

HEADTEACHER BULLETIN

Friday 20.6.25

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Dear Parents/Carers,

What a great first three weeks of the final half term of the academic year it has been. There has been so much to celebrate and recognise in and out of the classroom with students demonstrating our core values in so many ways. Our fabulous Year 11's have now left us and the remaining year groups are focused as they complete their final performance assessments of the academic year. A progress report will be coming home to you in the final week of the term, which will be a useful measure of your child's progress from the summer term.

This term we have had a forensic focus upon all things literacy and we have been busy building with students a wider understanding of curricula key words and definitions. The impact of this vital work is clearly being seen as we visit lessons and look at student work on their iPads and in their exercise books.

The teaching staff have embraced this new approach and this is underpinned by the teaching assistant team who lead on our literacy interventions and small group reading classes. Mrs Coulson has shared a further update around literacy and the quality of education within this edition along with Mr Barlow sharing a 'Word of the Week' initiative.

As you can see from the list of upcoming events below, we have so much to cram into the final four weeks. We have had a fantastic enrichment day today in the sunshine, where students have experienced golf lessons, camp craft, board games, escape rooms and much more. We have our annual sports day at Northwood stadium next Friday, our first ever summer show (Wizard of Oz) and to complete the year our brilliant annual summer reward trips.

Finally, we are making some tweaks to the times of the day from September due to the increase in student numbers and to support the operational running of the school. There will be no change to the start and end time of the school day but we will be having a longer lunchtime to support the food service. I will write to all parents & carers formally next week about the changes and also with plans for the final day of the academic year.

Upcoming Events

Yours faithfully,
Mr S Frost

Friday 27.6.25 - Sports Day @ Northwood Stadium

w/c 30.6.25 - Year 10 Work Experience Week

Friday 4.7.25 - Year 11 Prom

Friday 11.7.25 - Head Student Interviews

Monday 14.7.25 & Tuesday 15.7.25 - Year 10 Mock Results Meetings

Wednesday 16.7.25 - Prefect Interviews

Wednesday 16.7.25 - Headteacher Reward Lunch

Thursday 17.7.25 - End of Term Reward Trips



National Attendance Awards

We are delighted to share that KSS has been recognised for our fantastic student attendance in the Spring term.

The school is in the top 10% of all similar schools for our remarkable low levels of absence.

Thank you all of our fantastic parents and their support with all things attendance related. #proudtobeKSS



National School Attendance Award

2024/25 Spring Term



Kidsgrove Secondary School

Top 10% of similar FFT Secondary Schools in England





ATTENDANCE



WHOLE SCHOOL: 93.8%

YEAR 7- 95.8%



YEAR 8- 94%

YEAR 9 - 93.1%

YEAR 10- 92.4%

NATIONAL AVERAGE 91.3%

BEST FORM YTD: 7CH

BEST HOUSES: Wedgewood & Bright



Form Attendance



Kidsgrove Secondary School

Attendance Matters

#StopTheDrop



Year 11 Leavers Assembly

On Tuesday the Year 11 students said goodbye in an emotional but also hilarious assembly led by the brilliant Mr Till. Thank you to all parents & carers that sent in photo's of their child from primary school, its amazing to see how much our students have grown in their time with us.

The assembly was then followed by shirt signing, a spot of lunch and then the traditional a whole school 'Walk Out'!

We cannot wait to see most of the students at Prom on the 4th of July.



Quality of Education Update

☀ Quality of Education: What Learning Looks Like at Our School

At Kidsgrove Secondary School, we believe great learning doesn't happen by accident—it's carefully designed. Every lesson follows a consistent structure called our Learning Steps. These steps help all students know more, remember more, and feel confident in their learning. This short guide explains what your child experiences in lessons and how it supports long-term progress.

🧠 1. Engage – Getting brains switched on

Lessons begin by activating prior knowledge—things pupils have learned before. Teachers use quick activities like quizzes or short questions to help pupils remember and retrieve key information. This is based on strong evidence from cognitive science: revisiting learning regularly helps it stick in the long-term memory.

👉 Try this at home: Ask your child, "What do you remember from your last lesson on this topic?" or "Can you explain three key facts from today?"

abc 2. Vocabulary Builder & Master Question – Language for learning

Every lesson introduces key subject-specific vocabulary, helping pupils build the academic language they need to talk and write about their learning confidently.

Alongside this, each lesson is framed by a Master Question—a big, high-challenge question that the lesson is designed to answer. By the end of the session, pupils should be able to answer it in detail.

👉 Try this at home: Ask your child, "What new words did you learn today?" or "How would you answer your lesson's big question?"



Quality of Education Update

3. Explore – Thinking hard and investigating

In the Explore phase, students begin grappling with ideas. They might discuss examples, analyse information, or attempt a task with support. This is where teachers ask lots of questions to deepen thinking and encourage curiosity. It's also where misconceptions are spotted and tackled.

👉 Try this at home: "What was the most challenging part of today's lesson?" or "What did you notice or discover during the task?"

4. Model – Teaching clearly and explicitly

Here, teachers use the "I do, We do, You do" approach to break learning into clear steps:

I do – the teacher shows how to do it

We do – pupils practise together

You do – pupils try independently

This helps students feel secure before trying new tasks and builds confidence.

👉 Try this at home: If your child is stuck on homework, use the same approach—model one example together before they try it alone.

5. Secure – Strengthening understanding

This stage helps students build resilience and independence. They practise and apply what they've learned in more challenging or varied ways, often with scaffolding to support them.

Teachers adapt the teaching as needed so all pupils can make progress—whether they need extra help or stretch.


👉 Try this at home: Ask, "How did you improve in today's lesson?" or "Did anything finally 'click' today?"



Quality of Education Update

6. Evaluate – Reflecting on learning

In the final stage, pupils evaluate what they've learned—returning to the Master Question to assess how well they've understood the lesson. They also respond to feedback and consider next steps. This builds metacognition (learning about learning) and helps students become thoughtful, independent learners.

 Try this at home: “How would you answer the Master Question now?” or “What feedback did you get, and what will you do next time?”

Want to learn more? Helpful links for parents:

The Learning Scientists – Six Strategies for Effective Learning

EEF Guide for Parents: Supporting Learning at Home

Teacher Toolkit: What is Explicit Instruction?

BBC Bitesize – How Memory Works



Hospitality and Catering

Year 10 Hospitality and Catering students have been perfecting their presentation skills in preparation for their final GCSE assessment. They have created two dishes that are to be suitable to be served to an adult and a child, making sure that each dish had the right nutritional balance.

I am delighted to say, they have smashed the brief with flying colours!





