

HEADTEACHER BULLETIN

Friday 2nd of December 2022

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Dear Parents/Carers,

The Christmas break is almost up on us but before we end the term with festivities in the final couple of days it is very much business as usual at KSS.

The Year 11 students are now halfway through their mock examinations and the rest of the student body are engaged in learning activities to support their progress. We were visited by 'Zoo2U' this week in Geography and there have been other exciting lessons in a range of subjects, such as in Food technology, Art, Maths and Science.

This term has seen a real push in the use of 'no hands up' questioning in lessons which supports all students being able to demonstrate their understanding and knowledge. Mrs Weaver and I have been completing lesson observations and learning walks over the past few weeks and the quality of student work continues to improve and impress us greatly.

Thank you to the parents/carers who have completed the latest questionnaire about the provision at the school, we rely on this feedback to improve. The next focus for myself and colleagues at the school post-Christmas will be to look at key stage three data and how this is displayed to demonstrate student progress, which Mrs Weaver will be leading.

In terms of attendance, which has been a real focus over the last seven weeks, I am pleased to report that there are very positive signs. We had 142 students achieve 100% attendance in November, which demonstrates incredible resilience. We have also launched our '12 Days of Christmas Challenge' and it is exciting to see which students have been randomly selected each day for a daily attendance prize from Mrs Hume. In addition, I am also delighted to share that we have a large proportion of students that have qualified for our Christmas reward trip on the 9th of December.

Finally, as always, thank you for your continued support. We have had an excellent response to the vacancy for a parent governor to join the newly formed KSS 'Executive Academy Council', chaired by Mr Duffy. We have five prospective volunteers that have applied, and we will be holding an election after Christmas to determine the outcome. This demonstrates the fantastic links with parents/carers that are forming.

Yours faithfully,
Mr S Frost



Upcoming Events:

Enrichment Day - 6.12.22

Christmas Dinner and Headteacher Reward Lunch - 8.12.22

Year 11 Mock Examinations End - 8.12.22

Whole School Christmas Reward Trip - 9.12.22

Smash Bros Digital Tournament - 13.12.22

KS3 Digital Event - 15.12.22

Non-Uniform Day and Final Day of the Term - 16.12.22

Core Values and Christmas Reward Trip

A reminder that the Christmas rewards trip is taking place on Friday, December 9th, 2022. We have over 150 students attending the trip which is a brilliant demonstration of 'Resilience', as the main criteria for eligibility was 96% attendance between October 31st and November 25th, 2022.

The students have also selected their film choice through a digital survey which will be 'Black Panther, Wakanda Forever'.



