

HEADTEACHER BULLETIN

Friday 24th of November 2023

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

Dear Parents/Carers,

As the dark mornings and early evenings have drawn in it has been great to see students demonstrating resilience in ensuring that attendance to school continues to be high. Mrs Hume has shared an update within the pages below and we would like to thank you for your continued support in ensuring your child attendance is above 96%.

There have been lots of special events that have taken place this half term already. The remembrance assembly led by Mr Hilditch and the subsequent remembrance evening organised by Ms Morrell and Mrs Bryan (supported by Mrs Evans) was a great success and were two highlights of the last few weeks. In addition to this, Mrs Castey and Mrs Weaver were joined by Joshua, Chloe and Amy to present a wreath at the Kidsgrove remembrance event on Sunday 12th of November. Thank you to everyone involved.

The school held an extra special Year 11 progress event on Thursday 9th of November which had a brilliant 91% turnout from parents/carers and students. Thank you for your support! This was a brilliant opportunity for colleagues to share with parents/carers & students an update about subject progress and revision tips before the mock examinations began. The evening was also supported by a number of post 16 representatives who were on hand to share next steps guidance.

In addition, we have also held a student council digital event, a Year 8 reward trip and a house reward event for the winning house from half term one, 'Spitfire'. It amazes me how much we manage to fit into the days at KSS.

Year 10 historians visited the Imperial War Museum North to support their studies around warfare and Year 11 Geographer's visited Salford Quays for vital GCSE field work. We also have seen Year 7's create Christmas lanterns in a hands on activity last week which they thoroughly enjoyed.

Aside from the remarkable enrichment, there has been inspiring learning experiences taking place in classrooms. It always fills me with pride as I drop into lessons to observe learning and to see students have those magical light bulb moments.

The next few weeks will see the Year 11 mock examinations come to an end and the performance assessments commence for Years 7 to 10. This will generate very useful assessment data to inform curriculum implementation and adaptive teaching approaches in the Spring term. A progress report will be sent home to parents/carers in the new year which will be the main focus for discussion at the upcoming parents evenings.

Finally, the biggest event of the year is just around the corner as we host 'Kidsgrove's Got Talent'! Mrs Castrey and Mrs Evans are making sure that this will be a showpiece event to remember, where we celebrate the many talents of our students. We cannot wait to see what the students have in store. We already have acts such as singers, musicians and a dance group. We cannot wait!



Upcoming Events:

Monday 4.12.23 - Year 7 to 10 Performance Assessments Begin

Friday 8.12.23 - Enrichment Day

Wednesday 20.12.23 - 'Kidsgrove's Got Talent' Event

Wednesday 20.12.23 - Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day

Thursday 21.12.23 - Christmas Reward Trip and Last Day of Term

Yours faithfully,
Mr S Frost

YEAR 11 PROGRESS EVENT

A big thank you to all parents, carers and students that attended our Year 11 Progress Event on Thursday 9th of November 2023.

We had an incredible 91% turnout for this event which gave us a perfect opportunity to assess where each student was two weeks before the commencement of the mock examinations that started on Monday. It was great to showcase the students progress so far this term and also to remind them of revision techniques and how to plan their revision. To supplement the event we also had many local colleges visit to provide vital information about the next steps available.



'KSS HAS GOT TALENT'

KIDSGROVE SECONDARY SCHOOL PRESENTS



Can you sing, dance, juggle, play a musical instrument
or tell jokes?

If yes, take part in our fantastic talent show on
Wednesday 20th December

£10 gift voucher for anyone who takes part.

Send your entries to Mrs Castrey by Wednesday 22nd
November

Wednesday 20th December



**PROUD TO
BE
KSS**



YEARS 7 TO 10 PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS

A message from Mrs Frost...

The first performance assessments are taking place from the 4th of December 2023 for all students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10. This is a great opportunity for the students to demonstrate how well they are accessing the curriculum and how they are retaining key knowledge through of how well they are accessing the curriculum and how they are retaining key knowledge through formal assessments assessments.. All of the assessments will be held in the hall under GCSE examination conditions and supported by our team of invigilators.

We will be writing home to parents/carers with a progress reports in the Spring term once all of the assessments have been marked and feedback has been provided to students.

The timetable for the assessments can be seen below for each year group:



YEARS 7 TO 10 PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS

KSS Year 7 Performance Assessments Dec 2023

WEEK 1

	P1 *9am start	P2	P3	P4	P5
Mon 4th Dec	7K Computing (55 mins) - Rm 15 [9:10am start]	7S Computing (55 mins) - Rm 15			History (40 minutes)
Tues 5th Dec	7K Art (2hrs) - Rm 10 [9:10am start]				Spanish Reading (30 mins) & Writing (30 mins)
Weds 6th Dec		English (1hr)			
Thurs 7th Dec	7S Art (2hrs) - Rm 10 [9:10am start]			Performing Arts (45 minutes)	
Fri 8th Dec	ENRICHMENT DAY				

WEEK 2

	P1 *9am start	P2	P3	P4	P5
Mon 11th Dec	Geography (45 minutes)				
Tues 12th Dec			PE (45 minutes)		
Weds 13th Dec					Maths (50 minutes)
Thurs 14th Dec		Technology (45 minutes)		Science (50 minutes)	
Fri 15th Dec					

