

# HEADTEACHER BULLETIN

Friday 23.1.26

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Dear Parents/Carers,

As we complete the third week of 2026, it is a great opportunity to reflect upon the start to of the year. Following the early snowy disruption, we have been full steam ahead with an action packed three weeks.

Last week myself and Mr Barker-Brown, met one to one with all of our Year 11 students to review the November mock examinations results. This was a very useful few days, as we were able to celebrate successes and also plan for improvements, ready for the next set of mock examinations in March. It is a busy few months ahead for Year 11 students but we are confident that the cohort are up for the challenge. The Year 11 parents evening was held last night and we had a fantastic turnout of 93%, with such a positive atmosphere. Thank you to all of the Year 11 parents/carers in attendance and to all of the prefects that helped with refreshments and with greeting our guests.

Last week we also saw the launch of our latest 'Frost v Till' challenge. This time, Year 8 are the focus with two teams competing against each other for the best attendance, behaviour ratio and the much coveted 'Above and Beyond' tickets. The first week culminated in a KSS version of a 'Bushtucker Challenge'. It hurts me to share with you all, that unfortunately, it currently stands at 1-0 to 'Team Till' but 'Team Frost' will be looking for revenge in week 2, with our second challenge taking place on Monday

Last week also saw year group results assemblies take place in the hall. This was a great opportunity for students to open their results envelopes to reveal their last progress report, in the seats that they sat their assessments. I led the assembly personally to link the opening of these results to having a growth mindset and to demonstrate how success is only ever the tip of the iceberg. What sits behind success is the hard work and resilience that is consistently applied. We will be repeating the process in the summer term, following the completion of the next performance assessment window.

Finally, we have saved the best news story for last...

Tesco do it and now so do KSS. The 'Subject Star Student of the Week' tokens are now in play and plenty are dropping into the special token box outside of my office.

It is great to see so many students proudly share their successes as they contribute to their house team totals. The tokens are a great way to link our Core Values, Growth Mindset and subject focused achievements together.

At the end of the term, the winning house will receive an extra special award. There are 5000 tokens up for grabs! May the best house win.



## Upcoming Events

**Monday 26.1.26 - Paris Trip, Parents Meeting (5.30pm)**

**Thursday 5.2.26 - Year 10 Parents Evening (4pm to 7pm)**

**Monday 9.2.26 to Thursday 12.2.26 - Paris Trip**

**Friday 13.2.26 - Headteacher Reward Lunch and last day of the half term**

Yours faithfully,

Mr S Frost

**Jan-Feb****EXTRA CURRICULAR ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

Lunchtime Clubs – 13.20–14.00

After School Clubs – 15.05–16.05

**MONDAY**

German Club

Open to all

Room 6

Ms Hud



Baking Club

Speak to Ms Tipping Brown for a place!

Food Room

Ms Tipping Brown

**TUESDAY**

Performing Arts Drop In

Performing Arts Students

Room 26

Ms Wagstaff



Dance Club

Open to all

Room 26

Ms Wagstaff



Art Club

Open to all

Room 10

Mrs Mason

**Running Club****WEDNESDAY**

Netball Club

Open to all

Changing Rms

Ms Hambleton



Fitness Club

Open to all

Fitness Suite

Mr Till/Mr Barker Brown



Homework and Chill

Open to all

Food Computer Rm

Miss Wright

**THURSDAY**

Debate Club

Open to all

Room 7

Mr Jessup/Mr Hilditch



Lego Club

Speak to Mrs Bryan for a place!

Room 1

Mrs Bryan



Music Club

Open to all

Room 26

Ms Wagstaff



Duke of Edinburgh

DofE Students

Room 6

Ms Hud/Mrs Weaver/Mr Till



Switch Club

Open to all

Room 4

Mr Frost



KS4 Coursework Catch Up

KS4

Room 10

Mrs Mason



Musical Rehearsals

Cast

Hall

Mr Gillespie

**FRIDAY**

Crochet Club

Open to all

Room 12

Mrs Price



Chess Club

Open to all

Room 2

Mr Old



Darts Club

Open to all

Conference Rm

Mr Frost



Basketball Club

Open to all

Changing Rms

Mr Till



Trampolining Club

KS3

Changing Rms

Ms Hambleton



Musical Rehearsals

Cast

Hall

Ms Wagstaff

**PROUD TO BE KSS**

Shaw Education Trust

# PARENTS EVENING INFORMATION (2025-2026)



## Upcoming Events

**Year 11 - 22.1.26 (a 93% turnout, thank you to all parents/carers that attended)** 

**Year 10 - 5.2.26 (4pm to 7pm) - window open**

**Year 8 - 12.3.26 (3pm to 8pm)**

**Year 9 - 26.3.26 (4pm to 7pm)**

**Year 7 - 21.5.26 (3pm to 8pm)**



The window for booking appointments for the parents evenings open two weeks before each event. An email will be sent to all parents/carers with detailed instructions.

