

# HEADTEACHER BULLETIN

Friday 22.5.26

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

Dear Parents/Carers,

The penultimate half term of the academic year is now complete and our Year 11 students are officially half way through their summer examination season. The last few weeks have been as busy as always at KSS and the students have been working hard across a number of subject areas, producing some incredible work in lessons.

We have held a successful Year 9 options evening since I last wrote to you and it was great to welcome parents & carers into school for the recent SEND parent/carers review day, organised by our SENCO Ms Hambleton. We completed our parents evening schedule with the Year 7 parents evening yesterday and we had another fantastic turnout of 90%.

The students received their summer term progress reports last week and we are delighted with the successes that have been achieved. I have written home to a number of students this week for their incredible achievement and progress across a range of subjects assessments. It was great to celebrate these milestones and many more student successes in today's celebration assemblies.

When we return after the summer break we will be undergoing renovation work in a number of classroom spaces as we prepare for our Year 7 intake in September. I will share with you updates at the end of the summer term as to how these improvements to our teaching spaces are progressing. We have been exceptionally busy appointing new colleagues who will be joining us in September. We have Mr Williams joining us as a Geography teacher from a school in Wales, Ms North joining us as an English teacher from a school in Stoke-on-Trent, Mr Hawkins joining the team as a teacher of Science from a school in Shropshire and Mrs Barker-Brown as an Art and Technology teacher from a local school. I will share staff profiles with you over the course of the next few editions of the bulletin, to welcome our new staff to our KSS family.

Finally, we say a temporary goodbye to the fantastic Ms Mason, who is starting her maternity leave after half term. She will be sorely missed and we cannot wait to hear about her family's new arrival in a few weeks time. Ms Cross has joined us as a maternity cover teacher whilst Ms Mason is absent and there are a few words from Ms Cross within the bulletin. A reminder that we return to school on Monday the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2026 for half term six.

Yours faithfully,  
Mr S Frost



# Early Career Teacher of the Year 2026

A huge congratulations to Miss Wright on winning Early Career Teacher of the Year at the Shaw Education Trust annual Get SET Go Awards.

This award is thoroughly deserved and recognises the incredible commitment, passion and dedication Miss Wright brings to Kidsgrove Secondary School every single day. From building positive relationships with students to delivering engaging lessons and supporting the wider school community, she has already made a fantastic impact during the early stages of her teaching career.

We are incredibly proud to have Miss Wright as part of Team KSS and look forward to seeing her continue to flourish in the profession. Congratulations, Miss Wright!



**PROUD TO  
BE  
KSS**





# Meet Our Learning Support Team

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



Ms Hambleton  
SENDCo



Mrs Beard  
HTLA



Mrs West  
Teaching Assistant



Miss Tucker  
Teaching Assistant



Miss Looskan  
Teaching Assistant



Miss Rainbird  
Teaching Assistant



Mrs Malpass  
Teaching Assistant



Mrs Begum  
Teaching Assistant

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



**PROUD TO BE KSS**




# PARENTS EVENING INFORMATION (2025-2026)



## Upcoming Events

Year 11 - 22.1.26 (4pm to 7pm)



Year 10 - 5.2.26 (4pm to 7pm)



Year 8 - 12.3.26 (3pm to 7pm)



Year 9 - 26.3.26 (4pm to 7pm)



Year 7 - 21.5.26 (3pm to 7pm)



**An average of  
92% parental  
attendance to our  
events this  
academic year!**

KSS

Y6

Transition

WEEK



COMING SOON

JUNE 29<sup>TH</sup> - 1<sup>ST</sup> JULY

Monday

Challenge Day

Critical thinking day designed to challenge young minds.

Tuesday

Discovery Day

Problem solving tasks designed to grow young minds

Wednesday

Whole school transition

Getting to know your teachers

Wednesday evening

Parents transition evening

Parents/ carers chance to ask questions and meet the staff.



For more information [Transition@kss.set.org](mailto:Transition@kss.set.org)

Opportunity



Integrity



Community



Equity



PROUD TO BE KSS



# House Points

As we head into the final half term of the academic year, the competition for the House Point trophy is heating up! Every achievement point, positive behaviour point and contribution to school life is making a huge difference.