Delicious



proudly presents



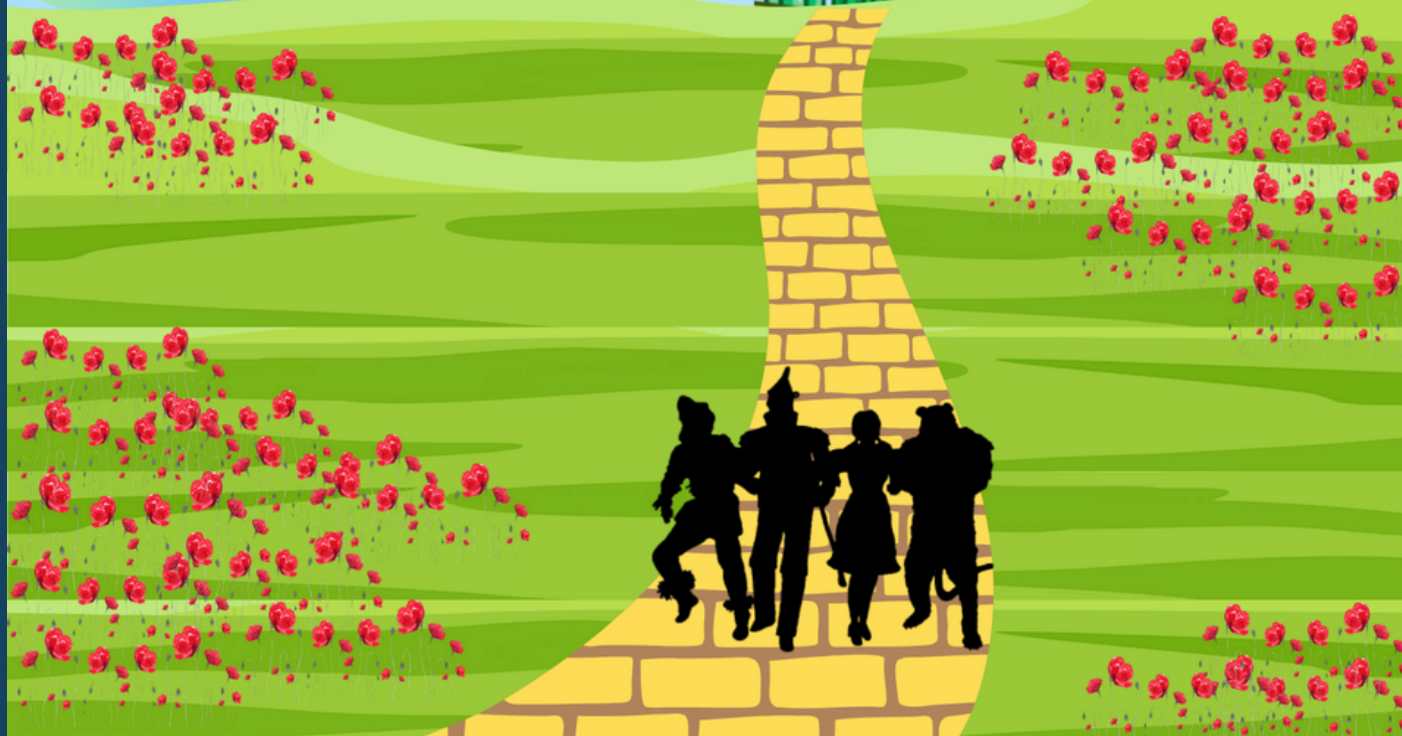
The WIZARD of OZ

Performances

Mon 14th - Primary Performance

Tues 15th - Matinee KSS Performance

Tues 15th - Evening Ticketed Performance



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 in 2023 they were impressed with our subject curriculums and how the students were taught the key themes.

From the 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://kidsgrovessecondary.org.uk/curriculum/subject-curriculums>



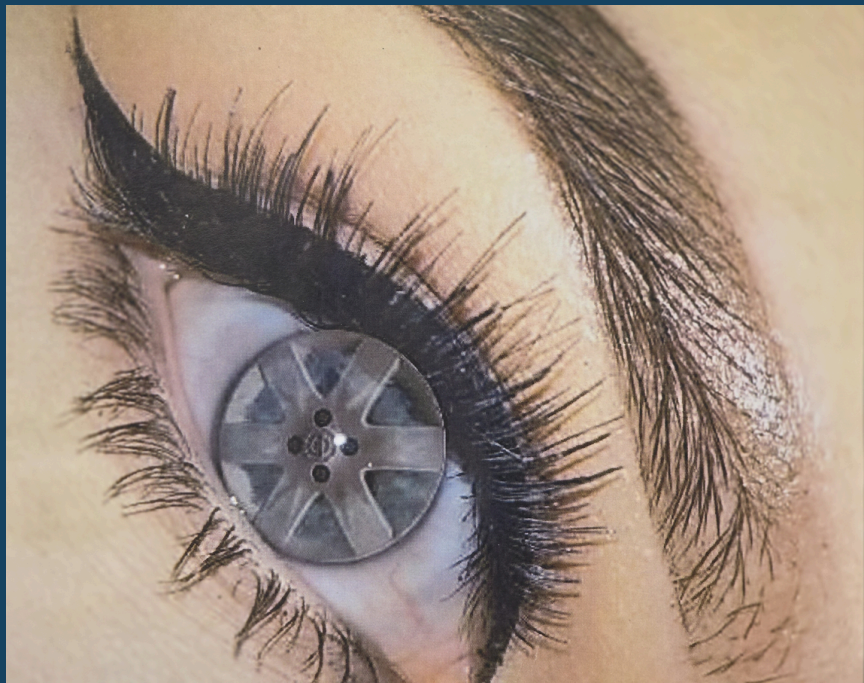
Once on the website you can click on each subject, read about the curriculum and even follow a map to see the key topics and content.



Technology

Year 10 and 11 Photography students have been working hard completing their assignments this year which count towards their final GCSE grade. They have been studying 'Forced Perspectives' and editing photo's using Infinity and Canva. Below are some of the stunning results.





AMAZING!





¡INCREDÍBLE!



**PROUD TO
BE
KSS**



Staff Spotlight

This edition of the Headteacher Bulletin we will be shining the spotlight on our amazing pastoral lead Mr Gillespie.



Staff Spotlight Who's Who at KSS

How long have you worked at the school?

7 Months

What do you love most about working at KSS?

The culture amongst staff and students - it's so abundantly clear how much everyone cares and wants to help each other whether this is teaching staff; leadership or support staff.

What inspires you at work?

Knowing that each conversation I have with staff and students is having a positive impact towards a child's school experience.

Proudest moment/ best memory at school so far?

Entering a lively classroom that quickly settled as I walked in.

Quick Fire Questions

Tea or coffee? **Tea**

Dogs or cats? **Dogs**

Morning person or night owl? **Night owl (and I regret it every single morning)**

Favourite takeaway? **Indian - It needs to be Madras or hotter ideally**

One word to describe yourself? **Positive**



Mr Gillespie

Pastoral Lead



**PROUD TO
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KSS**



Enrichment



ENRICHMENT CALENDAR

JUN-JUL

EVERYDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

READING ROOM

Ms Hambleton



SCIENCE SUPPORT



Dr Ma
Rm 23
Y7, 8, 9

SCIENCE SUPPORT



Dr Ma
Rm 23
Y7, 8, 9

GRAPHIC DESIGN



Ms Morrell
Rm 15
Y7, 8, 9

CHESS CLUB



Mr Old
Rm 2
All welcome

HOMEWORK
SUPPORT



LSC

ART INTERVENTION



Mrs Mason
Rm 10
GCSE Art

CROCHET CAVERN



Mrs Price
Rm 12
All welcome

YOUNG CARERS



Ms Potts
By invite
Conference
RM

SWITCH CLUB



Mr Frost
All welcome
Mr Frost's office

CROCHET CAVERN



Mrs Price
Rm 12
All welcome

DINNER TIME CLUBS
RUN 13:35-14:00

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS
RUN 15:05-16:05

IDEAS?

Do you have any ideas of enrichment clubs you would like to see here at KSS? If so, please speak to your form tutor!



ROUNDERS



Miss Hambleton
All welcome
Changing Rms

OPEN ART STUDIO



Mrs Mason
Rm 10
All welcome

KS4 OPEN STUDIO



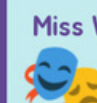
Mrs Mason
Rm 10
GCSE

MUSICAL REHEARSAL



Miss Wagstaff
Rm 20
Cast

MUSICAL REHEARSAL



Miss Wagstaff
Rm 20
Cast

MUSICAL REHEARSAL



Miss Wagstaff
Rm 20
Cast

HOCKEY CLUB



Miss Hambleton
All welcome
Changing Rms

DARTS CLUB



Mr Frost
All Welcome
Conference Rm

KS3 FOOTBALL



Mr Hilditch
KS3
Changing Rms

DOFE



Ms Hud/Mrs Weaver
Y9, 10, 11
Rm 6

KS4 FOOTBALL



Mr Till
KS4
Changing Rms

Why is enrichment important?

- **Engagement that lasts:** Extra-curricular clubs and projects turn routine days into something students look forward to, so attendance and attention both climb.
- **Quiet skill-building:** Sports, arts, and STEM activities develop teamwork, leadership, and problem-solving, all essentials for further study and work.
- **Finding their spark:** Sampling everything from darts to computer club helps teenagers discover interests that can guide subject choices and career paths.
- **Equal opportunities:** Our school based enrichment is available to all. If there is something students would like to see, we will do our best to accommodate.
- **Well-being in practice:** Creative and physical outlets reduce stress, strengthen friendships, and contribute to a healthier, happier school life.