# ATTENDANCE

**WHOLE SCHOOL: 94.6%**

**YEAR 7- 97%**

**YEAR 8- 95.4%**

**YEAR 9 - 91.8%**

**YEAR 10- 93.1%**

**YEAR 11- 94.6%**



**NATIONAL AVERAGE: 91.9%**

**BEST FORM YTD: 7BJE**

**BEST HOUSE: Bright.**

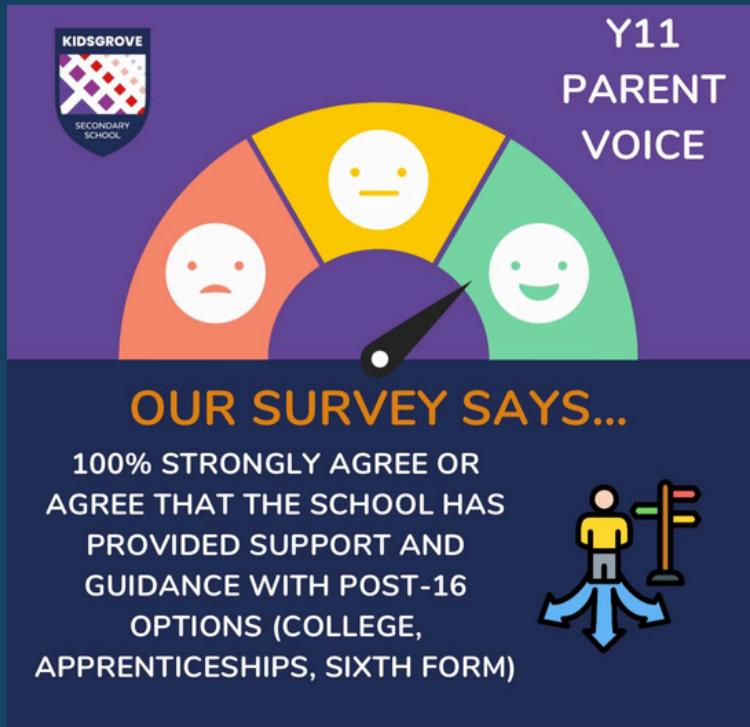


# Year 11 Parents Evening

Yesterday we held the final parents evening for our brilliant Year 11 cohort. There was such a fantastic buzz around the school site with a 93% parent turnout. There are now less than 45 school days until the exam season begins and we know that this special group will make every lesson count. Thank you as always to our wonderful parents/carers for their continued support.



# Yr 11 Parent/Carer Feedback



**WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!**



# Enrichment Day

On Monday we held the second enrichment day of the year, planned by Mrs Weaver. What a brilliant day of enriching activities for the students.

The focus for your day is 'Staying Safe'.

- You will be using **initiative and leadership** whilst taking part in our **health and safety/first aid and energy drinks workshop**.
- You will discuss the importance of good **communication** during our **tower building and bullying and banter workshops**.
- You will have show understanding of the importance of **citizenship** and **volunteering** during our litter pick



The focus for your day is 'Being a Good Citizen and Staying Safe'.

- You will be using **initiative** and **leadership** whilst taking part in our **first aid workshop on bleeding**.
- You will be putting all of your **LORIC values** during **The Cube**.
- You will discuss the importance of good **communication** during our **LGBTQIA+ workshops**.
- You will look at technological advances and the future of careers during the **Prime Tour**



The focus for your day is 'Elite Skills and Development'

As part of your Enrichment, we have a visit from the Army.

- They will talk about roles, apprenticeships and skills.
- You will be working in teams to complete different challenges.
- Your final session will be based around identifying your personal skills and which are considered strengths and areas of development.



Your focus for today is 'Preparing for your next steps'.

- Your first three hours will be a workshop led by RISE
- You will be taking parts in lots of challenges using your **LORIC Values**
- You will be introduced to work experience and what it will look like for you.
- You will use your **LORIC Values** whilst taking part in a workshop that introduces self awareness of your skills



