#### THE KIDSGROVE SECONDARY SCHOOL

#### HEADTEACHER BULLETIN



Friday 23.5.25

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Dear Parents/Carers,

As I always share with you, we are amazed at how much we squeeze into the weeks of each half term. This half term has been exceptionally busy and so much has happened in what is always the shortest of the academic year. There has been a residential, field trips, guest speakers, parents evenings (with an average of 90% parental turnout), record levels of student attendance, Year II formal GCSE examinations, a SEND Parents/Carers day and much more. There have been as a result of all of this activity, some very special moments where I sit back and feel extremely proud of our school community. We do not stop there though as we have so much more to look forward to when we return in June.

The final seven weeks see us host our Year 11 Prom, our annual sports day at Northwood stadium, Year 10 work experience week, Year 6 transition (where we get to meet our 117 Year 7's), performance assessments for all year groups, our final Enrichment day of 2024-2025 and our first annual summer show. Finally, to top it all off, we have our KS3 and KS4 end of term reward trips in the final few days of the term to celebrate our students successes.

Within this edition of the bulletin you will see articles related to the events that I have highlighted above. It is great to see so many students taking part in enriching activities in and out of the classroom which are so memorable. These activities would not be possible without the support from home and in recent weeks, we have been blown away by the levels of parental engagement & support that we have experienced. At the recent Year 9 options event, we had a 97% turnout which is remarkable. We also had very strong attendance for all of our face to face parents evenings which is so pleasing to see and this was topped off with an excellent turnout last night for the Year 7 event.

Finally, I wanted to mention the recent staff awards that took place at The Shaw Education Trust head office, where our very own Mrs Grice-Lowe and Ms Tucker were both recognised as 'Teacher of the Year' and 'Support Staff Member of the Year' respectively. It was with great pride that I was present to see these colleagues recognised for their hard work, dedication and expertise. What is so special about our school is that we could have had many more nominations from

what is so special about our school is that we could have had many more nominations from within our staff team. We genuinely have such a special team of staff working hard to support your child in achieving their full potential.

Yours faithfully, Mr S Frost

#### **Upcoming Events**

Monday 16.6.25 - Year 7 to 10 Performance Assessments Begin Thursday 19.6.25 - Final Year 11 GCSE Examination Monday 23.6.25 - Enrichment Day Friday 27.6.25 - Sports Day @ Northwood Stadium



#### **Trust Awards**

We are absolutely delighted to announce that two outstanding members of our team have been recognised with the prestigious SET Staff Awards!

Mrs Grice-Lowe has been awarded Teacher of the Year! Her passion for teaching and her dedication to our students truly make a difference every single day. We're incredibly proud of her exceptional contributions to education.

Miss Tucker has been named Educational Support Staff of the Year! Her unwavering support and commitment to both students and staff are integral to making our school a better place.

A huge congratulations to both Mrs Grice-Lowe and Miss Tucker on these well-deserved honours. Your hard work and dedication inspire us all. Keep shining!







I was delighted to be joined by students for our half termly Headteacher reward lunch today.

The students selected were those who have gone 'above & beyond' this half term, helping out with events such as parents evenings and running our student equipment shop each morning.

THANK

Also invited were all members of the KSS football teams that took part in the recent football community day.

So, on behalf of the KSS team, 'Thank You!'



















#### **Modelling Our Core Values**

At the beginning of May Mr Till managed to achieve the gold standard in the GB Ultras Pennine Barrier 50. The ultra-marathon event with 9000ft of ascent, fuses together some of the finest trails in the Yorkshire Dales National Park, including the Yorkshire 3 Peaks.

"The challenge of ultra running is something I really embrace. There are so many elements to consider but also factors out of your control that require you to be adaptable. Your mindset has to be equally as prepared as your body. I hope that this demonstrates to our students that making a conscious

effort with your organisation and exposure to situations that test your resilience helps develop you as a person."



















## Enrichment



#### ENRICHMENT CALENDAR

JUN-JUL



#### **EVERYDAY** READING ROOM Ms Hambleton



#### MONDAY





#### **TUESDAY**









#### WEDNESDAY





OPEN ART STUDIO







#### **THURSDAY**

SWITCH CLUB

Mr Frost's office

**KS4 OPEN STUDIO** 

HOCKEY CLUB

Miss Hambleton

All welcome

Y9, 10, 11

Rm 6

**Changing Rms** 

DOFE

Ms Hud/Mrs Weaver

Mr Frost

All welcome

Mrs Mason

Rm 10

**GCSE** 



**FRIDAY** 











#### IDEAS?

**DINNER TIME CLUBS** 

RUN 13:35-14:00

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

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

RUN 15:05-16:05



#### 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.

## **SEND Parent Review Day**

Last week, we welcomed parents and carers into school for our SEND Parent Review Day. A hugely valuable event that enabled meaningful conversations about the support and progress of our students with additional needs.