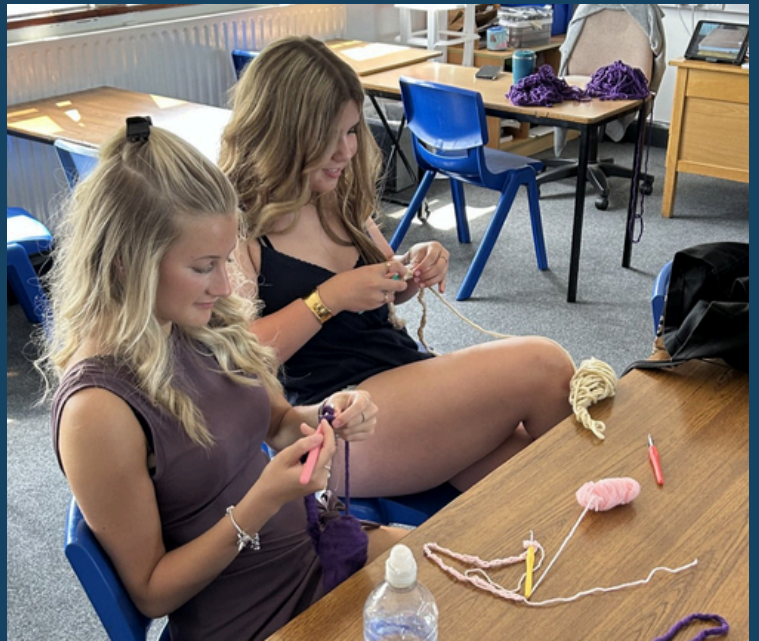


Enrichment Day

We have had such an amazing enrichment day in the sun today and it has been great to see so many students engaged in different activities.

Our enrichment days are always a great way to discover new skills and for our students to utilise the school's core values.

Well done to all of our amazing staff for leading exciting sessions and for the students who embraced a growth mindset.



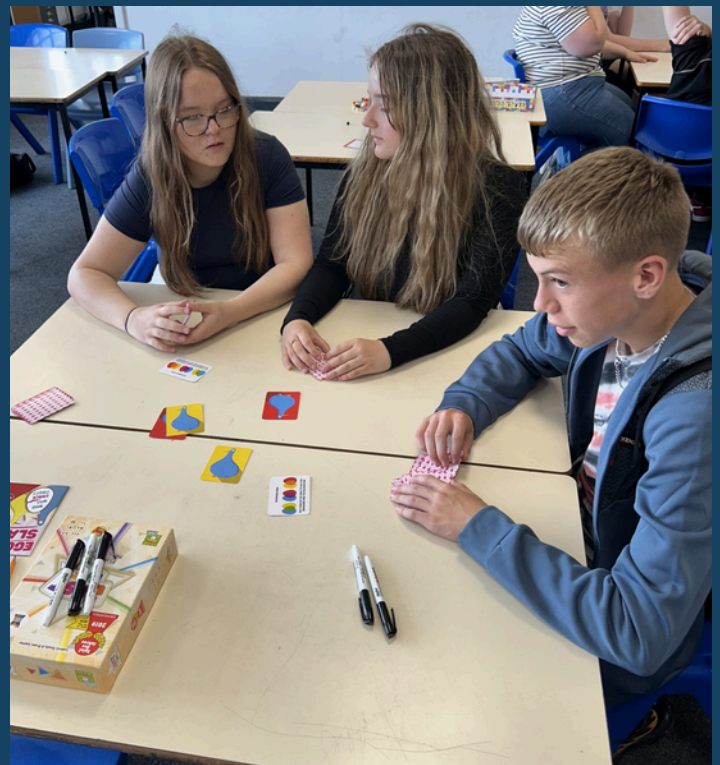


RESILIENCE











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



AMAZING!





FANTASTIC!



**PROUD TO
BE
KSS**



HEAD STUDENT



APPLICATION WINDOW OPEN

OPEN POSITIONS: ✓

- Head Students Positions
- Deputy Head Student Positions
- Senior Prefect Positions

**SEND YOUR EMAIL
APPLICATION TO:**

> steven.frost@kss.set.org

DEADLINE:

> 9th July 2025



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



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



**PROUD TO
BE
KSS**





17th July 2025

SUMMER TRIP



12th May - 27th June
(6 week window)



Y7 & Y8



95% plus attendance

Less than 20 negatives

The school reserves the right to retract invitation to reward events based on conduct during and after the qualifying period.

English



Over the previous two half terms, KSS have introduced a brand-new Literacy initiative into the school day: Word of the Week!

Developing a diverse Vocabulary helps our children out in so many ways. It's a bit like collecting a range of tools to make jobs around the house easier – but in school, the more words we know, the more words we can use in lessons, in assessments, and even in real-life conversations. Plus, it helps us get better at spelling, reading, and thinking deeply about things.

Word of the Week is designed to help our children grow their vocabulary – that means learning new words so they can speak, write, and understand things better. Each new word gives them more power to explain our ideas, ask better questions, and understand what others are saying or writing.

The words that you will look at are all subject specific and you will use them in your lessons. Above, you can see an example provided by Mrs Mason from Art. Each week, Form teachers will share the Word of the Week with their form, before students record it onto their special Word of the Week Glossaries on their iPads. Throughout the week, students will be awarded achievement points for using the Word of the Week in their lessons or in their social times.

By the end of the year, we hope that our children will have built a dictionary to be used across all lessons and outside of school too!

So why don't you ask your children what the Word of the Week is this week and help them to develop their academic language!



Subject: Art



Week 7

Year 7: Form



Year 9: Conservation

Sounds like
kon · suh · vay · shn



Year 8: Construct



Year 10: Annotate





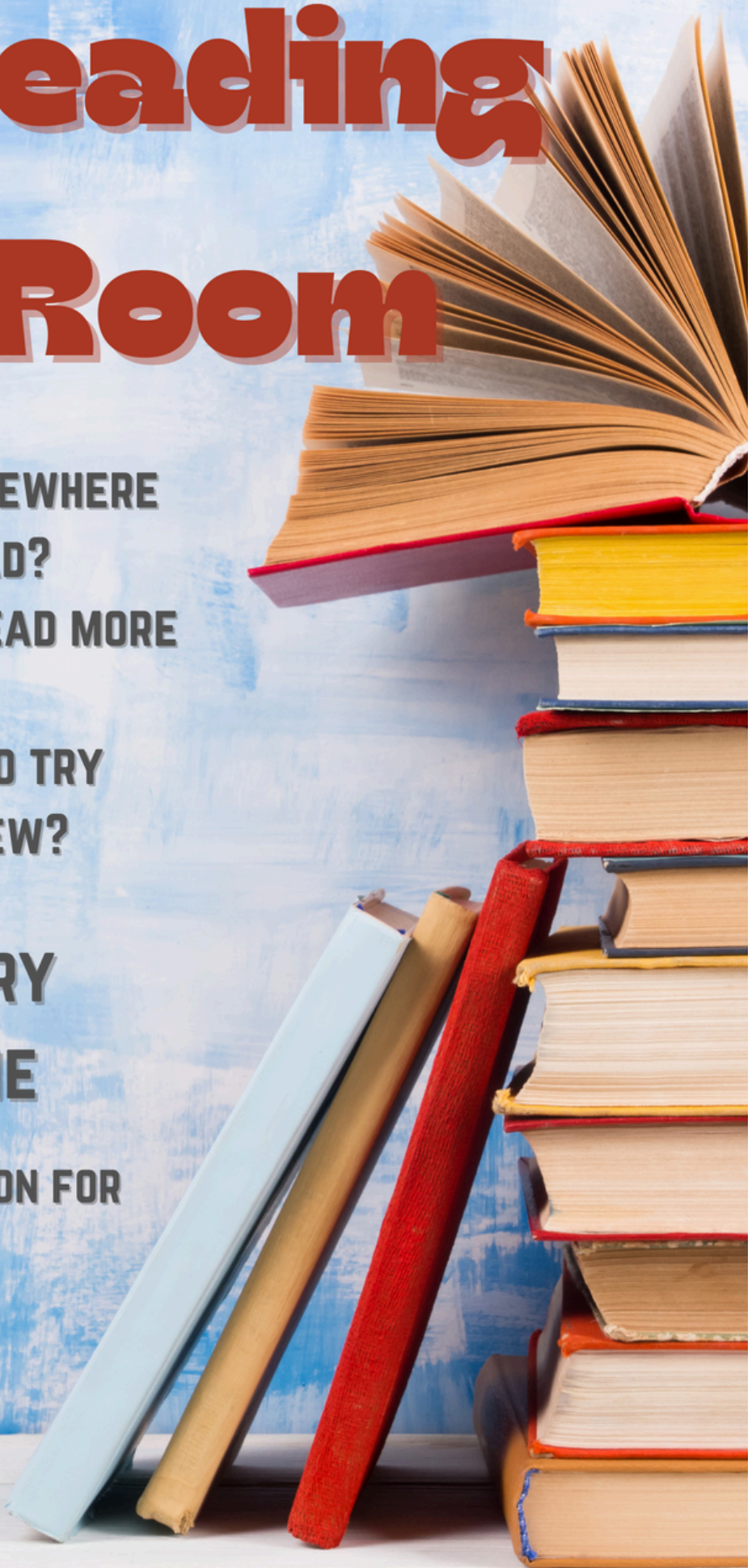
Reading Room

**DO YOU WANT SOMEWHERE
QUIET TO READ?
DO YOU WANT TO READ MORE
BOOKS?**

**DO YOU WANT TO TRY
SOMETHING NEW?**

**OPEN EVERY
LUNCHTIME**

**SEE MS HAMBLETON FOR
DETAILS**



Personal Development and Careers



The KSS Core Values drive everything we do at school from lessons to enrichment and everything in between.