# Smart Start



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

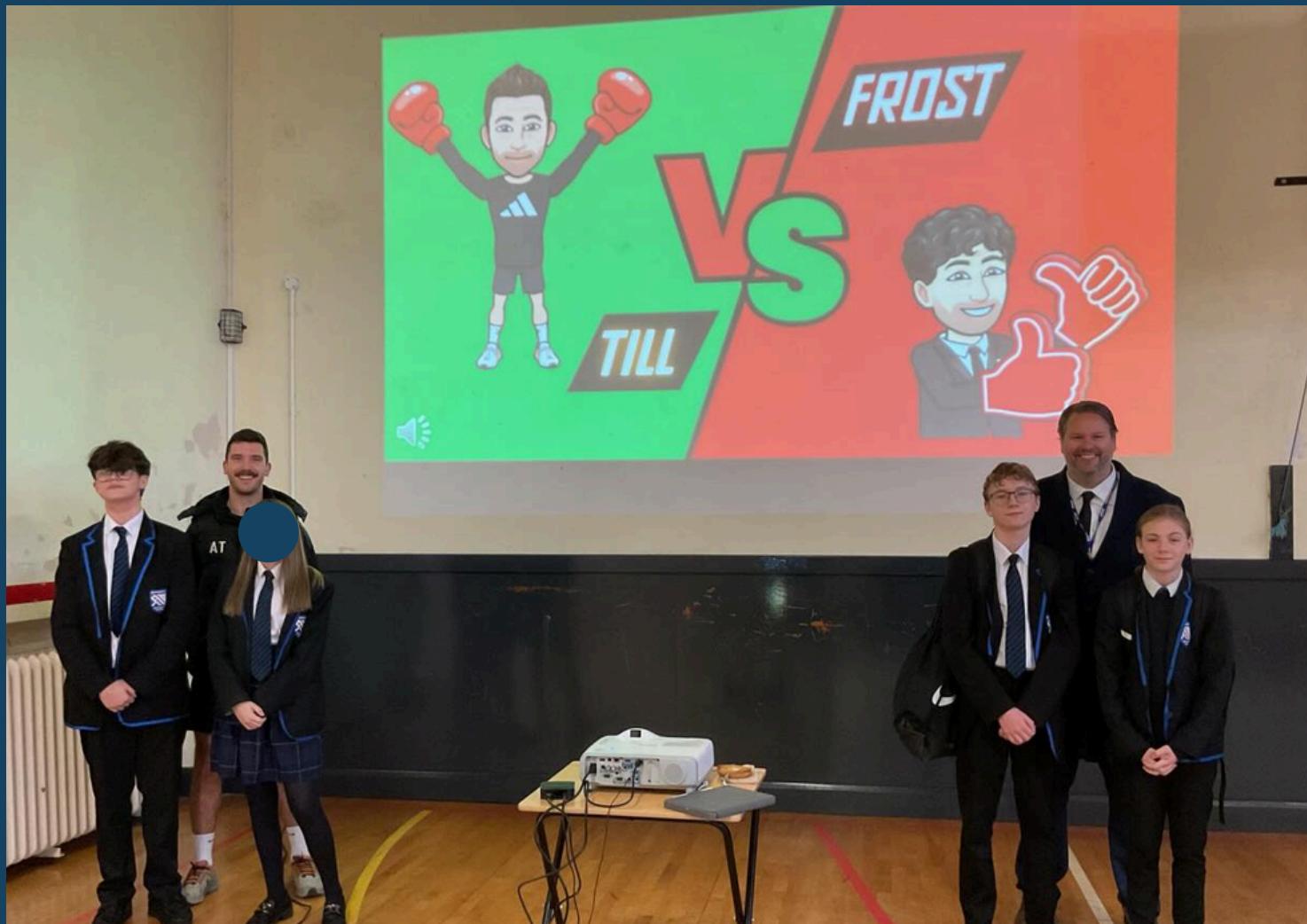
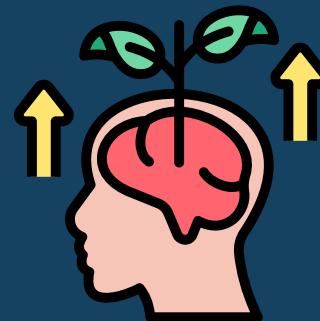
# FROST V TILL

Our Year 8 students have kicked off the brand new 'Frost vs Till' competition, where teams go head-to-head to earn points for going above and beyond in lessons and around school.

Each week brings a new challenge, with opportunities to score points through:

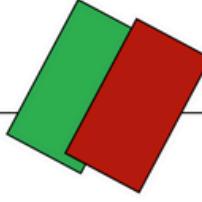
\*Effort in lessons \*Positive behaviour \*Teamwork \*Attendance

The competition is on... but the big question is: 'Team Frost' or 'Team Till' – who will win? Let the games begin!



# FROST V TILL

## Leader Board

Week	Attendance	Behaviour	Above & Beyond	Challenge
1				
2				
3				
4		<p>The above categories can be won each week by the team with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Highest average attendance</li> <li>- Highest behaviour ratio</li> <li>- The highest number of above and beyond tickets</li> <li>- Challenge winners</li> </ul>		





KSS  
Inclusion Team

# Breakfast Club

8.10am

to

8.30am

POP ALONG IF YOU WANT  
SOMEWHERE CALM TO START  
YOUR DAY

📍 READING ROOM



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



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KSS





# English



Last week, our English themed assembly led by Mr Old focused on the joys and benefits of reading. Students were treated to top tips from 'SPARX Reader' and got stuck into an exciting reading challenge.