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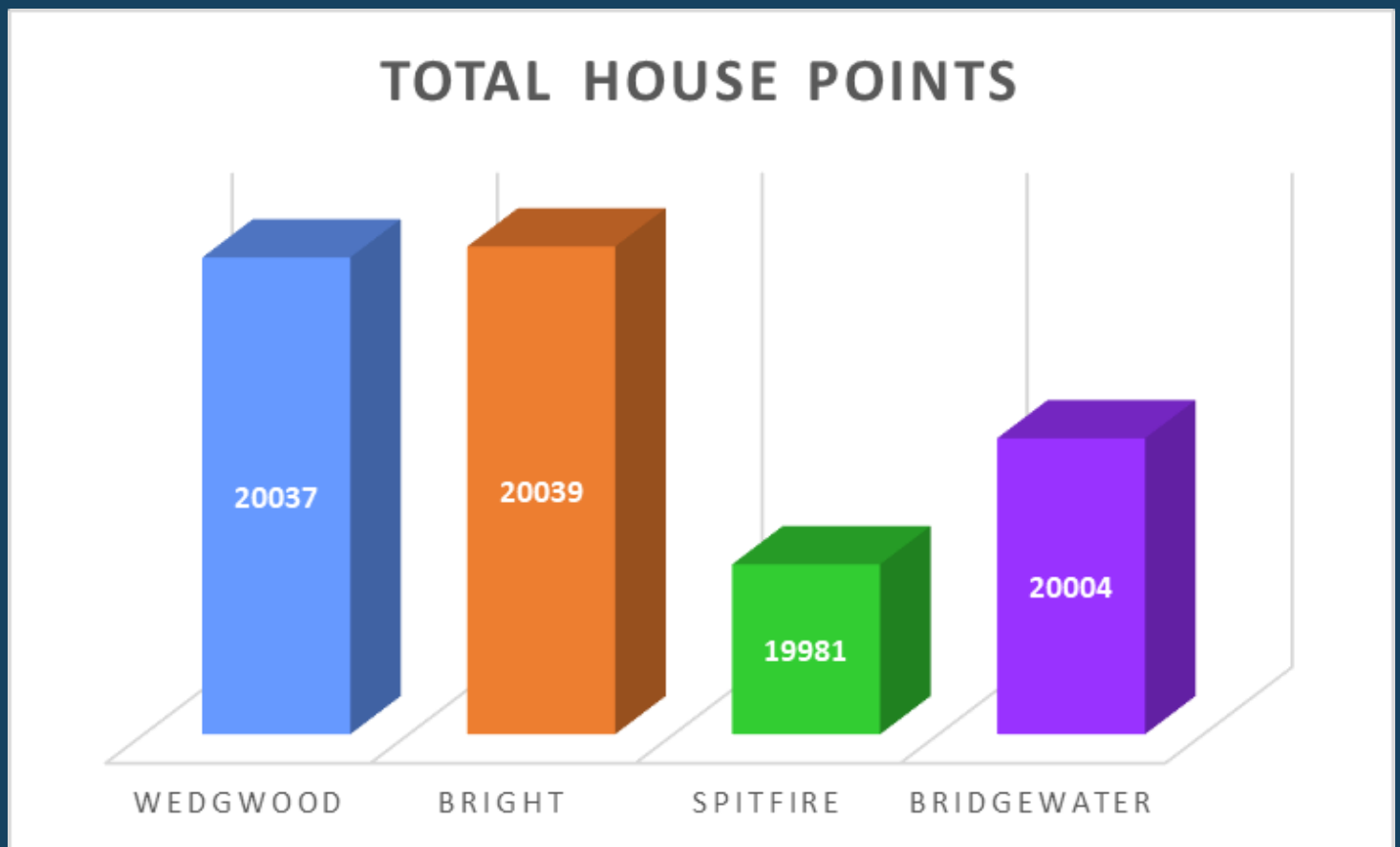


House Update

The House points competition is moving along at some pace and its neck and neck between Wedgwood and Bright for the first-place position.

Mrs Castrey has an exciting competition planned for the final week.

Keep working hard in lessons to support your team totals.



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Hospitality and Catering

A message from Mr Till...

The Key Stage 4 Hospitality and Catering groups have been working on technical skills in their practical lessons this term. They have made fresh pasta, portioned a chicken (looking at minimising food waste), a variety of dough, and most recently dessert presentation.

We are looking forward to our Key Stage 3 pupils starting their Food lessons in the spring term, with our new Technology teacher Mrs Bryan.



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Progress Reports

I hope that you have found the new progress reports useful that have been sent home over the last few weeks. It is our commitment to send you a termly report, so that you can track your child's progress and attendance in a more informed and constructive way. A big thank you to Mrs Ryan who has been working with us to produce these reports. To those parents/carers that have reached out to subject staff regarding your child's subject progress, thank you! It is so pleasing to see that the dialogue around learning is open and at the forefront of our conversations. Please continue to contact staff via the 'ClassCharts' communication portal if you require information.

Current Indicator of Attainment

During Key Stage 3 the Current Indicator of Attainment is a teacher assessment of skills, knowledge, and application. We use a scale based on the GCSE 1 to 9 grading, with + or - indicating the security of the grade.

Grade	Description
Numbers 1 to 9	Work is in line with a GCSE grade on the 1 to 9 scale
W	Working towards GCSE scale
WB	Working below GCSE scale

Progress Criteria

The Progress grading indicates how a student is progressing in line with the schools' expectations.