These skills are really important for life beyond school, and can also help students fulfil their potential in classroom based learning.

In the summer term we will be exploring further with students how these Core Values can be developed.



FUTURE CREATIVES

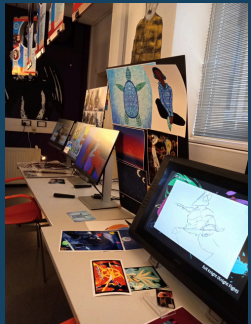


Our Year 9 and Year 10 Students were offered the opportunity to attend the Future Creatives Showcase at Staffs University.

During this trip, students explored what it was like to study a creative subject, involved a tour of the University and the Degree Show as well as participation in a workshop based around either 'virtual production', 'creative art' or 'TV studio production with green screen'.



Next year, we will continue to develop our careers programme to offer more bespoke, 'opt in' sessions to support our whole school visits and options to allow students to explore areas of interest to them.



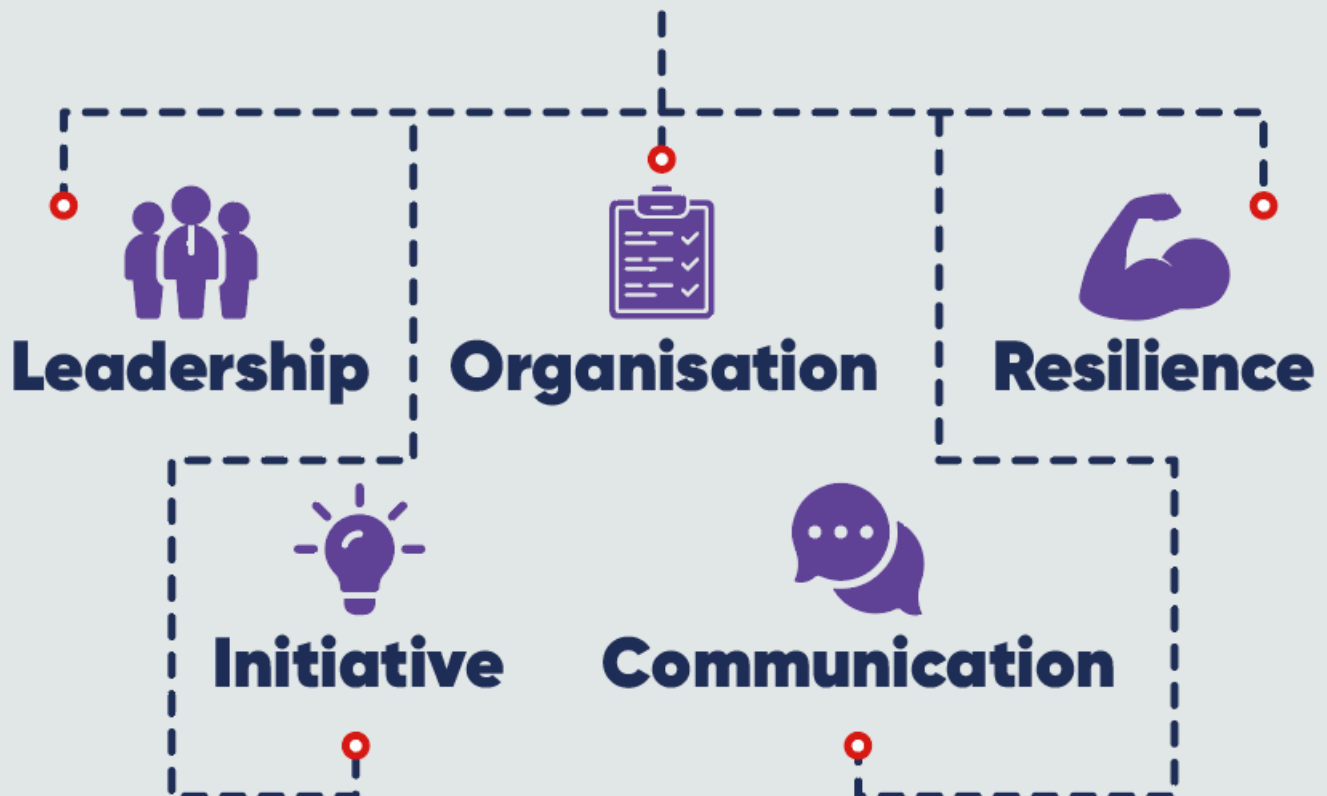
It really is fantastic to see students 'opting in' to attend these sessions. It shows real maturity and an understanding of how important it is to explore options for their futures.



REMINDER



CORE VALUES





17TH JULY 2025

Y9 & Y10 SUMMER TRIP

TRAFFORD
CENTRE
MANCHESTER

SHOP



EAT



PLAY



CRITERIA

**95% PLUS
ATTENDANCE**

**12th May -
27th June
6 WEEKS**





**LESS THAN
20 NEGATIVES**

The school reserves the right to retract invitation to reward events based on conduct during and after the qualifying period.

House Points

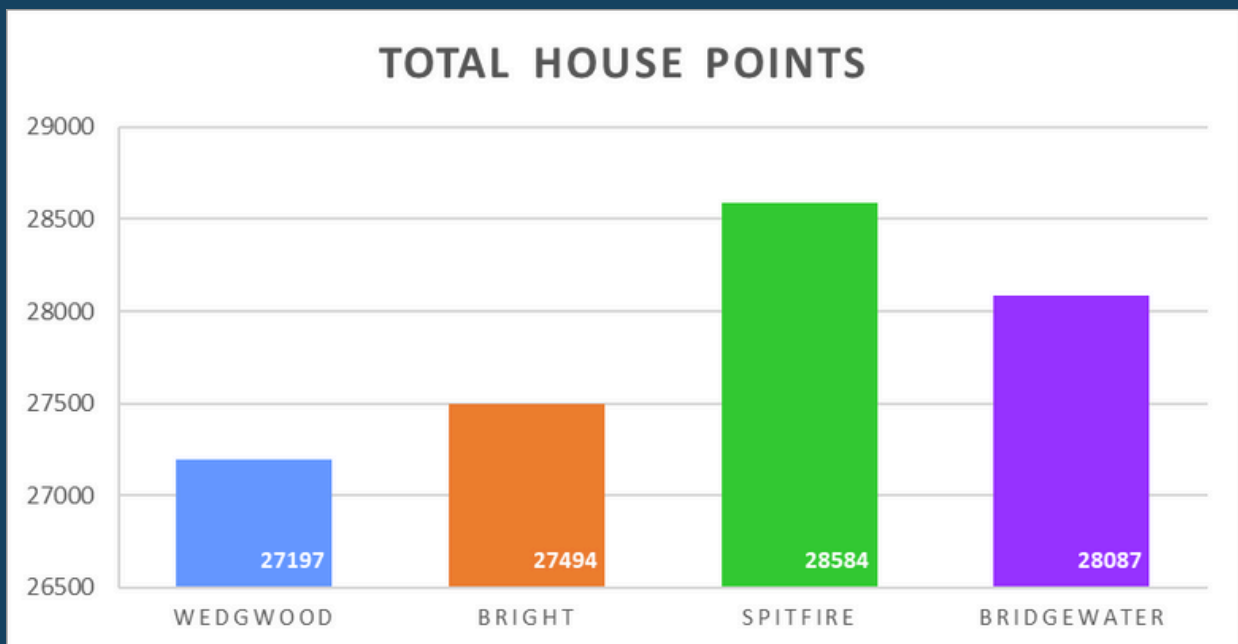
As we approach the final stretch of the year, it's time to celebrate the incredible effort and commitment our students have shown across all houses. With a staggering 114,055 positive achievement points awarded so far, it's clear that excellence, determination, and teamwork are thriving throughout our school community.