We finished on a high note by celebrating our 'Sparx Reader Champions' from each year group.

Well done to all our amazing readers!



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# Yr 7 Parent/Carer Feedback



99% strongly agree or agree that the school makes sure that all students are well behaved



Year 7  
Parent  
Voice



99% strongly agree or agree that your child is happy at school



Year 7  
Parent  
Voice

WE WANT YOUR  
FEEDBACK!



99% strongly agree or agree that your child is well looked after at school



Year 7  
Parent  
Voice



99% strongly agree or agree that your child feels safe at school



Year 7  
Parent  
Voice



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# Year 8 Parent/Carer Feedback

We would really appreciate the feedback of our Year 8 parents/carers.

Please scan the QR code below to answer the thirteen questions about your child's experience at KSS.

Thank you in advance for your support, we value your feedback.

## Year 8 Parent/Carer Questionnaire



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# Hospitality and Catering

Our Year 9 students were busy baking golden, flaky sausage rolls last week, while Year 7 created colourful and tasty vegetable fajitas.

The room smelt absolutely incredible and the finished dishes looked just as good as they tasted. You can see the pride in the students faces at their creations.



# Hospitality and Catering

**yum**



yummy





# READING BUDDIES



## Building Confidence through Literacy

Our Reading Buddies programme continues to play an important role in developing students' reading confidence, comprehension skills, and overall literacy. By working alongside a reading partner, students are supported in a structured and encouraging environment that promotes both academic progress and positive relationships.

Reading Buddies take part in a range of activities including reading out loud, summarising chapters, discussing key themes, and completing comprehension tasks together. These sessions help students to improve their understanding of texts, expand their vocabulary, and gain confidence when engaging with reading.

We are proud of the positive impact this initiative is having on students' engagement with literacy and thank both staff and students for their continued commitment to making reading an enjoyable and meaningful experience.



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# CONTACT US



# 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

**KIDSGROVE**

Reception: 01782 948250

Miss Potts on the attendance line by pressing the relevant option via the school telephone number

The electronic tablets are used to develop pupils' digital skills, alongside

parentsupport@kss.set.org.uk (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.uk (this is checked daily). This is for upcoming events, trip queries, term dates and administration queries.

kim.hambleton@kss.set.org for any SEND queries or concerns

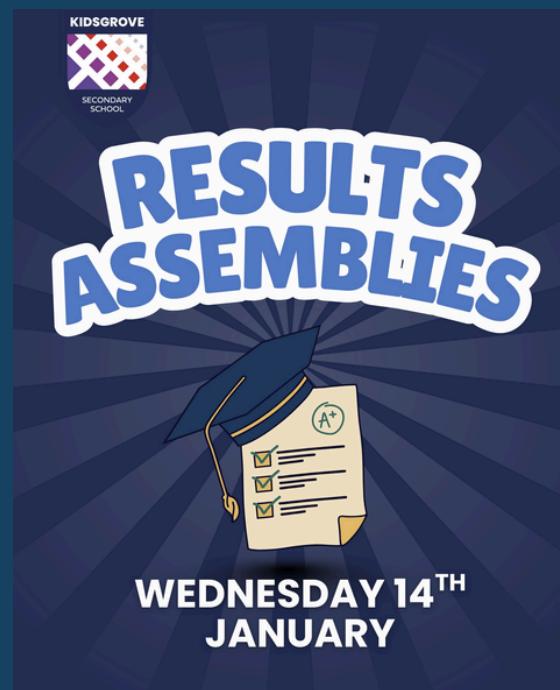


# Results Assemblies

Last Wednesday Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 students took part in results assemblies. This was a great way for students to open their latest progress reports.

The assembly was linked to 'Growth Mindset' and the importance of resilience.

Well done to all students for their hard work over the course of the assessment weeks in the autumn term.



# Hospitality and Catering

Our Year 11 Hospitality and Catering students have been busy in the kitchen, cooking up delicious flatbreads alongside flavour packed chicken and rice dishes. From preparing fresh ingredients to perfecting their seasoning and presentation, students showed fantastic practical skills, teamwork, and creativity throughout the session. The aromas alone were enough to make everyone in the building hungry. A brilliant example of learning coming to life through hands-on experience.