Making more than expected progress

Making expected progress

Making less than expected progress

Attitude to Learning

During each lesson teachers make an evaluation of Attitude to Learning based on the following criteria. The lower the score, the better the Attitude to Learning.

1. Highly Motivated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent Focus • Seeks Challenge • Perseveres • Ask questions to extend thinking • Approaches learning with an active interest • Invites feedback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responds positively to praise and critique • Learns from setbacks and mistakes • Reviews own progress, acting on outcomes • Starts learning readily • Seeks own solutions to problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asks questions • Organises time effectively • Sets as example • Takes responsibility • Always completes home learning to an excellent standard
2. Engaged	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good Focus • Responds positively to challenging activities • Completes all work set to good standard • Answers questions • Connects ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shows a desire to improve • <u>Takes action</u> based on feedback • Shows good application • Can find solutions to problems • Seeks help when needed • Organises time well 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follows all instructions • Shows kindness, <u>consideration</u> and respect • Listens carefully • Always completes home learning to a good standard
3. Passive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not always focused • Avoids challenging tasks • Not always working hard • Sometimes attempts to act on feedback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires close supervision to ensure tasks are always attempted and instructions followed • Misses some deadlines • May distract others • May be off-task 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be unprepared for lessons • Relies on others to do the work • Shows a lack of effort at times • Sometimes completes home learning
4. Disengaged	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show little focus • Work often incomplete or inadequate • Does not attempt to act on feedback • Responds negatively to praise or critique 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normally needs pressure to attempt learning tasks • Does not engage unless closely monitored • May refuse support • Misses most deadlines • Does not listen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distracts others • Disrupts the classroom or school environment • Rarely prepared for lessons • Does not attempt home learning

Enrichment Day (6.12.22)

As you may already know, Friday 18th November was 'Children in Need'. Our School is excited to be joining with many others around the UK to participate in the fundraising programme offering a number of exciting opportunities.

As part of this fundraising, we are asking our Year 7s to take part in our 3rd annual 'Climb Everest' Challenge on Tuesday 6th December, which will coordinate with our Personal Development 'Enrichment Day'. This involves our team of 'explorers' climbing the equivalent number of steps within School as it would take to summit Mount Everest. As you can appreciate, this is a real challenge and will take a great deal of effort and resilience, one of our core values here at KSS.

The 'Climb Everest' Challenge provides an ideal opportunity for your child to take part in an excellent challenge whilst raising money for a valuable cause. With your permission, your child will have the opportunity to raise money to support disadvantaged young people across the UK.

As this is a physical activity, your child will be required to wear their PE Kit and trainers, as well as bringing with them a water bottle.

We hope you will support your child, your School and 'Children in Need' in this very worthwhile challenge. We will be collecting sponsors or donations and would be grateful of your support towards achieving a big overall total. If you would like to donate, please do so on the just giving link below:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/kidsgrove-secondary-school>



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Enrichment Day (6.12.22)



As part of our **Enrichment Day** on **Tuesday 6th December**, we will be raising money for Children in Need



CLIMB EVEREST CHALLENGE

Our **Y7s** will climb the **height of Everest** on our school stairs, an event that will take real **resilience**



BAKE SALE

Our **Y8s** will be using **organisation** skills baking for our **Bake Sale** which will be taking place at dinner time.



Attendance

A message from Mrs Hume...

There were ten students who won chocolate Santas on day one of our '12 days of Christmas' attendance challenge and twenty students who won selection boxes on day two. It's great to see students asking what time the draw will happen each day and even better to see such good attendance in the last weeks of the term.

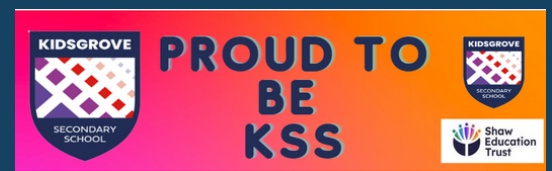
Ten students won advent calendars for having 100% attendance throughout November, selected at random from the many students who achieved this. A great effort!