Here's how the totals are shaping up:

-  Wedgwood – 27,197 points
-  Bright – 27,494 points
-  Spitfire – 28,584 points
-  Bridgewater – 28,087 points

🎉 **Spitfire** currently leads the way with an impressive **28,584** points, but it's still all to play for! With just under 1,400 points separating first and last place, the final few weeks could change everything. Let's keep the momentum going—whether it's showing kindness, putting in that extra effort in lessons, or being a supportive teammate, every point counts!

💪 Keep up the amazing work, and let's finish the year strong!



SEND Parent Voice



If you haven't already, please take a moment to complete our SEND Parent Voice survey by scanning the QR code below. ➡

Your feedback helps us make sure our support is the best it can be for your child.

🧩 It only takes a few minutes

📢 Your voice matters

✅ Responses help shape our SEND provision

Thank you to everyone who has already responded!

SEND Parent Voice June 2025





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



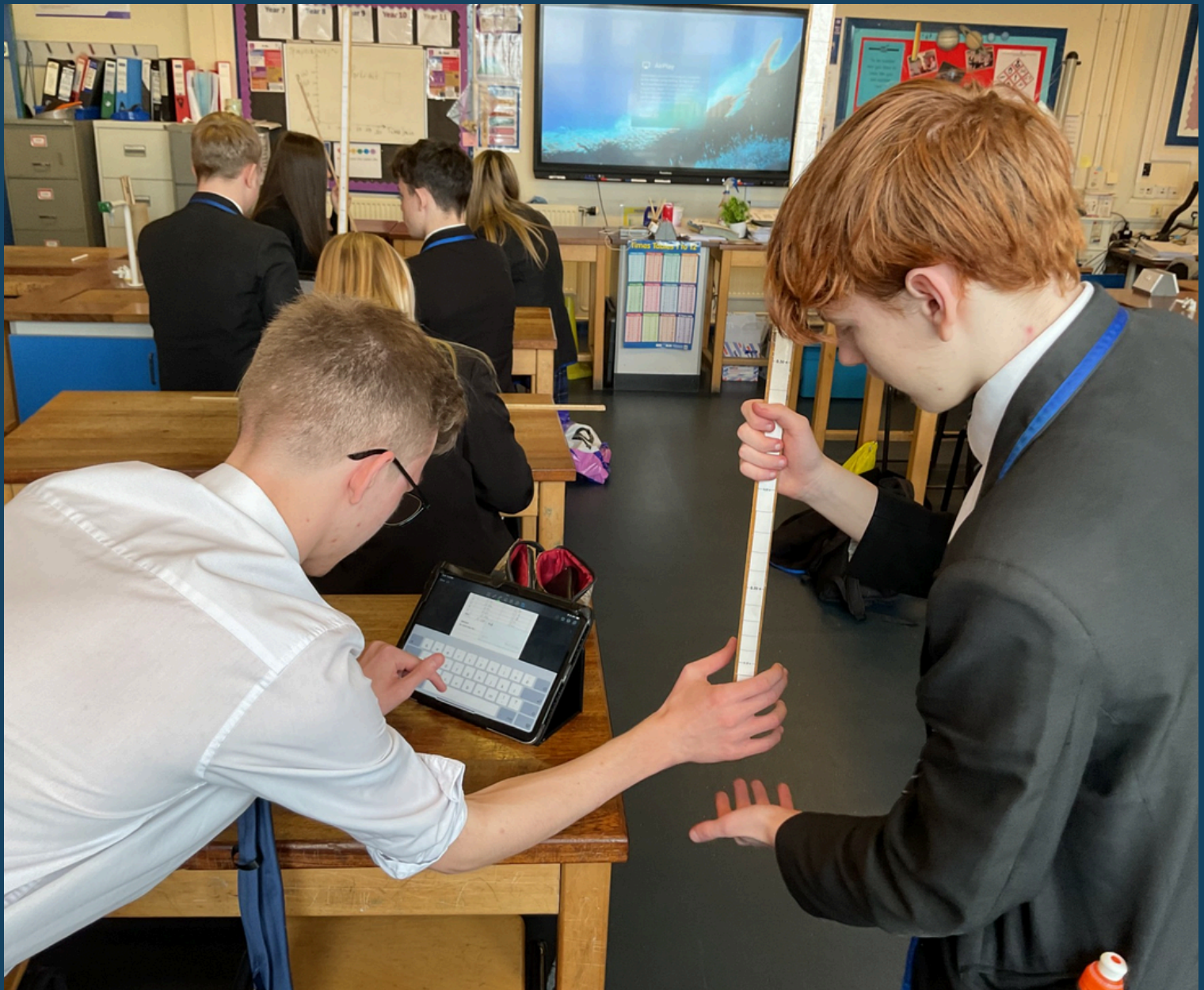
Mental health
support



Science

As part of the unit on 'Movement', 10K learned about the stopping distances of vehicles and investigated the effect of a distraction on their reaction time and subsequent stopping distance! Unsurprisingly, everyone agreed that trying to type a message on their Ipad slowed their reactions!

FANTASTIC



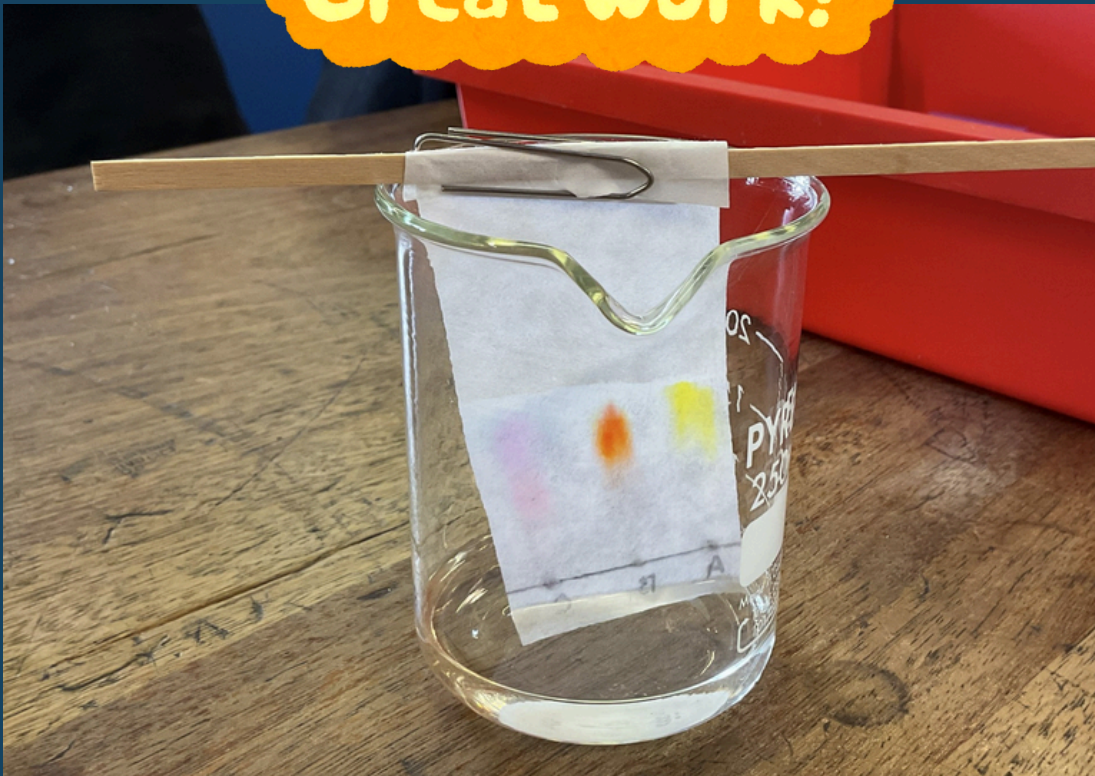
Science

The Y7 unit on 'Mixtures' focused on the separation of mixtures and solutions. Year 7s safely and accurately performed separation techniques that increased in complexity, starting with decanting and evaporation, and concluding with chromatography (shown above). Students progressed really well and demonstrated that they were able to choose the best and most appropriate technique to separate a variety of mixtures- great skills shown Year7!