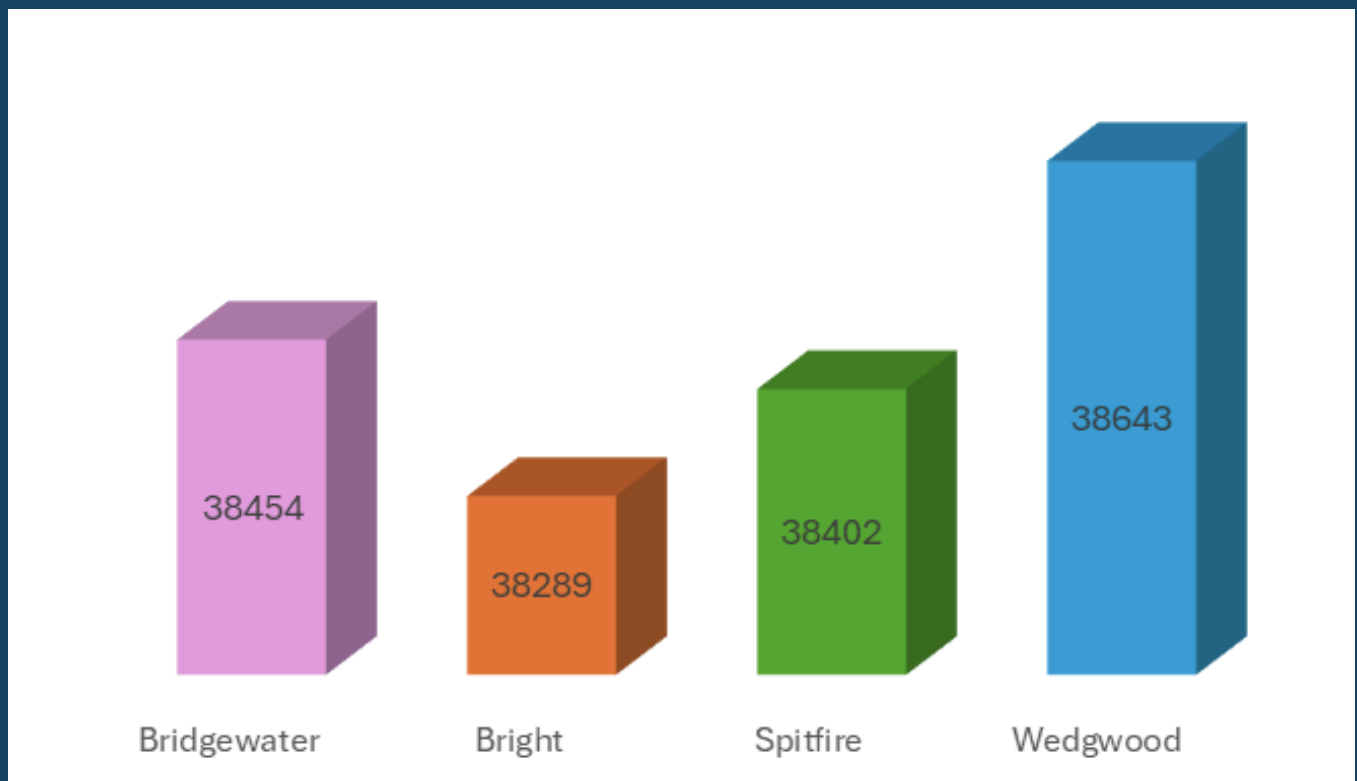
Current standings are incredibly close:

- Wedgwood – 38,643
- Bridgewater – 38,454
- Spitfire – 38,402
- Bright – 38,289
- 

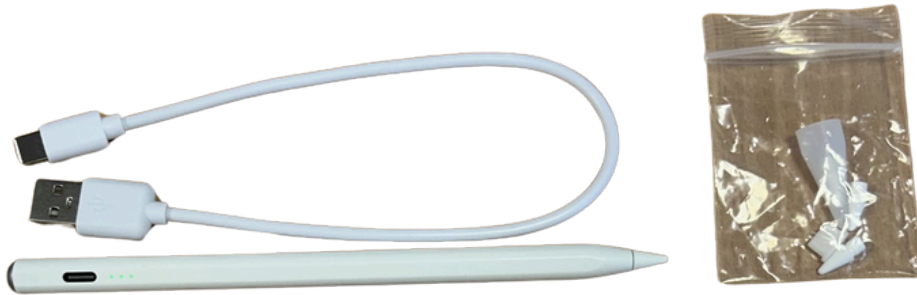
With less than 400 points separating all four houses, it really is all to play for! Students can continue earning points through excellent attendance, positive behaviour, effort in lessons, enrichment activities and demonstrating our school values.

Sports Day is just around the corner and will provide another fantastic opportunity for houses to gain valuable points. Team spirit, determination and resilience could make all the difference in deciding this year's champions.

Good luck to all houses as we enter the final stretch.



# Smart Start



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

# Headteacher Reward Lunch

It was great to be joined by students with the highest number of star student tokens for the Headteacher reward lunch. The subject star of the week tokens have been a real hit since January. The teachers have issued almost 1000 tokens and 18 students have topped the charts with multiple tokens secured. Well done everyone!