Massive thanks to Ms Mason and her art club students who have decorated the advent calendar beautifully!!



Mathematics

A message from Mrs Frost...



Maths Y10 Reward Lesson

We used a recent maths lesson to celebrate with Year 10 their fantastic start to the GCSE maths course. Students earned the chance to select an activity to take part in, along with the option to be part of a raffle draw for free Stoke City tickets, this was based on the number of positive awards given via ClassCharts in lessons. Activities included baking, a football game, making Christmas decorations and making snow, snowflakes and a Chemistree in Science. Mrs McDermott and I would like to thank all students for the fantastic lesson and their participation. Also, a huge shout out to all the staff that gave up their time to make this happen.

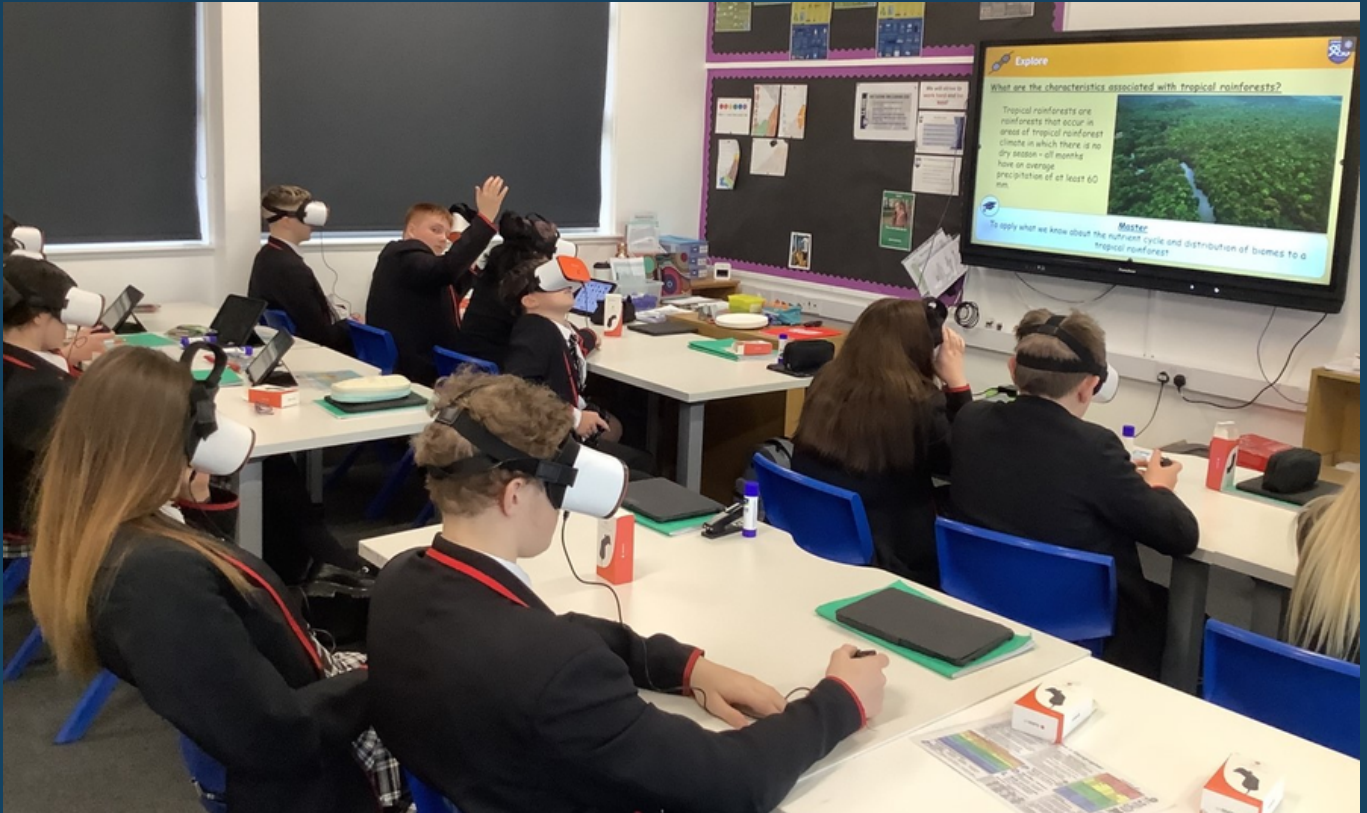
We look forward to introducing something similar with other year groups next term!