The afternoon offered the opportunity to celebrate individual successes, identify emerging needs, and strengthen the home–school partnership that is so crucial to a child's development. Feedback from families was overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing their appreciation for the time given and the clarity provided around support strategies in place.

A heartfelt thank you to our SEND team, teaching assistants, and all staff who contributed to making the event a success. Your commitment to inclusion and collaboration ensures that every child receives the support they need to thrive. Together, we continue to build an inclusive and supportive environment where every learner can achieve their potential.



If you want to raise a SEND concern about your child please contact our SENDCo @ kim.hambleton@kss.set.org





#### What is my child learning?

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

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

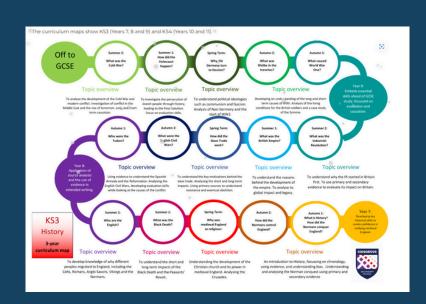
From the recent parent & carer survey, a common area for feedback is that you are interested to know more about is the curriculum and what your child is learning.

To find out more, please scan the QR code below or visit the website @ https://kidsgrovesecondary.org.uk/curriculum/subject-curriculums



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









#### **Year 11 Half Term Sessions**

We are delighted to share that colleagues will be giving up some of their may half term to support students with revision and examination preparation.

Please see below, the sessions that are planned.





10am to 12pm



#### Safeguarding Awareness Week

Between 19<sup>th</sup> May and 25<sup>th</sup> May KSS has been supporting Safeguarding Awareness Week - An annual event, with this years theme being 'empowering and protecting students in a digital world'. This week, in assemblies and through activities, we have explored the evolving challenges of online safety and digital safeguarding.













#### **Kidsgrove Community Event**

What an incredible afternoon of football at Kidsgrove Athletic for the Kidsgrove Derby! Although KSS didn't come out on top overall, our small school showed huge heart, determination, and team spirit. A special shoutout to our Year 7 team who brought home a fantastic 10–0 win, an amazing achievement and a sign of great things to come!

Our students battled valiantly and represented KSS with pride, well done to each and every one of you!

A huge thank you to Kidsgrove Athletic and the local police for organising such a brilliant community event. It was a true celebration of football, teamwork, and

local pride.













#### Year 11 'Chill Out'

I am sure all of our parents/carers will remember how stressful the Year II examperiod can be for students.

As a small token of appreciation for how brilliant our Year 11's have been, we held a 'Chill Out' session during P3 on Wednesday.

It was a perfect opportunity to eat a slice of pizza, take a drink and have a well earned deep breath.

Keep up the great work Year 11.

















## Year 11 Prom





You are invited to



KIDSGROVE SECONDARY SCHOOL

Prom Night

Dress to impress

July 4th | 7:00 - 10.30 PM Alsager Golf Club





### PE, Literacy and Technology

■ PE, Literacy & Technology: A Winning Combination at Kidsgrove Secondary School ♣ ■ At Kidsgrove Secondary, we're proud to see our PE curriculum evolving to reflect a broader, deeper learning experience – one that not only develops physical skills but also builds literacy and digital competence.

This term, our Year 9 students have taken their shot put training to the next level by using Showbie to record, review, and refine their technique. Through video analysis and peer feedback, students are becoming more reflective and independent in their learning. They've also explored the powerful concept of 'torque' through our Vocabulary Builder initiative – learning how understanding force and motion can enhance performance and increase throwing distance. Meanwhile, Year 8 students have been applying the same approach to the Triple Jump. With a focus on the key word 'coordination', students broke down the hop, step and jump phases and used video recordings to evaluate their execution. Each student completed an exit task, explaining how coordination impacted their performance – a brilliant way to consolidate learning and link theory with practice.

These lessons are a fantastic example of how digital tools and literacy strategies are being embedded across the curriculum. By combining physical education with key terminology, self-reflection, and the use of technology, our students are developing not only as athletes, but as confident, articulate learners.

Well done to all involved – this is PE at its most powerful. 🌞





















#### **Art Competition**



We are delighted to showcase our KSS entries into the Shaw Education Trust summer Art competition. I am sure you will agree we our students have a great chance of winning the star prize.