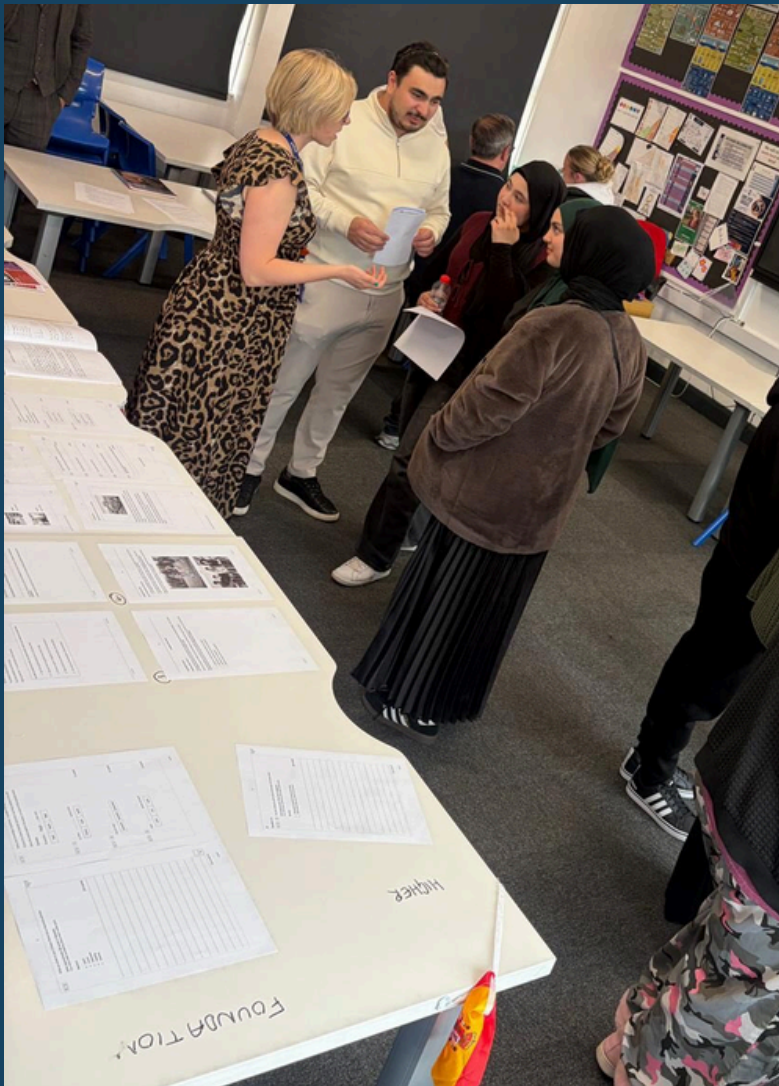


# Headteacher Reward Lunch



# Year 9 Options Evening

A huge thank you to all of our Year 9 students and parents/carers who attended our options evening event a few weeks ago. It was fantastic to see so many families engaging with the process and speaking with staff about the exciting opportunities available at Key Stage 4.