GREAT JOB!



Great work!

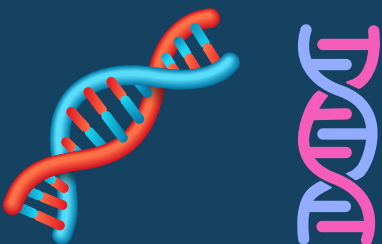
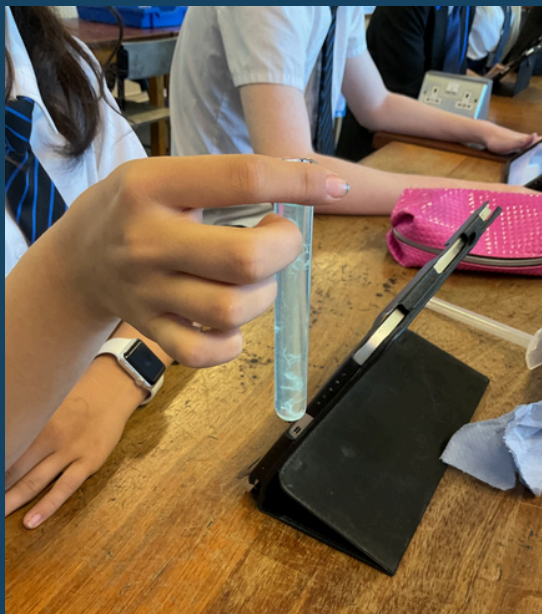


Science

As part of our unit on 'Genetics', 9K students learned how to recognise the type of cell division that occurs at different stages of an organism's life, from gamete production to grown adult. Students then explored how gene theory has developed, learning about the different scientists that contributed to our current understanding of genetics and how to use punnet squares to predict the probability of an individual inheriting a certain trait from its parents. Students were brilliant at extracting DNA from onions-well done 9K!

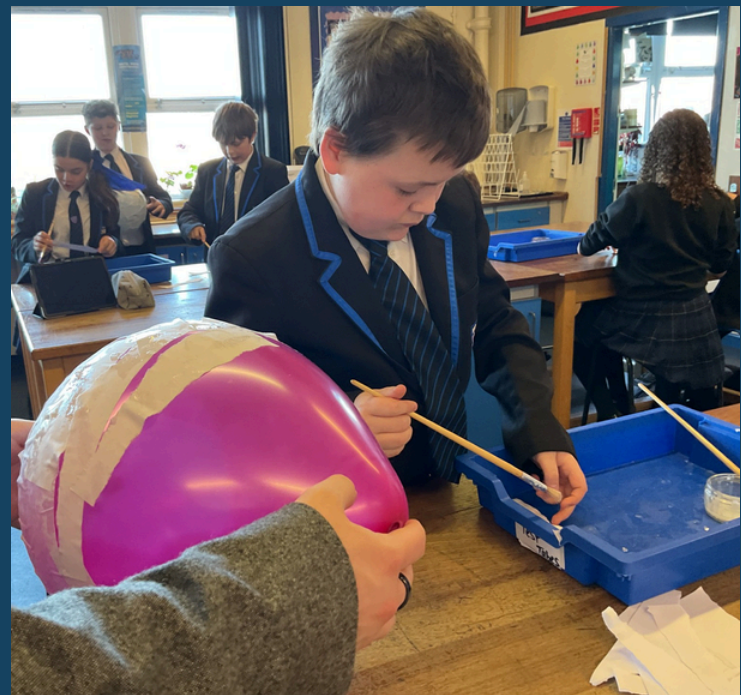
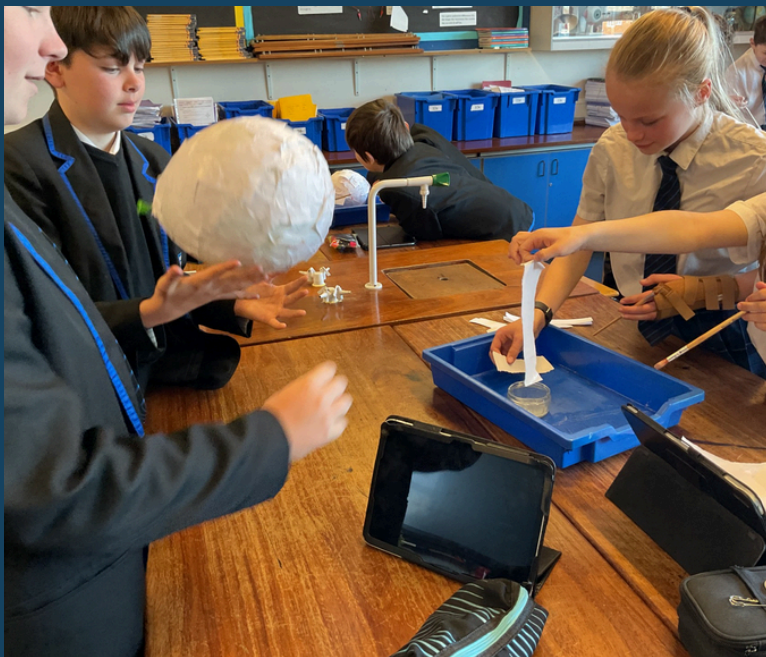
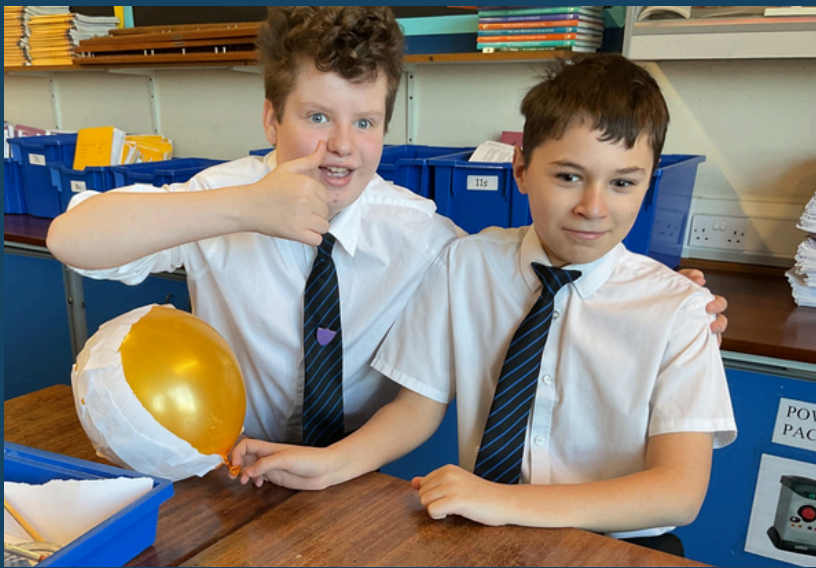
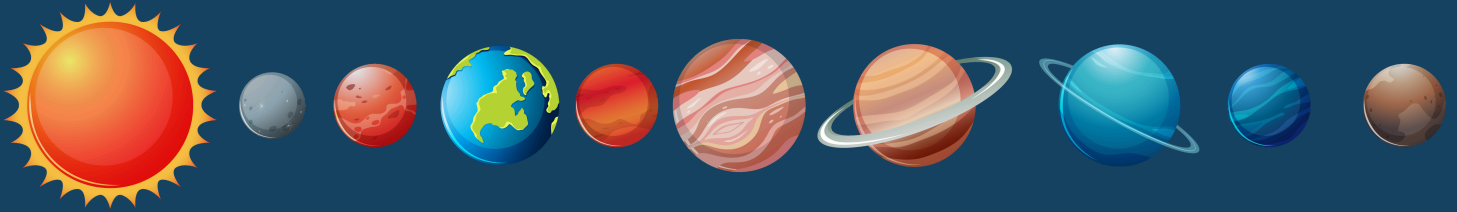