Well done to our entrants!

















WHOLE SCHOOL: 93.7%

**YEAR 7-96.1%** 

YEAR 8-94.1%

YEAR 9 - 93.2%

YEAR 10-92.4%

YEAR 11-94.1%

NATIONAL AVERAGE 91.3%

**BEST FORM YTD: 7CH** 

**BEST HOUSE: WEDGEWOOD** 



## Form Attendance





#### Computing



IInspiring Year 9s Through Real-World Marketing

Our Year 9 students have had the exciting opportunity to take part in a truly inspiring careers talk focused on the world of marketing—perfectly timed as they begin thinking about their GCSE options.

We were delighted to welcome one of our own school parents, who generously volunteered their time to speak about their impressive career working with globally recognised brands such as BMW and Mercedes-Benz.

Key Takeaways for Students

The session gave students a real-world understanding of how both creative and analytical skills play a crucial role in marketing. It also highlighted how subjects like Creative iMedia can lead to exciting career paths in branding, digital content creation, and beyond.

It was wonderful to see students so engaged—asking thoughtful questions and imagining where their own passions might take them. Events like this help bridge the gap between classroom learning and the world of work, supporting our mission to empower students to make confident, informed choices about their future.













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

WAVERTON, CHESTER

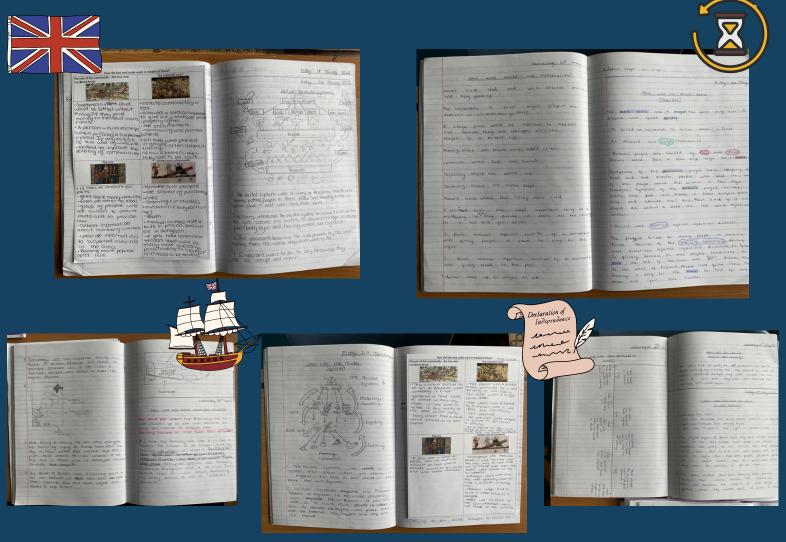
#### History

An update below from the Mr Hilditch about all things History at key stage 3! Our Year 7 History students have been exploring life in medieval England. This has involved investigating the role of the monarchy and the nature of religion in the Middle Ages. They are about to move on to study the Black Death and its long-term impacts on England.

Year 8 students have been studying the British Empire in History this half term. They have been exploring the positive and negative impacts of the empire on India and Africa and evaluating its legacy and changing reputation.

Year 9 History students have been investigating World War Two and the growth of fascism in Germany. They have studied the growth of antisemitism across Europe in the lead up to the Holocaust and how the persecution of Jewish people accelerated under the Nazis.

There has been some amazing work completed as you can see below.







#### WATER BOTTLES

As the weather is starting to turn for the better and the temperatures are starting to rise, we are getting an increasing number of requests from students for cups to get a drink of water during the day.

Can parents/carers please encourage students to bring a water bottle with them to school so that they can then use the water fountains to fill their bottle when required.

Thank you for your anticipated support with this matter.



#### **Maths**

Year 10 have been very impressive recently in Maths lessons.

The students have been really stretching themselves with Mrs Price and Ms Ayres as they have been learning about volume and trigonometry.

It is also great to see the way in which the Maths team utilise iPads to secure student understanding and check for any misconceptions.

Well done Year 10!



























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.

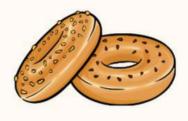


#### Support at KSS

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



Uniform bank



Breakfast bagels



Equipment shop



Free sanitary products



Mental health support







As revision for Paper 1, and as their fieldwork for Paper 3, our Year 11 geographers stepped out of the classroom and into the stunning landscapes of Milldale and Dovedale for a hands-on fieldwork experience. As part of their revision, students explored the natural beauty of the River Dove while conducting real-world investigations: measuring river depth, width, velocity, and changes in the river's load along its course.