# ATTENDANCE



**WHOLE SCHOOL: 93.8 %**

YEAR 7- 96.2 %

YEAR 8- 94.1%

YEAR 9 - 91.3 %

YEAR 10- 91.7 %

YEAR 11- 94.4 %

**NATIONAL AVERAGE: 91.4%**

**BEST FORM YTD: 7SW**

**BEST HOUSE: Bright**

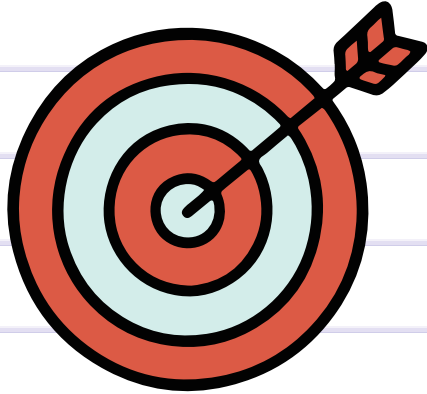
Kidsgrove Secondary School

**Attendance Matters**

#StopTheDrop



# Form Group Performance - Year so far...

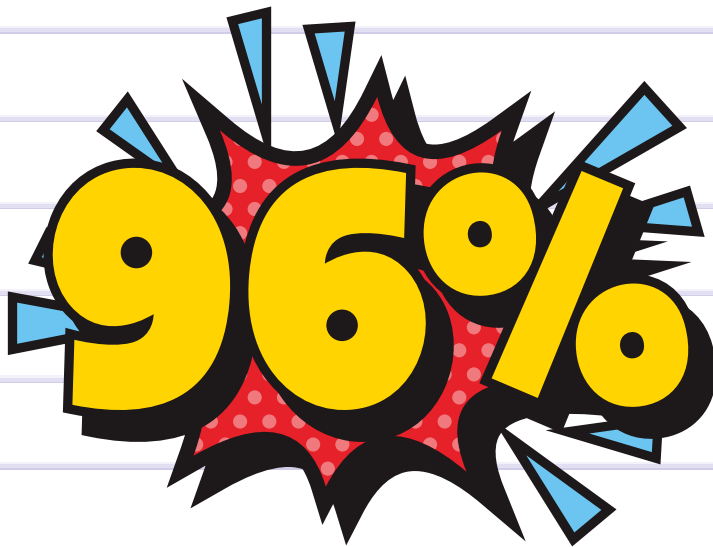


**7BJE - 97.5%**

**7SW - 96.5%**

**11MB - 96%**

**7MH - 95.8%**



**7EGL - 95.6%**

**8BW - 95.3%**

**8EPR - 95%**

**8MO - 95%**



**11SS - 94.6%**

**9NM - 94.3%**

**9SB - 93.7%**

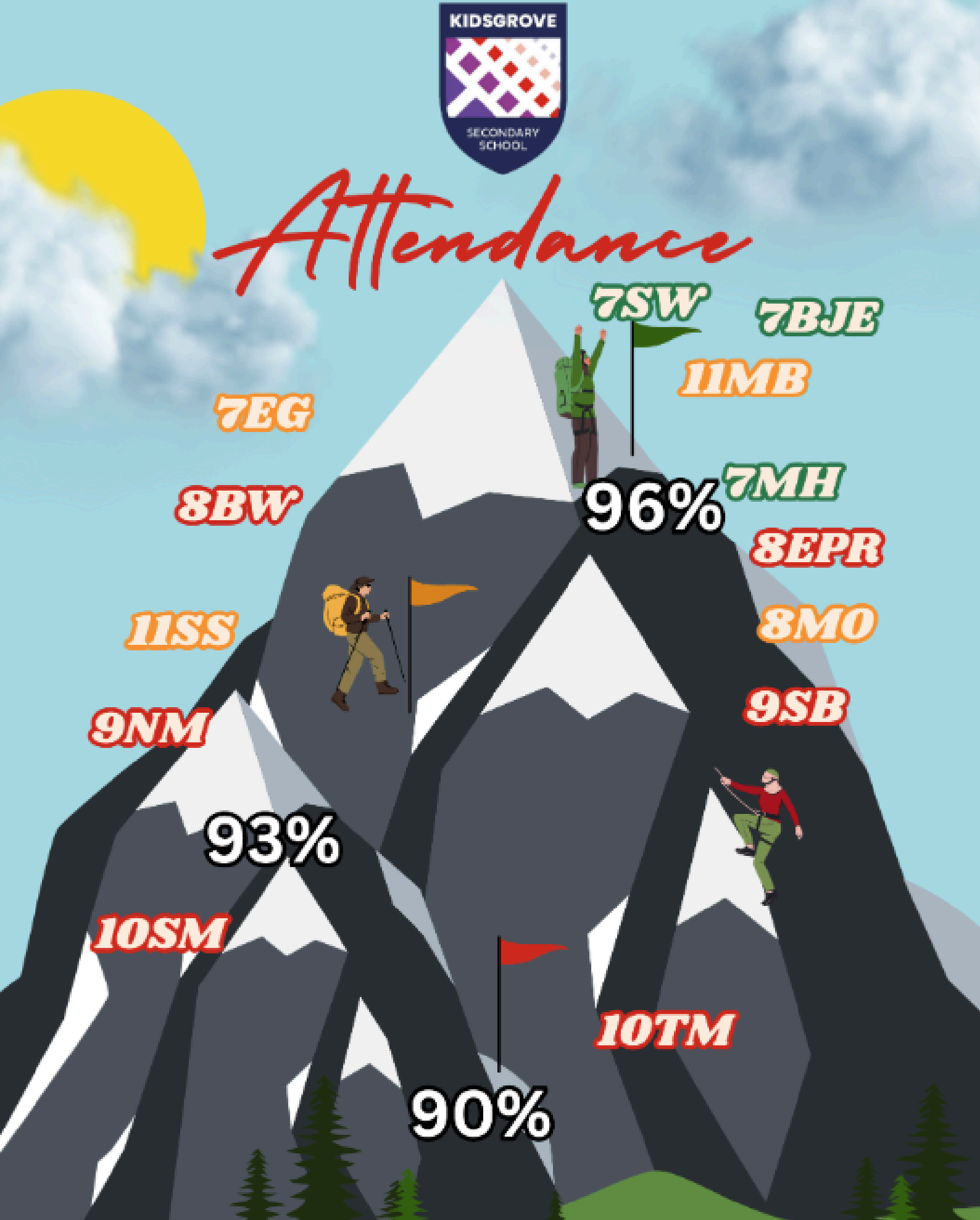
**10SM - 92.6%**

**10TM - 91.1%**





# Attendance



**7EG**

**7SW**

**7BJE**

**11MB**

**8BW**

**96%**

**7MH**

**8EPR**

**11SS**

**8MO**

**9NM**

**9SB**

**93%**

**10SM**

**10TM**

**90%**

Kidsgrove Secondary School

**Attendance Matters**

#StopTheDrop



# Switch Club

Every week in Switch Club, students battle it out in our tournament to see who will be crowned the ultimate Nintendo Switch Champion.

Competition has been fierce, skills have been tested and there have been some dramatic last-minute victories along the way.

Last week, Caleb claimed the title of 'Smash Bros Winner' as he was victorious in our latest tournament.

A huge well done to everyone who takes part each week and helps make the club such a fun and competitive environment.



KIDSGROVE



SECONDARY SCHOOL

secondaryschool.org.uk

# COMING SOON

## KIDSGROVE SECONDARY SCHOOL

# OPEN EVENING

*"If you do enough small things right, big things can happen."*



### Thursday 1st October 2026

5pm - 7.30pm

Gloucester Road  
ST7 4DL

- ✓ Tour the school
- ✓ Meet teachers
- ✓ Review curriculum
- ✓ Ask questions
- ✓ See our amazing culture in action

For more info:  
**01782 948250**

Email  
[communications@kss.set.org](mailto:communications@kss.set.org)



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



**PROUD TO BE KSS**



# Primary School Visits

This past week, Mrs White has been visiting our feeder primary schools with members of our Year 7 student body. This has seen our students demonstrate our school core values as they have been telling Year 6 students all about life at KSS. The students even devised a presentation to share with their Year 6 soon to be peers. Well done to all of the Year 7 students selected to take part.

THANK  
YOU



# Commando Joe's

Today, our Year 8 and Year 9 students took part in inspiring sessions with Commando Joe's, focused on empowering young people through their evidence-based RESPECT Framework.

The sessions encouraged students to develop key life skills including resilience, teamwork, confidence and self-belief, helping them to find their place, feel capable and flourish in an ever-changing world.

At Kidsgrove Secondary School, we know that education is about more than academic success alone. Building character, self-confidence and resilience is equally important in preparing our students for the future, and it was fantastic to see our students fully engaging with the activities and challenges throughout the day. A huge thank you to the Commando Joe's team for delivering such motivating and impactful sessions. Finally, a thank you to Mr Jessup for organising this amazing day.