super
duper



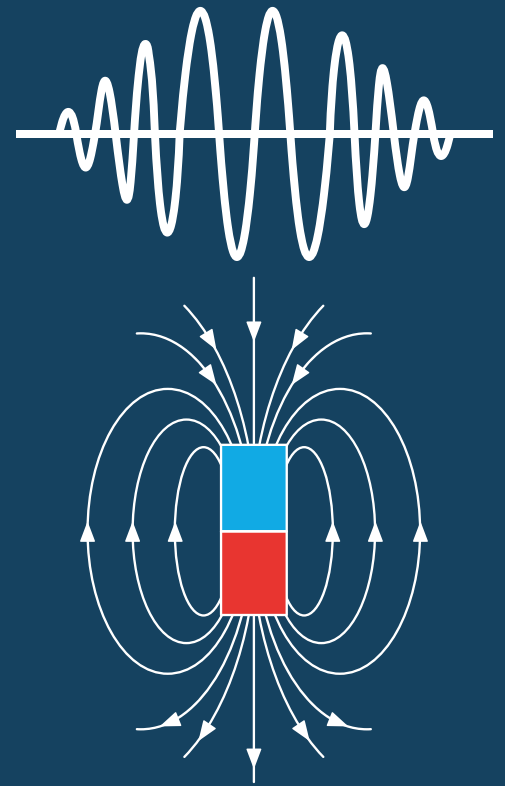
Science

Year 7s extended their primary knowledge on 'Space and our Solar System' by learning about how gravity keeps objects in orbit as well as natural and artificial satellites. We finished off the unit by making and painting Papier-mâché planets- very messy fun!



Science

8S recently developed their basic understanding from Year 7 of how to set up a simple circuit which they needed when we investigated electromagnets. They discovered that increasing the number of coils in the wire and adding an iron core allowed them to pick up more paperclips! Great work 8S!





SPORTS DAY

27TH JUNE 2025



NORTHWOOD
STADIUM

PARENTS WELCOME

ICE CREAM VAN

TROPHY PRESENTATION AT 2.30PM



Sports Day Travel



We're so excited that this year's whole-school Sports Day is just around the corner! Taking place at Northwood Stadium, students will represent their house teams as they compete for the coveted Sports Day Trophy – with plenty of cheering from their peers on the sidelines!

Expect a brilliant day filled with athletic competitions, a tuck shop, ice cream van, and of course, the legendary Staff Race! Parents and carers are also welcome to come along and support!

To help us plan the day, we're asking families to support with transport if possible. Students should:

Arrive at Northwood Stadium by 9:30am

Be collected at 2:15pm

If you are unable to provide transport, we have a limited number of minibus spaces available.

Please complete the form by Friday 21st June to let us know your travel arrangements:

Please use the QR code below to tell us how your child will be getting to sports day.

We can't wait – let the countdown begin!

Sports Day Transport



1

2

3



1

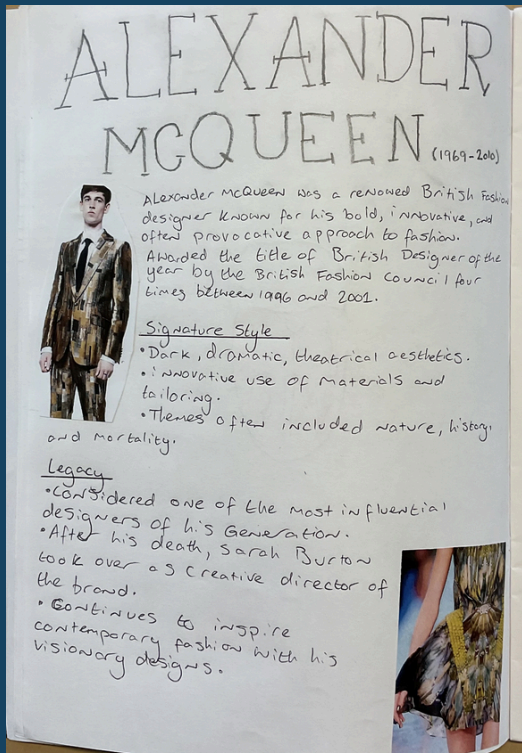
2

3

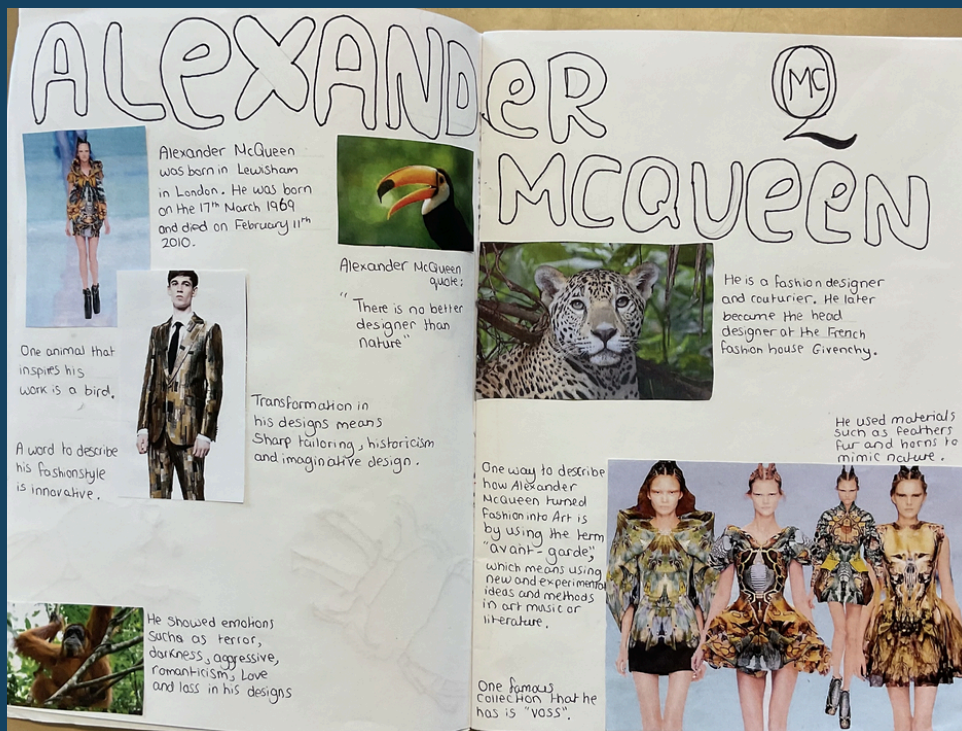
Art

There have been some amazing pieces of art created with Mrs Mason over the course of the last few months. We can honestly say that we have some very talented artists within our student body.

Please take some time to take a look at samples of some of the amazing work.



