022	363,625	48
21	Jacob	S	Year 8	28,919	199,761	48





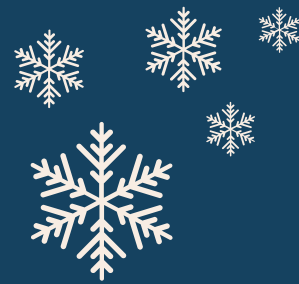
# English

## Year 8 Trip to the New Vic Theatre

A reminder that our trip to see the 'Three Musketeers' will be taking place on Friday 10th January at the New Vic Theatre. This is an exciting opportunity for our students to accrue some lovely cultural capital with a trip to see Alexandre Dumas's classic tale performed live.



# Kidsgrove's Got Talent



What a show and what a way to end the term!

A showcase of our talented students is the perfect way to start Christmas. We had singers, dancers, musicians and a lot more! Well done to everyone that took part, you did us all proud.

Thank you to the fantastic students that took part and a big thank you to the whole school community for coming together to support one another. Also a big thank you to Ms Wagstaff, Ms Hambleton for their brilliant organisation and to Mr Old for being an excellent host.



**MERRY CHRISTMAS**



# Kidsgrove's Got Talent



# Kidsgrove's Got Talent



# Kidsgrove's Got Talent



# 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.**



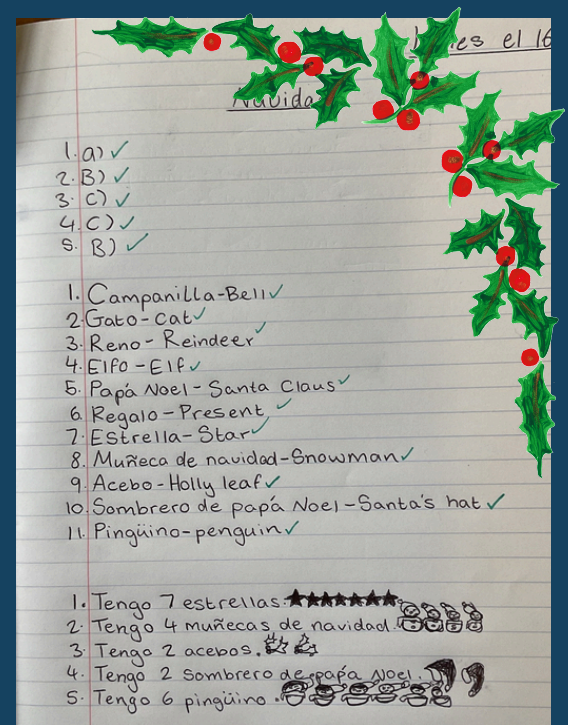
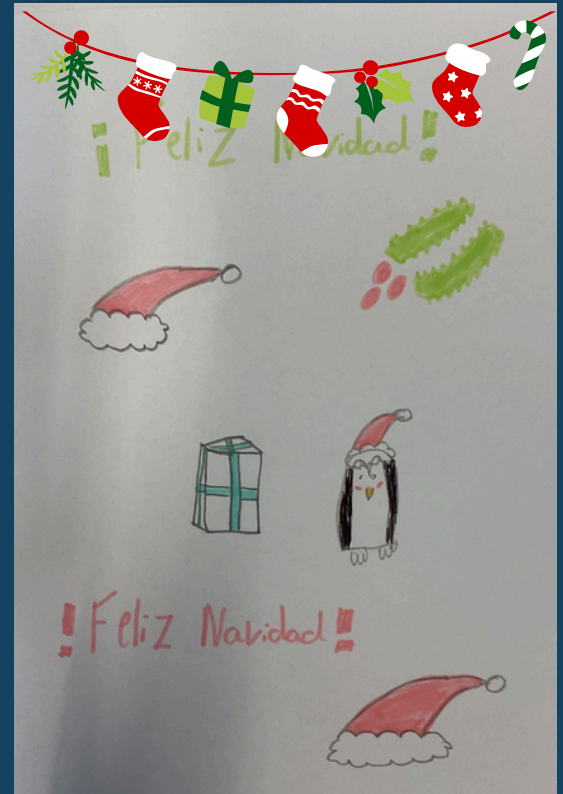


# Spanish

# FELIZ NAVIDAD

We have been researching Spanish Christmas Traditions, learning festive vocabulary and making cards to take home as well as singing "Feliz Navidad" in the last lesson for year 7 and 8 this term.