**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.



# Celebration Assemblies

What a great way to end the half term with our brilliant celebration assemblies led by Mr Till. Well done to all of the students who were nominated for a subject award and a special subject badge. Lets see what we can all achieve in half term six.



# Celebration Assemblies



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



**PROUD TO  
BE  
KSS**



# Celebration Assemblies



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



**PROUD TO BE KSS**



# Celebration Assemblies



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



**KIDSGROVE**  
SECONDARY SCHOOL

**PROUD TO  
BE  
KSS**



**KIDSGROVE**  
SECONDARY SCHOOL



Shaw Education Trust

# Virtual Reality

Our students have been exploring the world through Virtual Reality in class with Mr Jessup. Using VR headsets, students were able to immerse themselves in topics we have been studying, bringing learning to life in an exciting and interactive way. From trekking through rainforests to standing beside erupting volcanoes and exploring different biomes across the globe, students experienced geography like never before.

A fantastic way to develop curiosity, engagement and a deeper understanding of the world around us.



## GEOGRAPHY



# 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

Kidsgrove Secondary School

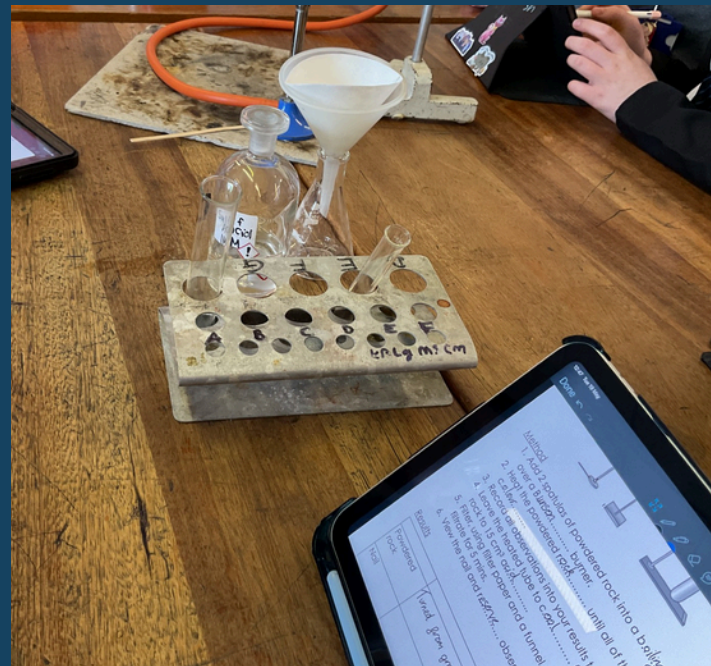
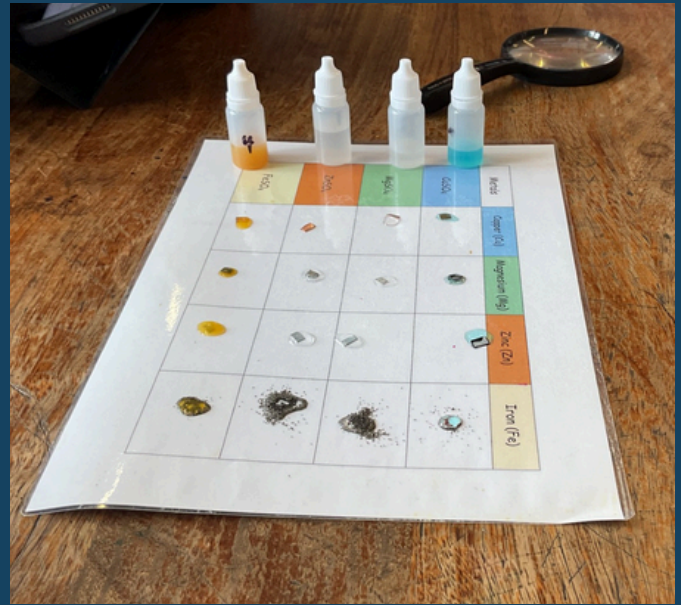
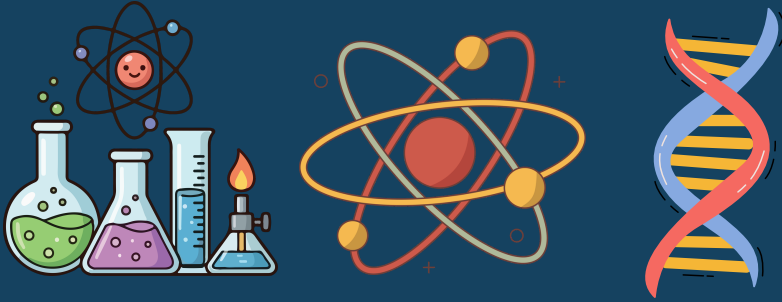
**Attendance Matters**

**#StopTheDrop**

**KIDSGROVE**  
SECONDARY SCHOOL

# Science

This week, year 9 students have used their understanding of the reactivity series to carry out displacement reactions and to extract copper from malachite rock. Students were especially impressed when their iron nail changed colour; Darcie shouted, "It's turned a pink colour after being coated with copper!". All students were able to describe what happened using chemical equations. Ivy said, "Doing lots of practicals is really helping me to learn" and when told that we shall extract metal using carbon next lesson.