It's one thing to learn about river systems in a textbook, but quite another to feel the flow, see the changes, and collect the data firsthand. This kind of immersive learning helps make geography real, relevant, and memorable.

As always, our students were fantastic ambassadors for the school, their behaviour exemplary and their enthusiasm truly impressive. Well done, Year 11!



















## Reading

## Reem

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

#### Staff Spotlight

This edition of the Headteacher Bulletin we will be, we're shining the spotlight on one of our amazing teaching assistants — Miss Tucker!

Miss Tucker brings kindness, patience, and positivity to every classroom she steps into. Whether she's supporting students one-to-one or helping to deliver lessons, she goes above and beyond to make sure every child feels confident, valued, and ready to learn.

Her dedication and warm nature make her a real asset to our school community. Thank you, Miss Tucker, for everything you do — we're so lucky to have you at Kidsgrove Secondary!









#### 17TH JULY 2025

# SUMMER TRIP







#### 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.

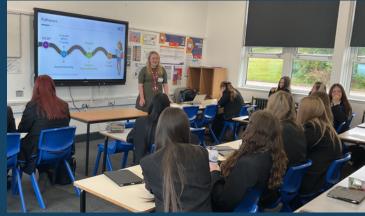
# Personal Development and Careers





This half term, we have continued our work alongside Higher Horizons. Their sessions are ensuring we are empowering our students to make confident, informed choices in the future!

Jemma and Lorna worked with our Year 10 students on their Mini-Programme. Students discussed Post-16 options, employability skills and why going to university could be the right decision for some of our students. The sessions gave our students lots to think about.















Our Year 7 and 8 students were visited by the StarDome. Within the inflatable planetarium, students were immersed in the wonders of the universe, through the captivating film "We Are Aliens"

This immersive experience showcases content in a creative way and helps it to stick. The students engaged well and a particular shout out to 7T... amazing feedback on you all!

#### **Core Values**

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. Please watch this space...







#### **House Points**

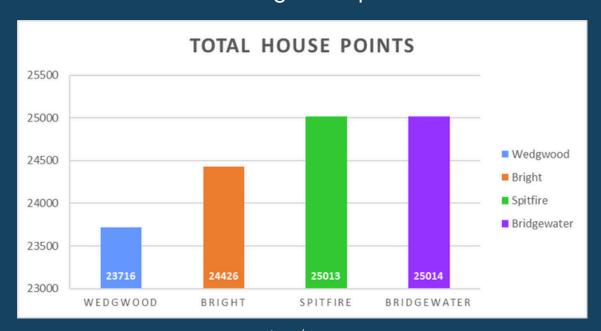
As we reach the end of this half term, it's time to celebrate the fantastic achievements of our school houses. The competition has been fierce, with all four houses showing brilliant effort, teamwork and commitment across lessons, enrichment, and wider school life.

Here are the current totals:

- Wedgwood 23,716 points
  - Bright 24,426 points
  - Spitfire 25,013 points
- Bridgewater 25,014 points

It couldn't be closer at the top, with just a single point separating **Bridgewater** and **Spitfire**! Every reward point has made a difference — and it's all still to play for as we head into the final half term of the year.

Well done to everyone for your continued efforts — let's see which house will come out on top by the end of the year! Keep aiming high and earning those points!













#### **Year 7 Outward Bound**

Mr Gillespie, Mrs Price, Ms Hud and Ms Wood took our Year 7 students on a residential of a life time to Aberdovey. Event sacrificing their bank holiday Monday! A special mention to Ms Potts, who travelled for 7 hours on the coach to oversee the transition of the two groups.

The students got to experience an amazing adventure. They truly stretched and challenged themselves in so may ways.

They took part in:

Team building activities
Canoeing
Abseiling
Climbing
Scrambling
Jetty jumps
Waterfall and mine exploration
Beach games





And when the adventures paused, the fun continued with social time, Jenga, pool, Uno, a mountain of sweets... and even a rave!

We are so proud of every single student – their effort, attitude and resilience have been exceptional.







#### **Year 7 Outward Bound**











#### **Year 7 Outward Bound**









# SPORTS DAY











NORTHWOOD STADIUM

PARENTS WELCOME

ICE CREAM VAN
TROPHY PRESENTATION AT 2.30PM

#### Science

This term Year 7 have completed their Space and Ecology topics, with exciting practicals, including measuring population sizes with quadrats, and using the Earth's gravitational friend strength to measure the weight of objects in Newtons.