It really is the most wonderful time of the year!



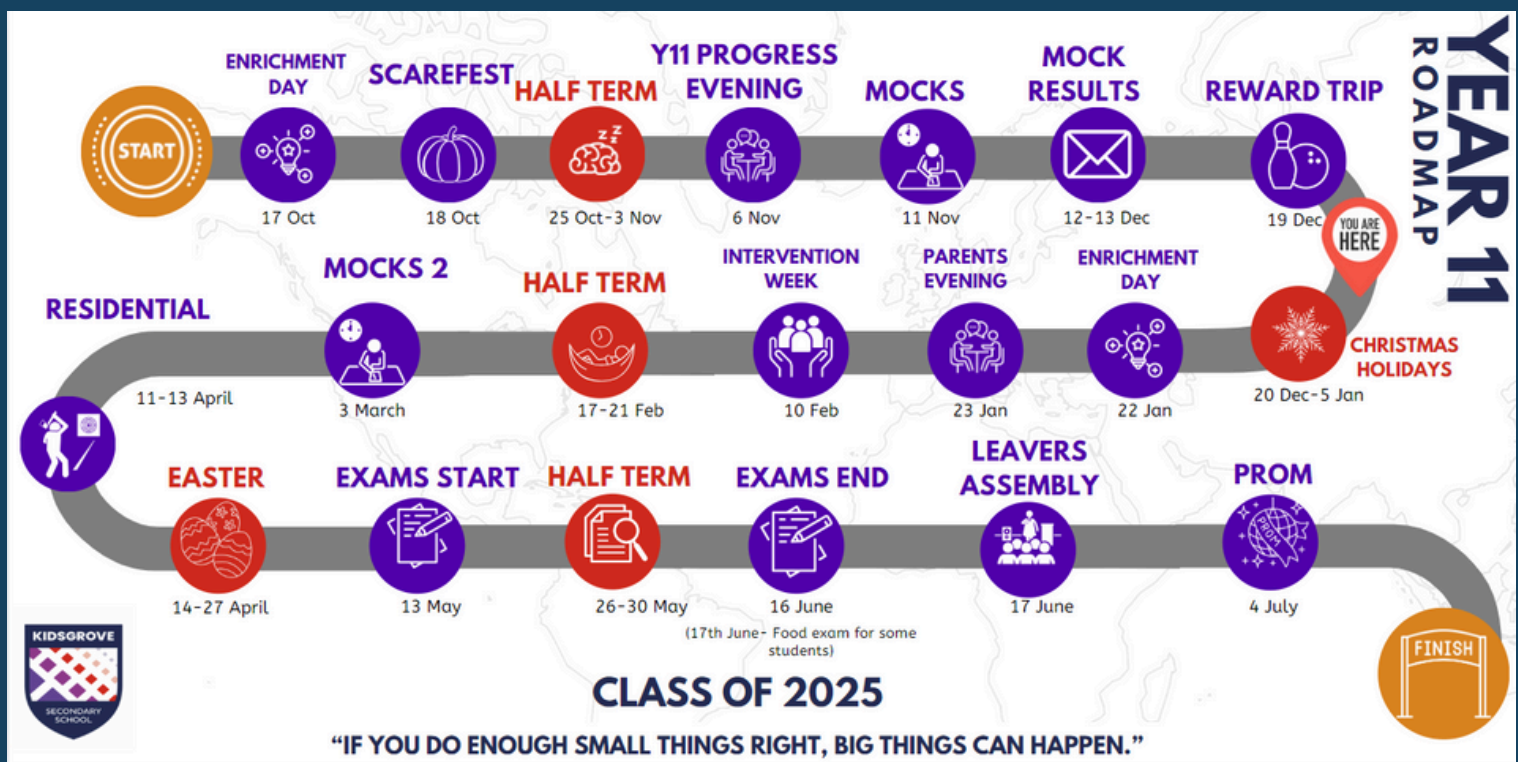
# Year 11

Last week we held personalised meetings with all students in Year 11 where they received their Mock exam results. During these meetings we celebrated successes and discussed further support needed by individual students.

When students return after Christmas, they have just **75 school days** until their exams start on 13th May! I have encouraged them all to ensure they are refreshed over the Christmas break and to come back ready to approach their final full term with gusto!