KIDSGROVE



SECONDARY SCHOOL

15th July 2026

# SUMMER TRIP



27th April - 26th June  
(8 week window)



Y7 & Y8



Positive attendance  
Less than 25 negatives



KIDSGROVE



SECONDARY SCHOOL

PROUD TO BE KSS

KIDSGROVE



SECONDARY SCHOOL



# Welcome

As Ms Mason undertakes her maternity leave, we have been joined by Ms Cross for twelve months to teach Art and Technology at KSS.

We are delighted that Ms Cross has joined us as and as an Early Career teacher at the start of her teaching career.

Below are a few words from the lady herself...

My teaching career started when I was a cover teacher for two years and during that time I decided I wanted to do my teacher training which I completed in 2022, I am into my fourth year as an art teacher.

I am looking forward to developing my art knowledge and skills also develop my teaching skills during my time at Kidsgrove.

In my personal time I enjoy listening to music and going to concerts, my most recent concert was to see 'Cat Burns' in Manchester and I also enjoy visiting art galleries.





KSS  
Inclusion Team

# Breakfast Club

8.10am to 8.30am

POP ALONG IF YOU WANT  
SOMEWHERE CALM TO START  
YOUR DAY

📍 READING ROOM



PROUD TO  
BE  
KSS



# Board Games Club

Looking for a fun way to unwind at the end of the week?

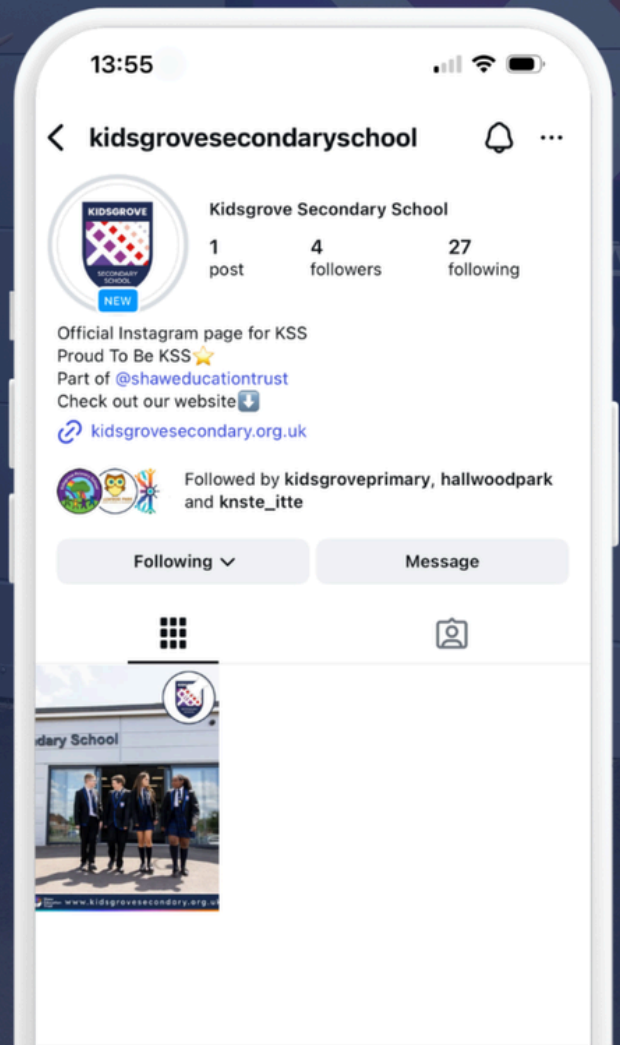
Our Board Games Club has been a fantastic space for students to relax, socialise and challenge themselves. From classic strategy games to fast-paced favourites, students are developing key skills such as communication, problem-solving and teamwork, all while having a great time with friends. It's brilliant to see such a positive atmosphere, with students supporting one another, learning new games and even teaching others their favourites. Whether you're a seasoned strategist or just fancy something new, there's a seat at the table for everyone.

Well done to all students who have been getting involved, you've made it a real highlight of the week!



# WE'RE NOW ON INSTAGRAM!

FOLLOW US @KIDSGROVESECONDARYSCHOOL

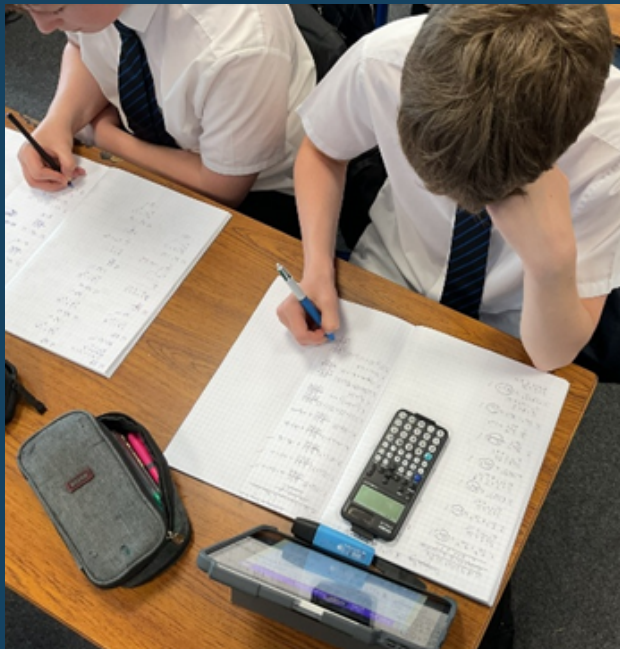


PROUD TO  
BE  
KSS



# Maths

It has been fantastic to see such focused work from Year 10 as they prepare for their upcoming mock examinations next month. They are performing really well in Maths and are showing amazing understanding of key concepts.