Geography

A message from Mrs Weaver...

To consolidate our 'Living World' unit of work, our Y10 Geographers 'virtually visited' a deciduous woodland, tropical rainforest and hot desert. They were questioned on the climate, nutrient cycle, vegetation structure and plant adaptations of each world biome and how they differ and why. An active way to secure our learning.



Geography

A message from Mrs Weaver...

A big thanks to Zoo2u for visiting our Y8 and Y10 Geographers.

We learnt about how Duprasi gerbils, a red footed tortoise, giant prickly stick insects, a bearded dragon and a Kenyan sand boa all adapt to survive and thrive in their environments.

We also got to find out about Jess' career pathway into working with animals and what her day to day job entailed.



Behaviour Update

A message from Mrs Postlethwaite...

Uniform

A huge thank you to all the parents who have supported us with our recent push on uniform. The students are really wearing their uniform with pride. As the colder weather draws in, just a reminder that a black V-neck school jumper can be worn under the blazer for additional warmth if required. To keep the price down in these difficult times, these can be bought from supermarkets and do not need to have a school logo but must be plain black. If you are struggling with uniform, please contact the school and we will support you.



Y11 Exams

I am incredibly proud of how the Year 11s have handled their first week of Y11 Mock exams. Their behaviour in the exams and dedication to revision has been superb. Teachers will spend the weeks leading up to Christmas marking these papers and all students will have a meeting with myself and Mr Frost in January where they will open their envelope and we will talk them through the results.

Year 11 should be in full swing with college and apprenticeship applications now. Almost 60% of the year group have already applied which is fantastic. Please ensure you check the college admissions procedures with your child to ensure they don't miss the deadline for applications.

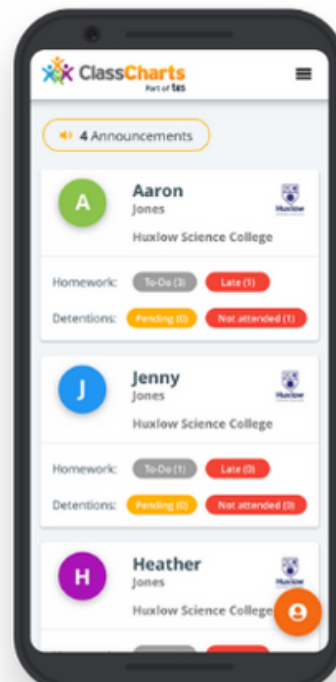
Class Charts

A message from Mrs Postlethwaite...

'Class Charts'



We now have over 77% of parents signed up to Class Charts. If you haven't already signed up and need your login code, please call reception and they will be able to provide the to you. On Class Charts you will see attendance to lessons, rewards, detentions and a full breakdown of behaviour. There is also the function to message individual teachers. Moving forward, more communication will come through Class Charts so please download the App if you haven't done so already. If you need any help setting up the app, please pop into school and a member of staff will help you get up and running.



Science

A message from the Science team..

With Mrs Postlethwaite and Ms Baker, Year 10 have successfully been making salts from metal carbonates.

They've used, copper carbonate, potassium carbonate, magnesium carbonate and sodium carbonate. Some excellent work Yr10!