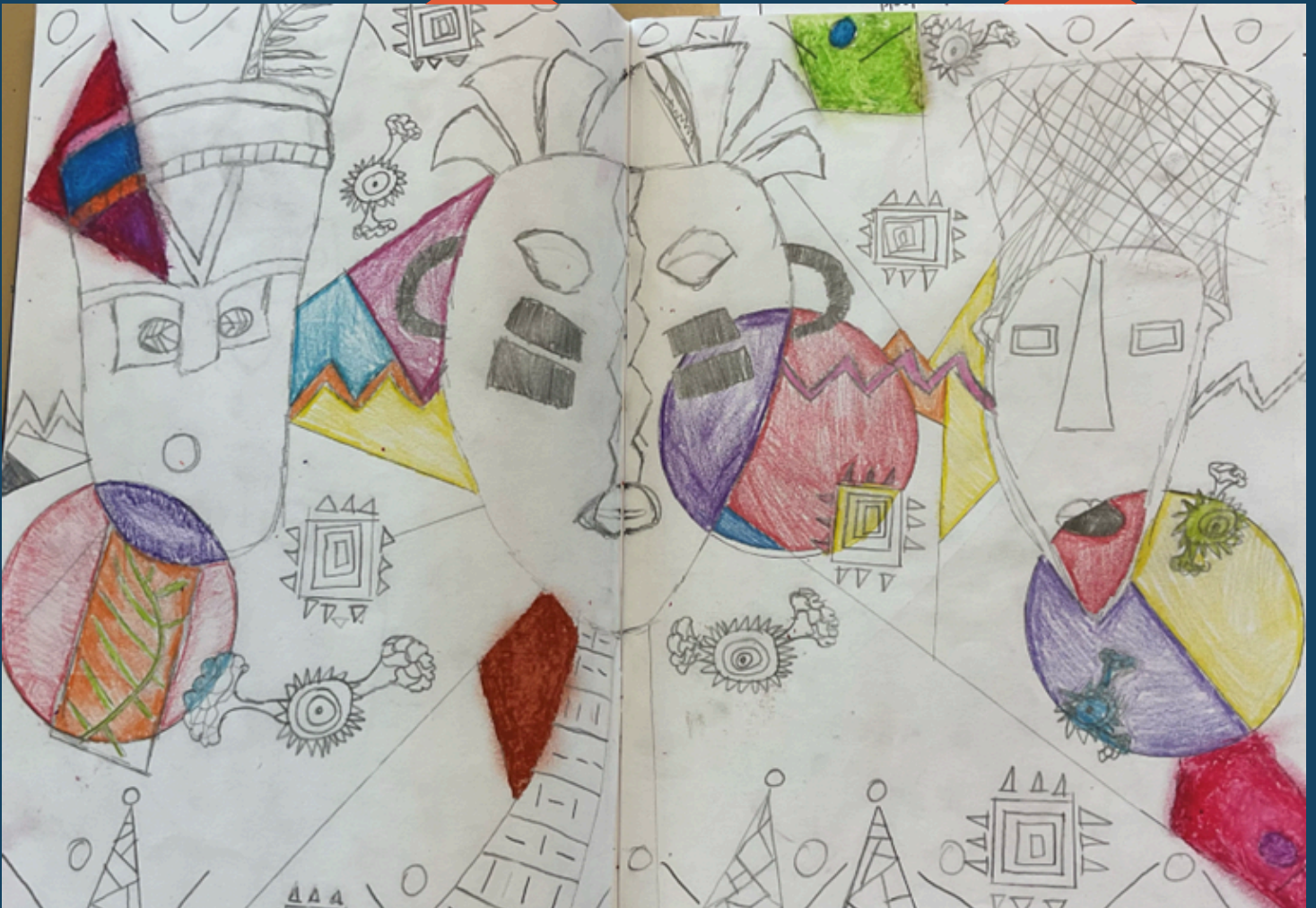
FANTASTIC!





Incredible







Year 11 Prom

DAYS

LEFT



You are invited to

KIDSGROVE SECONDARY SCHOOL

Prom Night

Dress to impress

July 4th | 7:00 - 10.30 PM

Alsager Golf Club



**PROUD TO
BE
KSS**

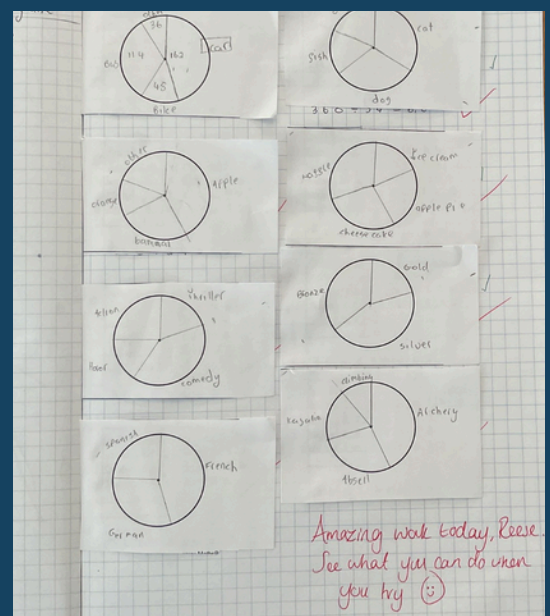
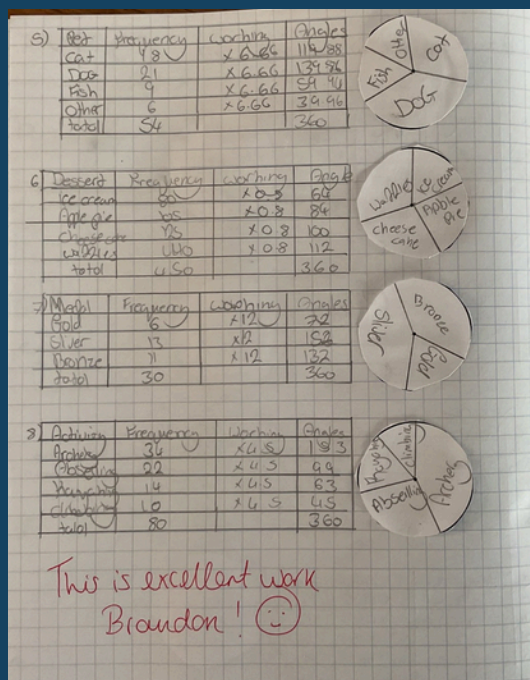
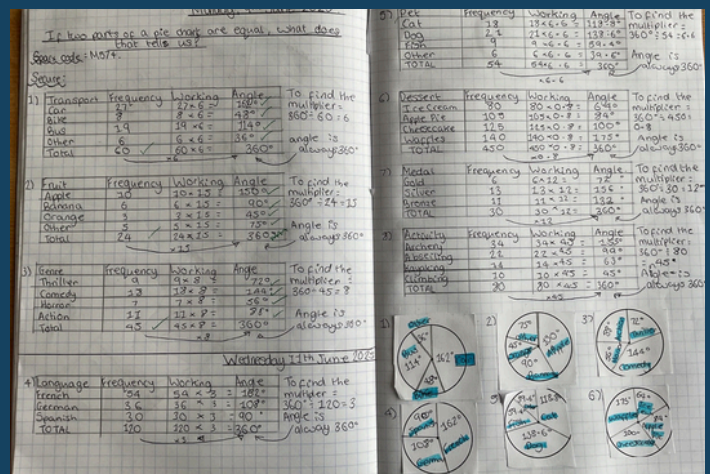
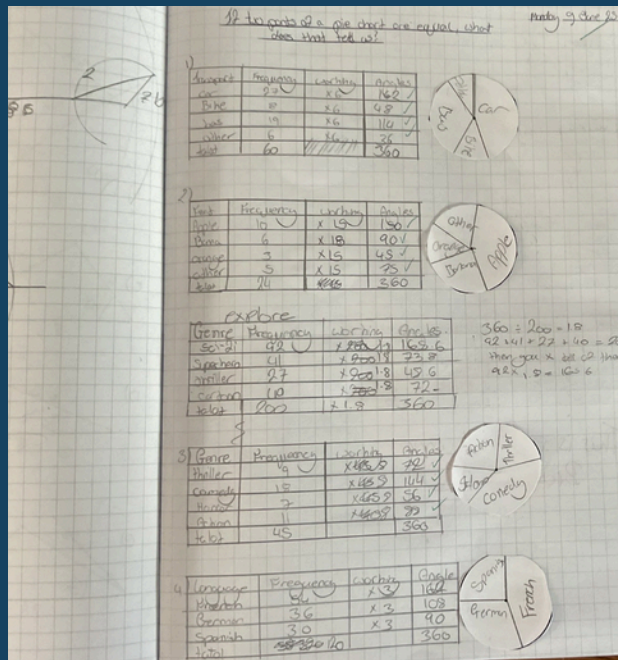


Maths

Students from Year 9 have been producing some incredible work with Mrs Hawthorne this half term. Mrs Hawthorne very proudly shared with us some examples of excellent work from Brandon, Reece and Nanci.

Keep up the great mathematical work 9S!

AMAZING!



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

A special mention to the examination invigilation team who have overseen the Year 11 GCSE summer exams. They have been such an asset to the school supporting students, enforcing the JCQ regulations and allowing the smooth running of the examinations with Mrs Correia (our examinations officer). Thank you to each and everyone of you!



Summer 2025

We did it... another successful exam series completed!
We could not have delivered this series without your support.

The importance of your contribution in helping our students to perform to the best of their ability during their examinations and assessments, and in protecting the integrity and security of the examination system in our centre is **never** underestimated.

So, please accept this card as a 'thank you' for your efforts and support... they are **very** much appreciated.

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 (sweater, shirt, tie) on a hanger. In the bottom left is a blue pencil holder with various colored pencils. The background has a large red and blue circular graphic.

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
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Attendance Matters

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