**AWESOME**



# Maths

We thought we would celebrate the top 3 students from each year group that have done the most on their Sparx Revision so far. The students are showcased below. A huge well done to all the students mentioned. Please can parents & carers remind students that they can come and see any of the maths staff if they need support with any revision. They are welcome to join us any lunchtime if they prefer to revise in the school environment.



**PROUD TO  
BE  
KSS**



# Maths



CONGRATULATIONS



PROUD TO BE KSS



Maths

*Well done!*

*Congratulations*

**YEAR 9**

**ACHIEVEMENT**

**Josh B**

**Matilda H**

**Mason H**

**2**

**1**

**3**



# Maths



**Amazing**



KIDSGROVE SECONDARY SCHOOL

# PROM NIGHT



**ONE NIGHT. INFINITE MEMORIES.**

Your unforgettable night starts now. Join us for Prom, a perfect blend of elegance, joy, and non-stop laughter, guaranteeing memories that will last a lifetime.

**DANCE**

**DRESS TO IMPRESS**

**DJ**

THURSDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JULY

7:00 PM – 10:30PM

ARRIVE FROM 6:30PM

ALSAGER GOLF AND COUNTRY  
CLUB



**PROUD TO  
BE  
KSS**



# English

Year 11 have shown real determination and maturity over the past fortnight as they completed their first two English Literature GCSE exams. Their focus has been impressive, their attitude purposeful, and their commitment to revision has clearly paid off. Staff across the school have commented on how calm and prepared they appeared walking into the exam hall – a testament to the hard work they have put in throughout the year.



From exploring the theme of guilt in Macbeth to analysing the powerful emotions within the Power and Conflict poetry cluster, students have demonstrated both resilience and genuine engagement with challenging texts. Many have spoken about feeling confident in the questions they faced, and teachers have been proud to see them apply the analytical skills they've been building lesson by lesson. With Literature now behind them, Year 11 are turning their attention to the English Language GCSE. This next stage brings a different kind of challenge, but one they are more than ready to meet. Over the coming days, students will be refining their reading strategies, strengthening their ability to write with clarity and impact, and practising the craft of shaping thoughtful, well-structured responses under timed conditions.



so proud  
of  
You



# English

In Key Stage 3 have recently been completing their Checkpoint Formative tasks on Animal Farm and a selection of poems. These tasks are designed to help students reflect on their progress, strengthen key skills, and prepare for more advanced study.

In Animal Farm, students explored how George Orwell uses characters like Napoleon and Boxer to represent real political ideas. They analysed how power can be abused, why the animals are persuaded so easily, and how language is used to control a society. This helped students develop stronger skills in character analysis and theme exploration.

In poetry, students studied a range of poems that focused on nature. They practised identifying techniques such as metaphor and imagery, before applying these ideas in their written responses.

These formative tasks encouraged learners to think more deeply, write more confidently, and reflect on their strengths and next steps. Overall, the assessments supported students in becoming more thoughtful, independent readers and writers.

Great work!



16TH JULY 2026

# Y9 & Y10 SUMMER TRIP

TRAFFORD  
CENTRE  
MANCHESTER

SHOP



EAT



PLAY



## CRITERIA

**POSITIVE  
ATTENDANCE**

**27th April -  
26th June  
8 WEEKS**

**LESS THAN  
25 NEGATIVES**



# 7BJE Reward Trip

A huge congratulations to 7BJE, who have earned themselves a reward trip to Alton Towers Resort for their outstanding improvements in attendance and behaviour. The form group have shown fantastic commitment, positivity and teamwork throughout the term, and their efforts have truly paid off. It is brilliant to see the students supporting one another and demonstrating such pride in their school community.

We hope everyone had an amazing day making memories and celebrating their success, which was a very well deserved reward!



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



**PROUD TO  
BE  
KSS**



# OUR ENRICHMENT CLUBS YOU'RE MOST WELCOME

## ARE YOU SPORTY?



👂 Get active, get fit, and show off your skills!

Football, Volleyball, Trampolining, Fitness Club and Running Club

## ARE YOU A CREATIVE GENIUS?

🎨 Create. Perform. Shine.

Open Art Studio, Craft Club, Performing Arts Drop In, Music Club and Musical Rehearsal



## STRATEGIC THINKER

♟️ Think fast. Play smart. Have fun.

Board Games, Chess Club and Darts Club



## KNOWLEDGE SEEKER

📖 Feed your brain and flex those intellectual muscles!

Debating and Politics and Homework 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

# Quality of Education

As part of our Teaching and Learning strategy school wide, there is an ongoing focus on the use of dual coding within lessons to support student learning and memory. Dual coding is a teaching strategy where information is presented using both words and visuals together, helping students to process and retain information more effectively.