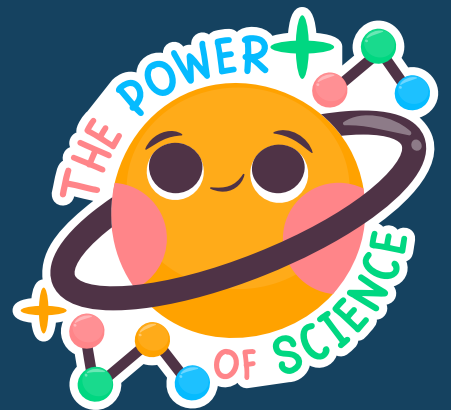
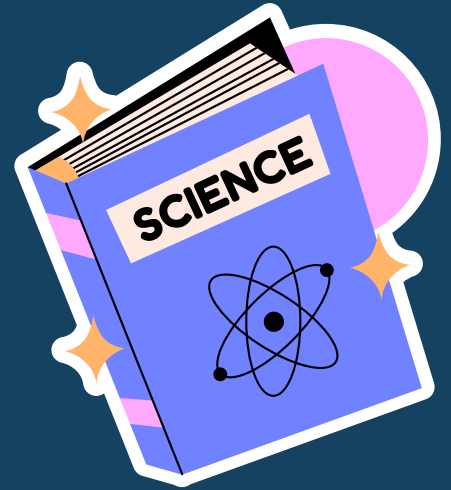
**“The best time to start was yesterday. The second best time is today!”**



# Science



In Science, 8S have been investigating respiration and today showed that yeast, a single-celled organism, releases carbon dioxide during anaerobic respiration. They have produced some amazing work and have impressed us greatly.