**delicious!**



# Attendance



IS YOUR CHILD FACING  
**BARRIERS TO**  
**SCHOOL ATTENDANCE?**

**KIDSGROVE SECONDARY  
CAN HELP!**



**WE CAN  
SUPPORT  
YOU WITH**



- Breakfast On Arrival
- Uniform
- Equipment



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Kidsgrove Secondary School

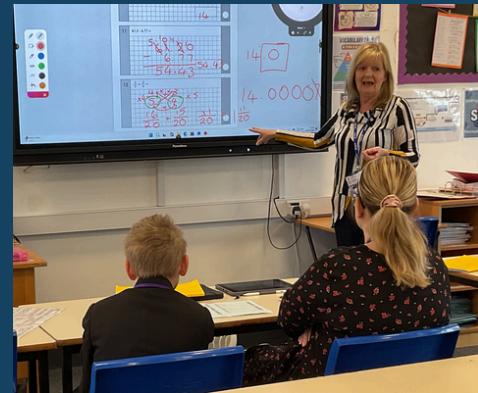
**Attendance Matters**

#StopTheDrop

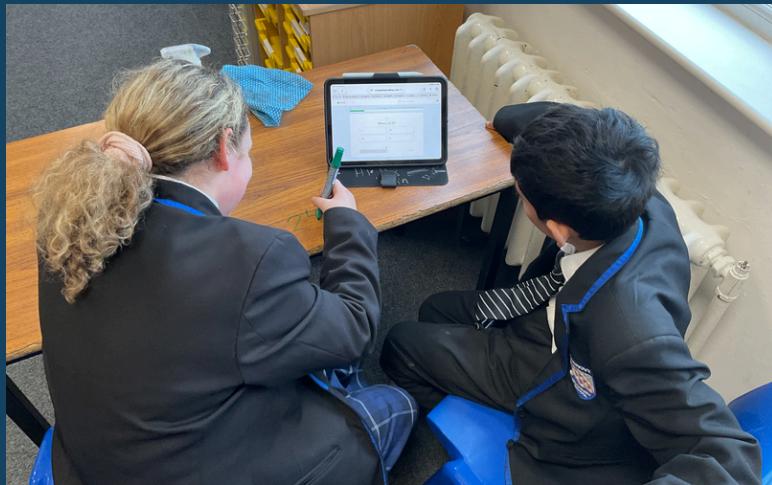


# Maths

The Maths department have the pleasure of working with a small group of students from Kidsgrove Primary School each week to support them with preparation for their SATs. We have seen such a great attitude to learning from them and watch their maths confidence grow each week. A shout out to Mrs McDermott who comes in each week to teach our year 6 neighbours.



A selection of Year 7 students take part in additional maths intervention each week, have made us very proud. They are starting to realise their own skills and how they can use this to support their peers.



Year 8 have been great at making sure they can show their understanding by using their iPads as mini whiteboards. The picture captures their wonderful enthusiasm. keep it up Year 8!



# next week

COMING  
SOON

## UNCERTAINTY EXPERTS



An exciting opportunity for our Year 10 students is coming soon in 2026. An exciting and inspirational programme led by Mr Jessup in conjunction with The Shaw Education Trust and Sam Conliff (international best selling author).

**The course aims are to:**

**Building confidence and resilience during key transition periods (GCSEs, post-16 choices).**

**Strengthening emotional regulation and reduced avoidance behaviours.**

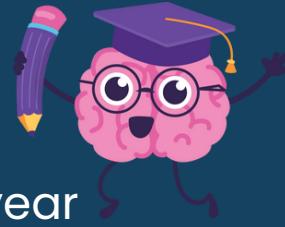
**Increasing engagement and participation in school life. Securing longer-term readiness for work, relationships, and self-direction.**

CANT  
WAIT



EXCITED

# Quality of Education



Since returning to school this term, students across all year groups have settled back into routines extremely well. To support this strong start, there has been a clear whole-school focus on the presentation of work, with particular emphasis on the accuracy of spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG). These routines help students to approach their learning with care, confidence, and pride across all subjects.

## Consistency:

To ensure SPaG remains a priority in every lesson and every classroom:

- All lessons include a clear SPaG symbol to remind students to check their spelling, punctuation, and grammar.
- Every classroom displays a SPaG reminder poster to reinforce expectations consistently across the school.
- Weekly lesson drop-ins and regular book looks show that students are responding well and ensuring SPaG remains a focus in their day-to-day learning.
- 

## Why SPaG matters:

Strong presentation and accuracy are essential across the curriculum, particularly as students progress towards GCSE study. Many subjects award valuable marks for accuracy, including:

- Correct use of capital letters.
- Accurate spelling of key subject terminology.
- A range of appropriate punctuation.

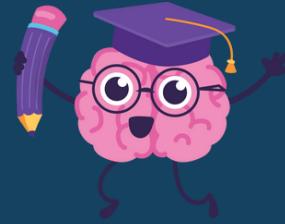
uPdATE



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# Quality of Education



Developing these habits early ensures students are well prepared for assessments in all subject areas.

## Linking SPaG to our Literacy Strategy:

As part of our wider Quality of Education focus on literacy, including reading fluency and the use of sophisticated vocabulary to deepen meaning and understanding, this emphasis on SPaG is helping pupils to:

- Take pride in the presentation of their work.
- Proofread carefully and routinely.
- Develop strong checking habits for all completed tasks.
- Ensure work reflects the high standards expected across the school.