## What is Dual Coding?

Dual coding combines verbal explanations or written information with visual elements such as:

- Diagrams
- Images
- Timelines
- Symbols
- Flow charts
- Graphic organisers

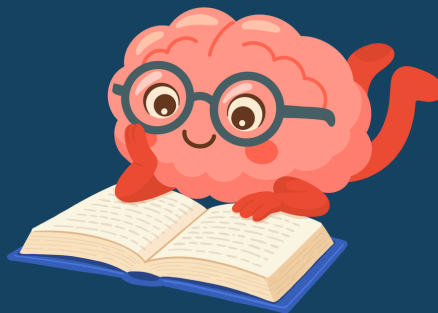
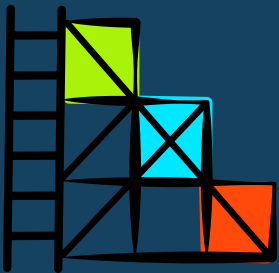
By presenting learning in more than one way, students are better able to understand complex ideas and remember key knowledge over time.

## Why is Dual Coding Useful?

Research shows that students remember information more successfully when they can connect words with visual representations. Dual coding helps students to:

- Organise information more clearly.
- Improve memory and recall.
- Understand difficult concepts more easily.
- Make links between different ideas and topics.
- Reduce cognitive overload by simplifying complex information.

This approach supports all learners and is particularly beneficial for students who may need additional support with processing or retaining new knowledge



# Quality of Education

## Dual Coding Across Different Subjects

Teachers across the school have been embedding dual coding strategies into lessons in a range of creative and effective ways.

### English

In English lessons, students may use visual organisers to break down characters, themes, and quotations. Teachers also combine model paragraphs with colour coding to help students understand how successful analytical writing is structured.

### Science

In Science, diagrams and labelled processes are used alongside explanations to support understanding of complex concepts such as cells, chemical reactions, or the circulatory system. Visuals help students to remember key processes and scientific vocabulary more effectively.

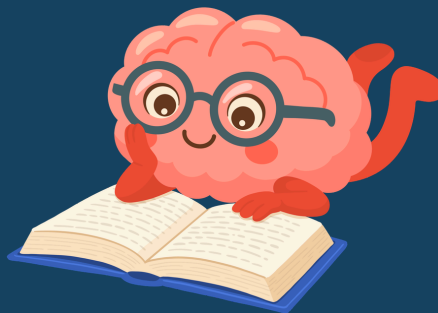
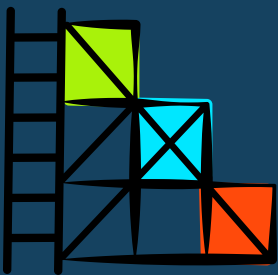
### PE

In PE lessons, teachers may use visual demonstrations and movement diagrams, alongside verbal instructions. This helps students to understand positioning, techniques, and sequences before applying them practically.

### Supporting Learning and Memory

It has been fantastic to see students responding so positively to these approaches in lessons. The consistent use of dual coding across subjects is helping students to build confidence, strengthen their understanding, and improve their ability to recall key knowledge independently.

By embedding strategies such as dual coding into everyday teaching, we continue to support all students in becoming successful, resilient, and confident learners.





# Bronze DofE Award



We are incredibly proud of our Year 9 DofE students who have shown outstanding commitment over the past year. 🌟

Throughout the programme, they have worked hard on their volunteering, physical and skills sections, demonstrating real determination, dedication and resilience every step of the way. Their efforts have truly paid off.

Last weekend, they took on the expedition element, two days of walking and exploring while carrying all their kit, along with an overnight camp. They showed excellent camp craft, strong teamwork and a fantastic level of focus throughout the challenge. 🥾🏕️

We are delighted to share that every single student successfully passed their Bronze Expedition! 🎉

Well done to you all, a brilliant achievement and something to be very proud of!



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

**KIDSGROVE SECONDARY SCHOOL**

**PROUD TO BE KSS**

**Shaw Education Trust**

# DofE



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

 **PROUD TO BE KSS**   


# KSS Curriculum - Updates Available

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. **We have several updated curriculum maps for parents & carers to view on the website.** 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**



# UPDATE



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



# Homework club

Homework Club provides a quiet, supportive space for students to complete homework, revise, or catch up on classwork. Staff are available to offer guidance, help with organisation, and support students in developing positive independent study habits. All students are welcome.

**Monday & Wednesday**

**3.05-4pm**

**LSC**



**See Miss Tucker for details**



Opportunity



Integrity



Community



Equity



**PROUD TO  
BE  
KSS**



# Food Technology



Year 7 students have been focusing on a Mexican theme in food technology lessons over the course of the last few weeks. It has been great to smell the aromas wafting down the corridor from the food room. Well done Year 7.



PROUD TO BE KSS





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.

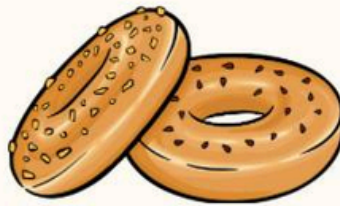


# Support at KSS

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



Uniform bank



Breakfast bagels



Equipment shop



Free sanitary products



Mental health support



**PROUD TO  
BE  
KSS**





# 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](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.
-  [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.
-  [kim.hambleton@kss.set.org](mailto:kim.hambleton@kss.set.org)  
for any SEND queries or concerns



**PROUD TO BE KSS**