They're excited to move on to out new topic, Mixtures, where we will be practicing filtering, separating rock salt, and growing crystals!

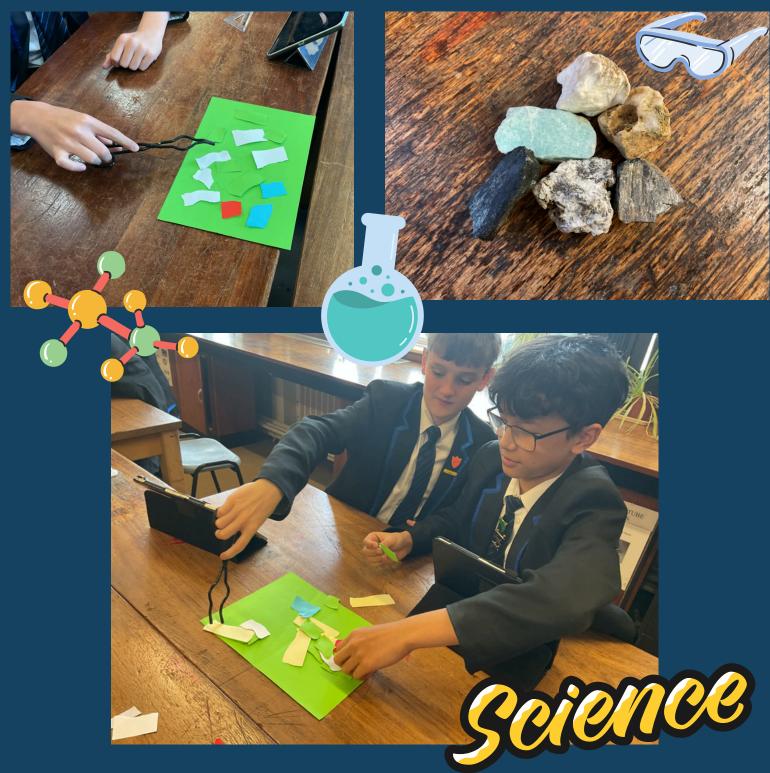






#### Science

Year 8 have been learning about Earth Systems, including branching into a bit of Geology! They've been analysing the rock samples we have in school and classifying them into igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary rock. We've also explored the water cycle, rock cycle and the climate challenges the earth faces, Next half term, Year 8 can look forward to connecting circuits to investigate the Physics topic, Resistance. Exciting times for any budding electricians or electronics engineers!







#### Science

Year 9 have taken the role of genetics specialists this half term, learning all about the science behind DNA and how genes are inherited in organisms. In this topic, we've also discovered all about Charles Darwin's theory of natural selection and demonstrated this by carrying out the famous 'peppered moth' experiment. Next term, year 9 can look forward to learning about how light can be different colours, answering whether you can hear sound in space, and learning how radio and mobile devices work, in their new Physics topic, Waves.







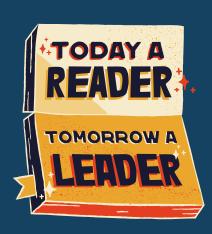
# Lexonik Literacy Intervention



We are delighted to share the positive impact of our recent Literacy Intervention programme, Lexonik, which has been running with a group of Year II students in the lead-up to their GCSEs. Lexonik is a targeted literacy programme designed to rapidly boost reading comprehension, vocabulary knowledge, and overall confidence in reading. By focusing on decoding strategies and word structure, it empowers students with tools that not only support their English studies but benefit all subject areas. For our Year II pupils, this intervention has come at a crucial time, offering them a focused space to build their literacy skills and approach their exams with greater assurance and clarity.

Our incredible staff delivering the sessions have spoken passionately about the impact they've seen: "For me, it was the resilience and determination – the growth you could see in them each week. They were excited for the next session, they saw it as a safe space where they knew they wouldn't be judged. Most importantly, the bonds and relationships we all formed together were truly amazing!" One teacher shared the joy of awarding certificates at the end of the programme, only to be told by a proud student, "Miss, that will take pride on my fridge." These moments are testament to the power of relationships and belief in every learner. Student voice speaks volumes about the programme's value.

We are proud of what our Year 11 pupils have achieved (record advancements in their reading ages) and are excited to announce that our next cohort will come from Year 10 (followed by other year groups in due course). This is a fantastic opportunity for further students to benefit from this outstanding literacy initiative, helping them develop reading comprehension, boost confidence, and ultimately improve outcomes across the curriculum.



"useful and interesting"

"Challenging and fun"

"Helpful"

"I really enjoyed it"





#### Attendance