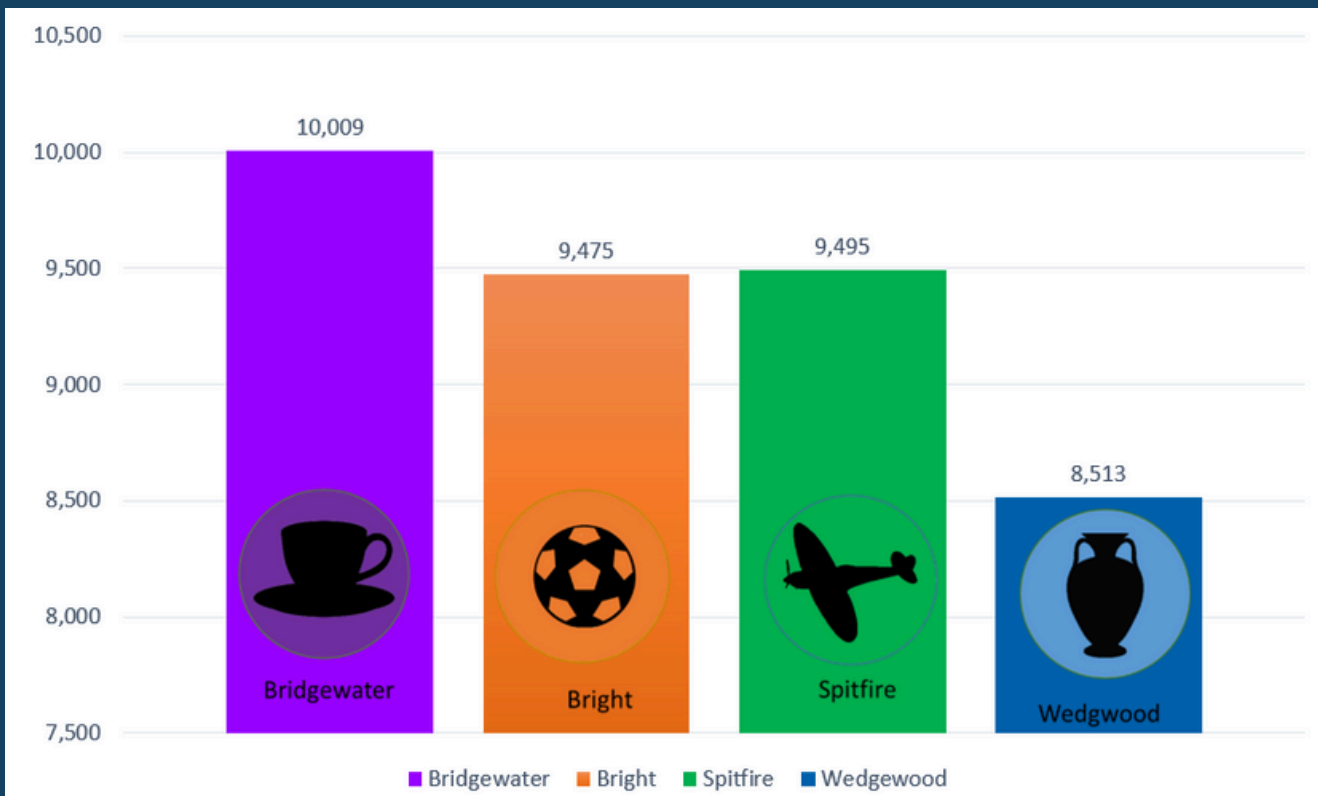


# House Points

The House points this term have been very close every week. Students have been working really hard to improve their attendance and receive achievement points.

This terms winning House is.....

**BRIDGEWATER**



Bridgewater members will receive their prize in January



# Health & Social Care.



On Wednesday, Mrs Postlethwaite accompanied her Year 11 Health and Social Care group to The University of Staffordshire's Stafford Campus where they undertook a Health Masterclass. Students had the opportunity to complete sessions in nursing, midwifery, Paramedic Science and the Operating Theatre.

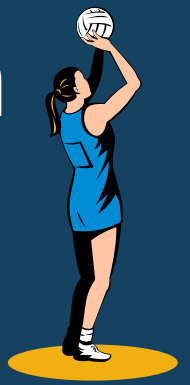
As always, our students represented KSS amazingly well and it was a fantastic last minute boost before their R032 exam which is on **Wednesday 8th January!**



# Physical Education

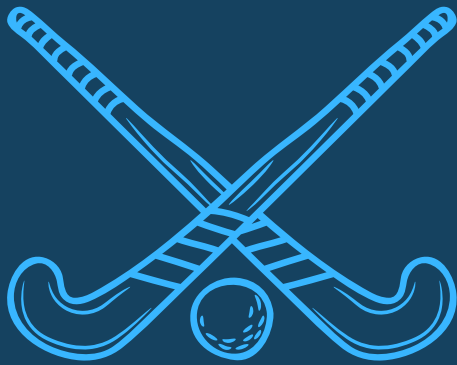


Next half term, students will be taking part in the following sports



KS3 (Y7, 8 & 9) Hockey & Trampolining

KS4 (Y10 & 11) Trampolining & Basketball

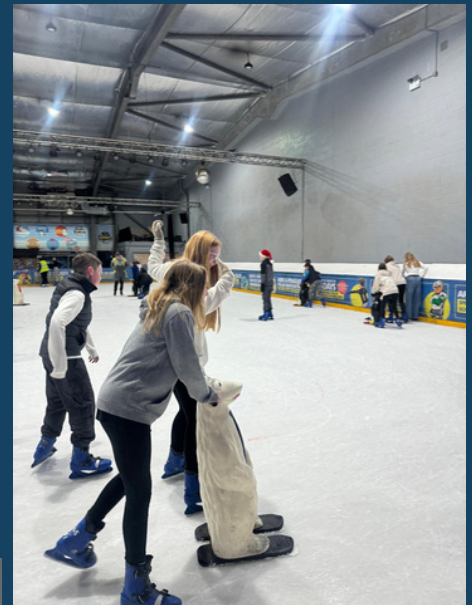


Please ensure that your child has the correct kit and equipment for each lesson.  
Please note that students **MUST** have **shin pads** and a **gum shield** for Hockey.

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

# Christmas Reward Trips





# Christmas Reward Trips





# Christmas Reward Trips



**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

**KIDSGROVE  
SECONDARY SCHOOL**

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

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





# Christmas Reward Trips





# Christmas Reward Trips



# Christmas Reward Trips



Christmas



# Christmas Reward Trips





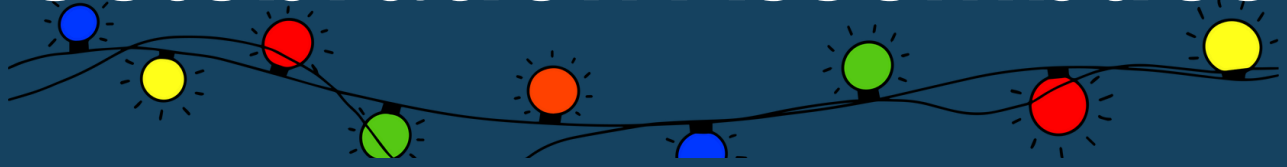
# Christmas Reward Trips



# Christmas Reward Trips



# Celebration Assemblies



It is always a highlight of the term and what a brilliant showcase of our students amazing achievements.