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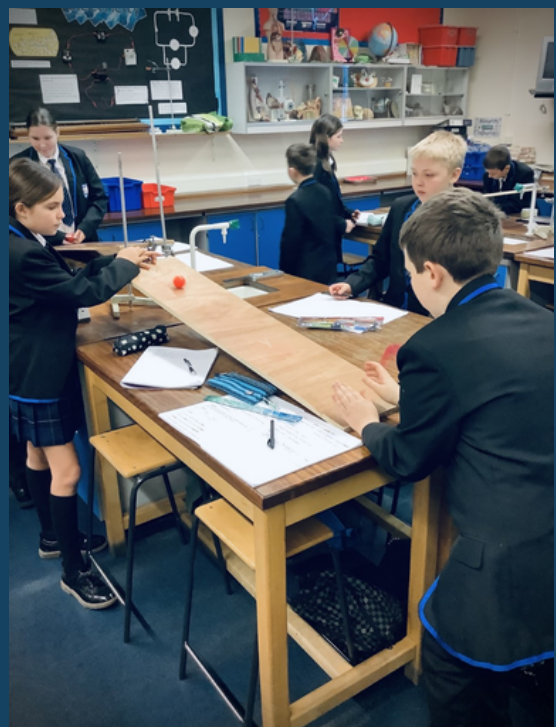
Science

A message from the Science team...

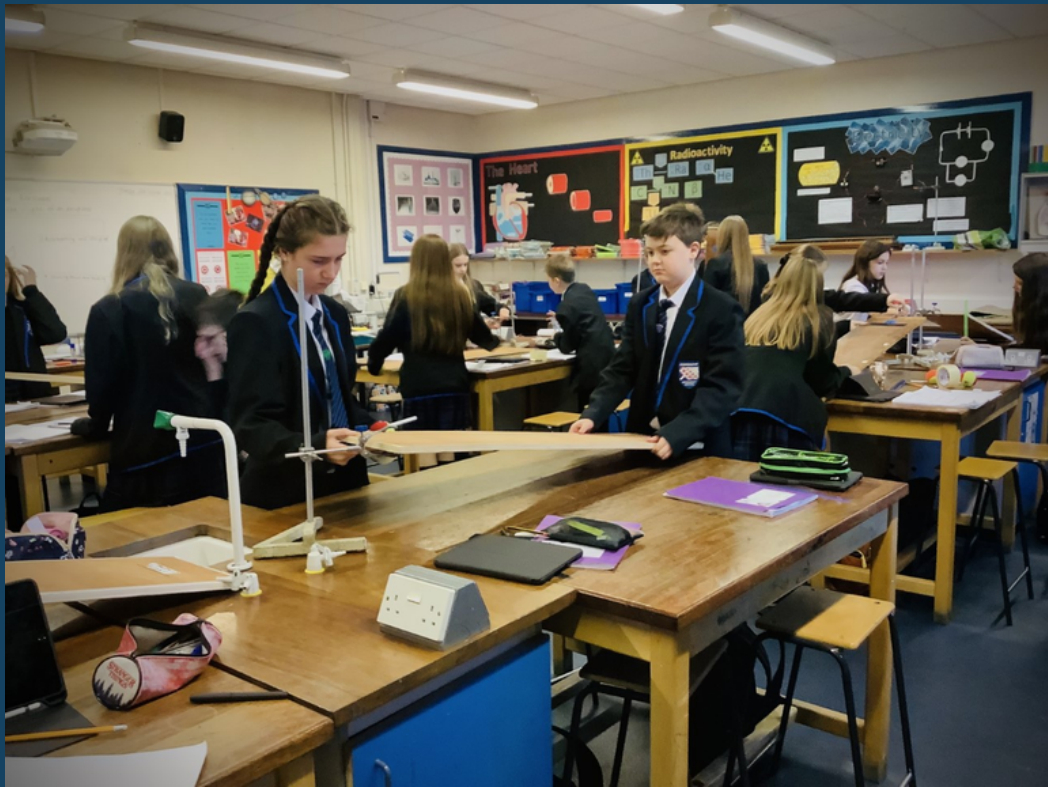
Investigating forces and friction with Ms Baker and Dr Ma.