## Preparing Students for Assessment:

By reinforcing these expectations in every classroom, pupils are increasingly seeing accuracy as a core part of learning rather than an added extra. This approach:

- Builds independence and confidence.
- Encourages pupils to take ownership of their work.
- Prepares them effectively for internal performance assessments and public examinations.



# Quality of Education



## GCSE Subjects and SPaG:

GCSE subjects in England that award marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar include:

- English Language
- English Literature
- History
- Geography
- Religious Studies
- Science
- 

We are incredibly proud of how positively students have responded to this focus and the pride they are taking in producing work of consistently high quality across the curriculum!



**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.



Show  
Education  
Trust

# 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**



## KSS CURRICULUM



The curriculum maps show KS3 (Years 7, 8 and 9) and KS4 (Years 10 and 11).



# UPDATE



ART



COMPUTER SCIENCE



TECHNOLOGY/PHOTOGRAPHY



FOOD TECHNOLOGY



GEOGRAPHY



HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE



# House Points

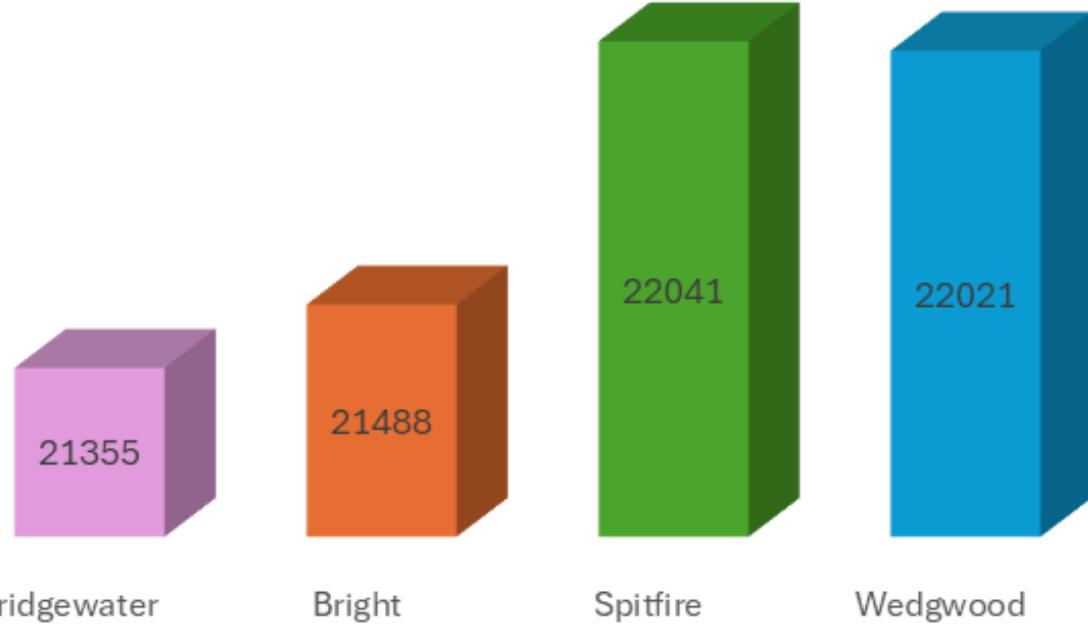
A big well done to all of our students for their continued effort in earning House Points across the school. The current totals show some fantastic competition between our houses:

- **Bridgewater – 21,355**
- **Bright – 21,488**
- **Spitfire – 22,041**
- **Wedgwood – 22,021**

With only a small gap between the top two houses, the race is still wide open. Every positive choice, achievement, and demonstration of our core values really does make a difference. 'Star Student of the Week' tokens are vital in the league table, so every lesson counts.

Keep up the excellent work – who will take the lead next? 