We gave out over 500 certificates for a variety of subjects and for our Key Stage lead and Headteacher awards.

Well done to every student that received a certificate and a subject badge.

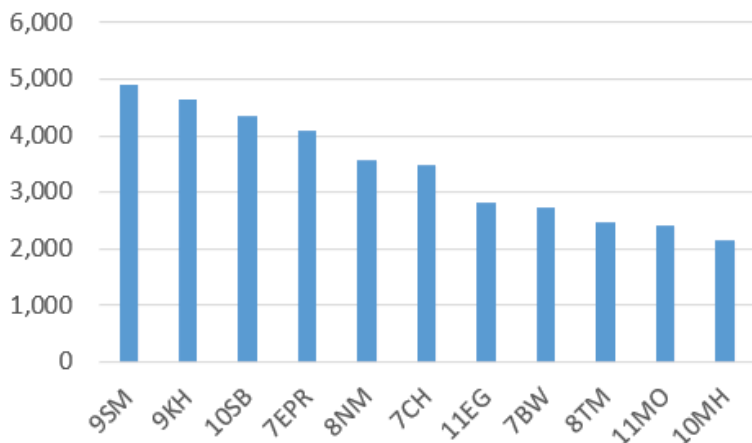
We cannot wait to see what you will achieve in the Spring term.



# Celebration Assemblies



Total Achievement Points



**Total achievement points**

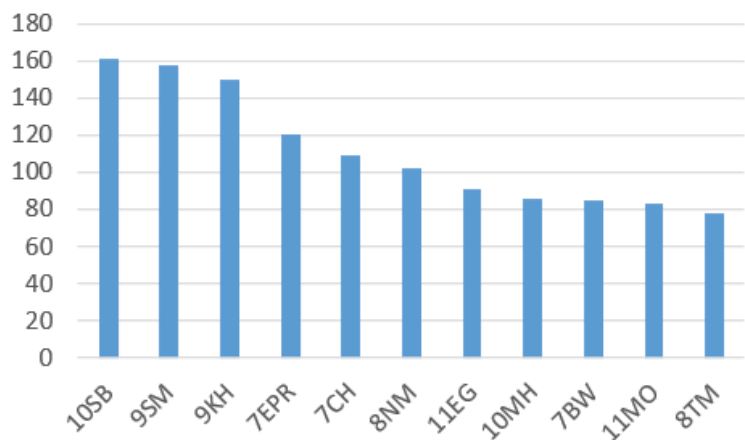
It is a joy to share and celebrate the amazing achievements of our students. In addition to our house points, forms are also competing for the most achievement points.

The number 1 and 2 position have been held by Y9 since they started KSS in Y7...

...However this half term 10SB were the leader board champions when averaging the total points across the number of pupils in the form!

## WINNERS 10SB

Average Points



**Average points per person**



**PROUD TO  
BE  
KSS**



# Celebration Assemblies



# Celebration Assemblies



# Celebration Assemblies



# Celebration Assemblies



# Celebration Assemblies



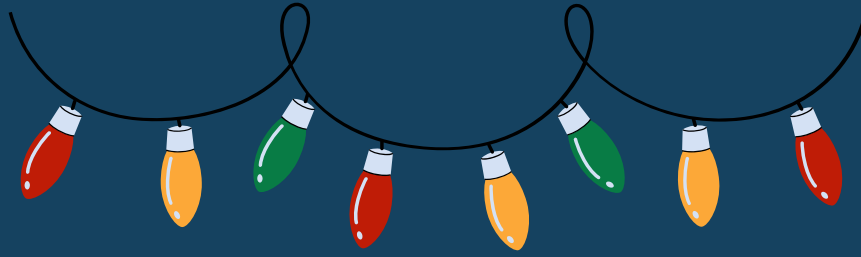
# Celebration Assemblies



# Celebration Assemblies



# Celebration Assemblies



*Congratulations!*



# 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

# 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



Shaw  
Education  
Trust

Kidsgrove Secondary School

**Attendance Matters**

#StopTheDrop