Using ramps all set at 20cm high, year 7 carried out a fair test, using the Independent, Dependent and Control variable method.

They used objects like, marbles, tennis balls, rolls of tape and stirring rods to name a few. Well done year 7! Some future scientists in the making!



Science



Science

A message from the Science team...

With Miss Unwin this morning, one of our Year 7 groups investigated the strength of bones! Using art straws and masses they could see which length of straw broke easier with the masses hanging from them.



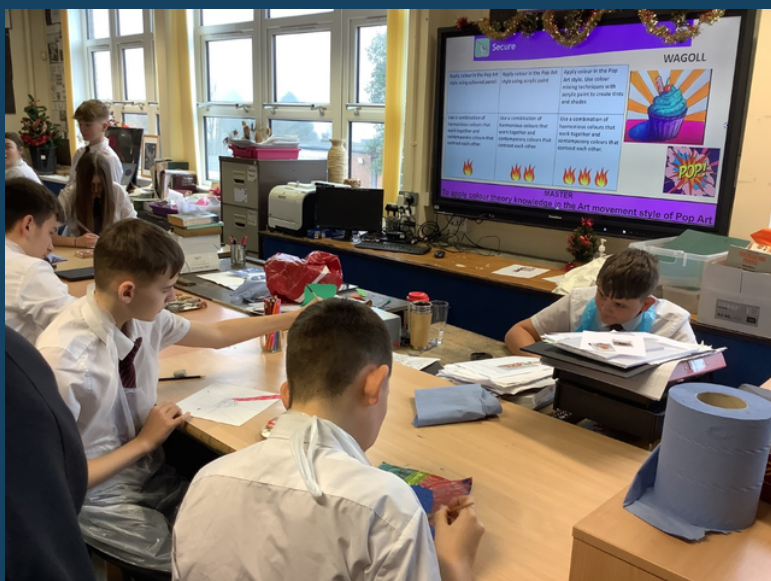
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Art

A message from Mrs Mason...

Year 9 have been implementing their knowledge of the 'Pop Art' movement to create their own 'Pop Art' painting. The students are practicing resilience in working with the new material of acrylic paint. We have been inspired by the artists Wayne Thiebaud, Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein.





Please see below, details of the extra curricula enrichment opportunities available to students for the remainder of the term. We would like to encourage as many participants as possible. If parents/carers have any questions about the activities, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Extra-curricular enrichment opportunities – Sept - Dec

Activity	Location	Time	Staff Member
MONDAY			
Keyboard Club/Rehearsal Rooms (All years)	Music Room	Lunch – 13.30-13.50	Mrs. Evans
KS3 Computing Club	Room 15	Lunch – 13.30-13.55	Mrs. Morrell
TUESDAY			
Girls Football (Y7, Y8 and Y9)	Meet by the changing rooms	15.05-16.05	Miss Harrison
KS3 Computing Club	Room 15	Lunch – 13.30-13.55	Mrs. Morrell
WEDNESDAY			
Football (Y7 and Y8)	Meet by the changing rooms	15.05-16.05	Mrs. Hilditch
I-media catchup	Room 15	Lunch – 13.30-13.55	Mrs Morrell
Basketball (Y10 and Y11)	The Gym	15.05-16.05	Mr Till
Netball Fixtures	External	After school	Mrs Castrey
Art Intervention (Y10 and Y11)	Room 10	15.05-16.05	Miss Mason
THURSDAY			
Art Club (Y7, Y8 and Y9)	Room 10	15.05-16.05	Miss Mason
I-media catchup	Room 15	Lunch – 13.30-13.55	Mrs Morrell
Netball Practice (All years)	Meet by the changing rooms	15.05-16.05	Mrs. Castrey
Football Fixtures (KS3)	External	After school	Mr Till
FRIDAY			
Chess Club (Y7, Y8 and Y9)	Room 3	Lunch 13.30-14.00	Mr Baldwin
Trampolining (Y10 and Y11)	Hall	15.05-16.05	Mrs. Castrey



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