Total House Points



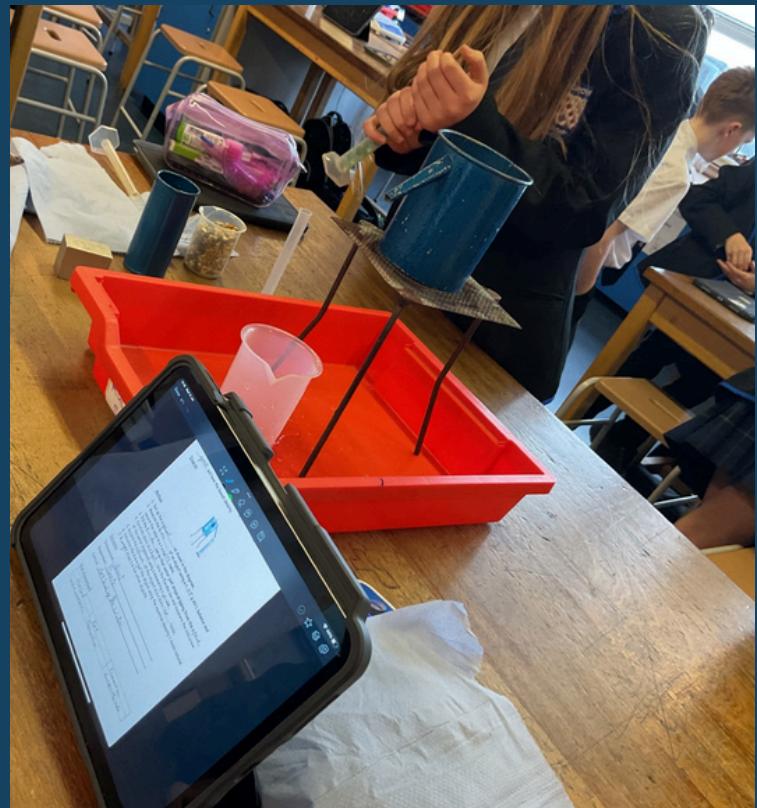
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# Science

This week, 7K & 7T students considered why some objects float and others sink, then had an exciting time comparing the density of some irregularly shaped objects. They used a Eureka (displacement) can to measure the volume of each object and a top pan balance to measure the mass. Then students used their accurate measurements to calculate density.

Well done Year 7!

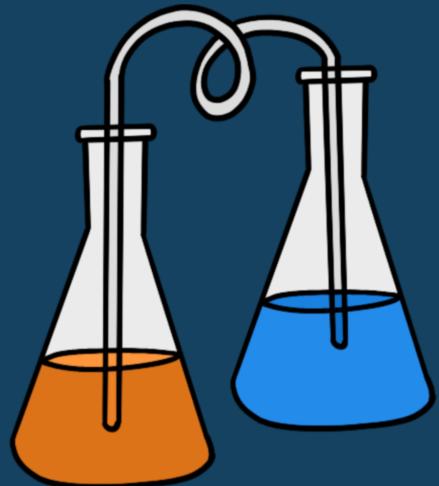
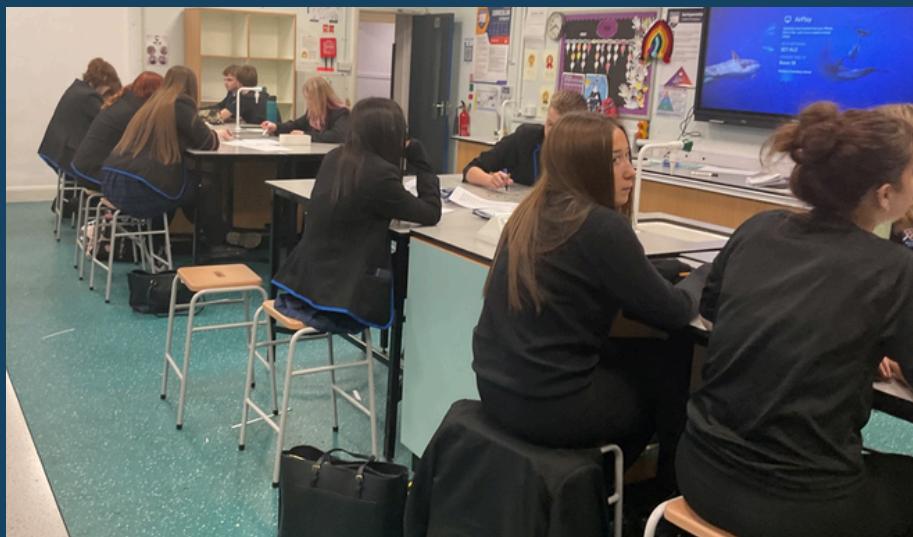


# Science

Year 11 Chemistry Intervention is well underway, featuring our 'Team Leader Board'!

In each session, our fantastic teams will compete to be the reigning Chemistry Champions, where points mean prizes along the way. More revision between sessions means more points for your team. Year 11 students can contact Mrs Grice-Lowe if they'd like to come along on a Wednesday after school and join in.

The Noble Baddies	Freddie + Friends	The Carbon Monoxides	The Rubidium Racers
13 10 <u>23</u>	66 12	7+7 <u>14</u>	17 10 <u>27</u>



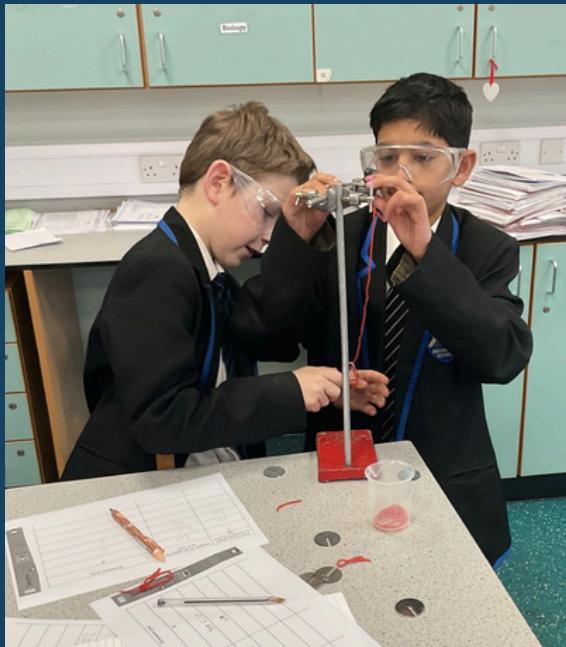
# Science

Year 7 have been investigating forces, and this week have measured how much force can be applied to strawberry laces before deformation takes place (and they snap!).



They were able to measure the extension of the strawberry laces and see that as the force increased, so did the extension. Their use of vocabulary to describe this was really impressive, using our lesson vocabulary builder to help.

Great practical skills 7N!



# OUR ENRICHMENT CLUBS YOU'RE MOST WELCOME

## ARE YOU SPORTY?



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

**Football, Netball, Trampolining, Fitness Club and Dance Club**

## ARE YOU A CREATIVE GENIUS?



>Create. Perform. Shine.

**Open Art Studio, Crochet Club, Performing Arts Drop In, Music Club**



## STRATEGIC THINKER



Think fast. Play smart. Have fun.

**Board Games, Chess Club, Darts Club, Lego Club**



## KNOWLEDGE SEEKER



Feed your brain and flex those intellectual muscles!

**Debating and Politics, Science Support Club, Duolingo Club, Coursework and Chill**



## PEOPLE PERSON

LET'S GO

ADVENTURE



Discover yourself while you discover the world.

**Switch Club, Duke of Edinburgh, Health and Social**

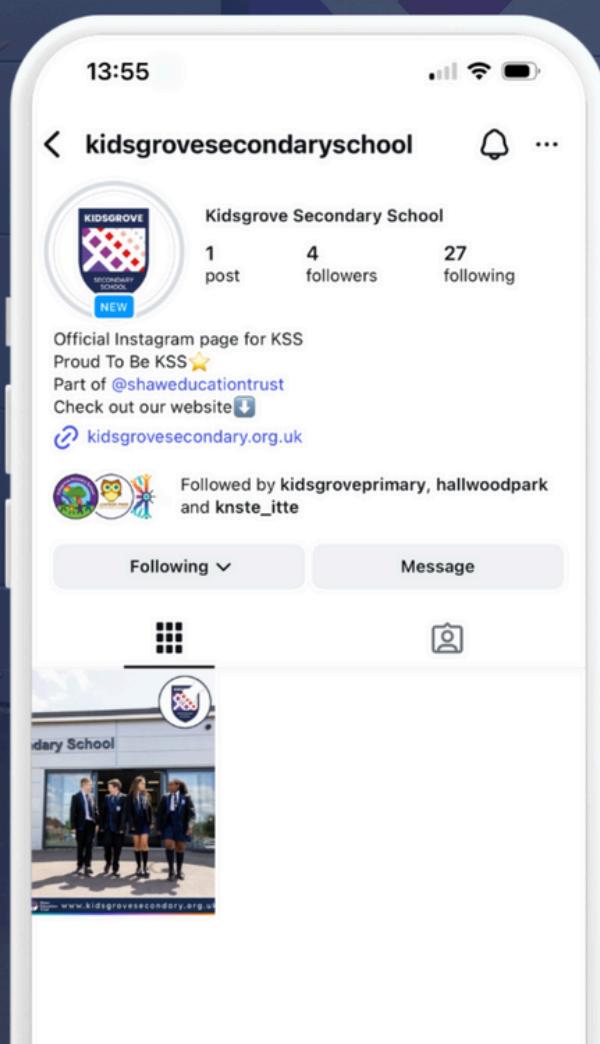
For more details, see your form poster in your classroom



Shaw  
Education  
Trust

# WE'RE NOW ON INSTAGRAM!

FOLLOW US @KIDSGROVESECONDARYSCHOOL



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





At KSS our students come first and to enable them to be the best version of themselves, we offer a wide range of support! From a bagel as they enter the building, to providing equipment and mental health support.

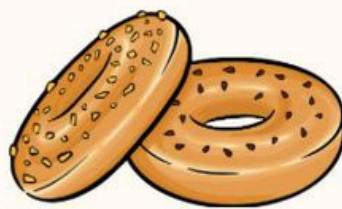


## Support at KSS

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



Uniform bank



Breakfast  
bagels



Equipment  
shop



Free sanitary  
products



Mental health  
support



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