YEARS 7 TO 10 PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS

KSS Year 8 Performance Assessments Dec 2023

WEEK 1

	P1 *9am start	P2	P3	P4	P5
Mon 4th Dec			Performing Arts (45 minutes)		
Tues 5th Dec	8K Computing (55 mins) - Rm 15 [9:10am start]		PE (45 minutes)		
Weds 6th Dec	8K Art (2hrs) - Rm 10 [9:10am start]		8S Art (2hrs) - Rm 10		
Thurs 7th Dec			Technology (45 minutes)		
Fri 8th Dec	ENRICHMENT DAY				

WEEK 2

	P1 *9am start	P2	P3	P4	P5
Mon 11th Dec			Maths (50 minutes)		8S Computing (55 mins) - Rm 15
Tues 12th Dec		Geography (45 minutes)			Spanish Reading (40 minutes)
Weds 13th Dec		English (1hr)		Spanish Writing (30 minutes)	
Thurs 14th Dec	History (40 minutes)		Science (50 minutes)		
Fri 15th Dec					

YEARS 7 TO 10 PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS

KSS Year 9 Performance Assessments Dec 2023

WEEK 1

	P1 *9am start	P2	P3	P4	P5
Mon 4th Dec		Science (50 minutes)		Technology (45 minutes)	
Tues 5th Dec		9K Computing (55 mins) - Rm 15		Geography (45 minutes)	
Weds 6th Dec	9S Computing (55 mins) - Rm 15 [9:10am start]		PE (45 minutes)		Performing Arts (45 minutes)
Thurs 7th Dec		Spanish Reading (40 minutes)			Maths (50 minutes)
Fri 8th Dec	ENRICHMENT DAY				

WEEK 2

	P1 *9am start	P2	P3	P4	P5
Mon 11th Dec		9K Art (2hrs) - Rm 10		History (1hr)	
Tues 12th Dec	English (1hr)		9S Art (2hrs) - Rm 10		
Weds 13th Dec			Spanish Writing (40 minutes)		
Thurs 14th Dec					
Fri 15th Dec					

YEARS 7 TO 10 PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS

KSS Year 10 Performance Assessments Dec 2023

WEEK 1

	P1 *9am start	P2	P3	P4	P5
Mon 4th Dec	Maths 1 - Non- Calc (1hr)				
Tues 5th Dec	English (1hr)				
Weds 6th Dec	Science (1hr)			Geography (1hr)	
Thurs 7th Dec	History (1hr)				
Fri 8th Dec	ENRICHMENT DAY				

WEEK 2

	P1 *9am start	P2	P3	P4	P5
Mon 11th Dec	Catering Practical (1hr) - Rm 1 [9:10am start]	Spanish Reading (40 mins F/50 mins H)			Maths 2 - Calculator(1hr)
Tues 12th Dec				Catering Theory (1hr)	
Weds 13th Dec	Spanish Writing (1hr)				
Thurs 14th Dec			Art (2hrs) - Rm 10		
Fri 15th Dec					

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

A thank you to Mrs Weaver and Mrs Castrey for giving up their Sunday morning to meet with students Chloe, Amy and Josh who laid a wreath on behalf of the school at the Kidsgrove Remembrance Event.

It was also great to see former students Jacob and Callum representing the armed forces too; we are incredibly proud of you both and wish you every success in your chosen career path.



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REMEMBRANCE SERVICE



REMEMBRANCE ASSEMBLY AND EVENING EVENT

A thank you to students and staff for working so hard on organising a remembrance assembly and an extra special remembrance evening event on Friday 10th and Monday 13th of November respectively.

It was fantastic to see students mark the silence in a whole school assembly so impeccably and to see students demonstrate their musical talents at the Monday evening event in a showcase of remembrance.

A special mention to Mason and Brooke who read 'For the Fallen' by Laurence Binyon; to the whole school. They did us proud.

Thank you to all the members of the community in attendance.



REMEMBRANCE ASSEMBLY AND EVENING EVENT



Monday 13th November
4.30pm

An evening of songs and poems
with refreshments provided

Lest we forget

Kidsgrove Secondary School, Gloucester rd,
Kidsgrove, Staffordshire ST7 4DL



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REMEMBRANCE ASSEMBLY AND EVENING EVENT



DIGITAL EVENT



**DIGITAL
SCHOOLHOUSE**
together with



The brilliant student council organised our first digital event of the academic year on Thursday 16th of November.

Students battled in teams of three playing in a Smash Bros tournament to become crowned 'Digital Champions'. The competition is supported by the Digital School House who promote leadership and organisational skill development in students across the country.

A special mention to Reece who took the lead on this event and led all operational planning from staff supervision to the tournament schedule.



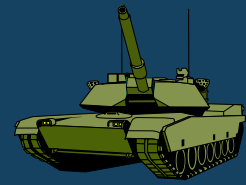
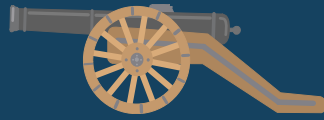
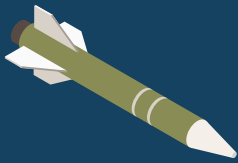
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DIGITAL EVENT



YEAR 10 HISTORY TRIP



Well done to all of the Year 10 History students that visited The Imperial War Museum North on Friday 17th of November along with myself, Mr Hilditch and Mrs Hume.

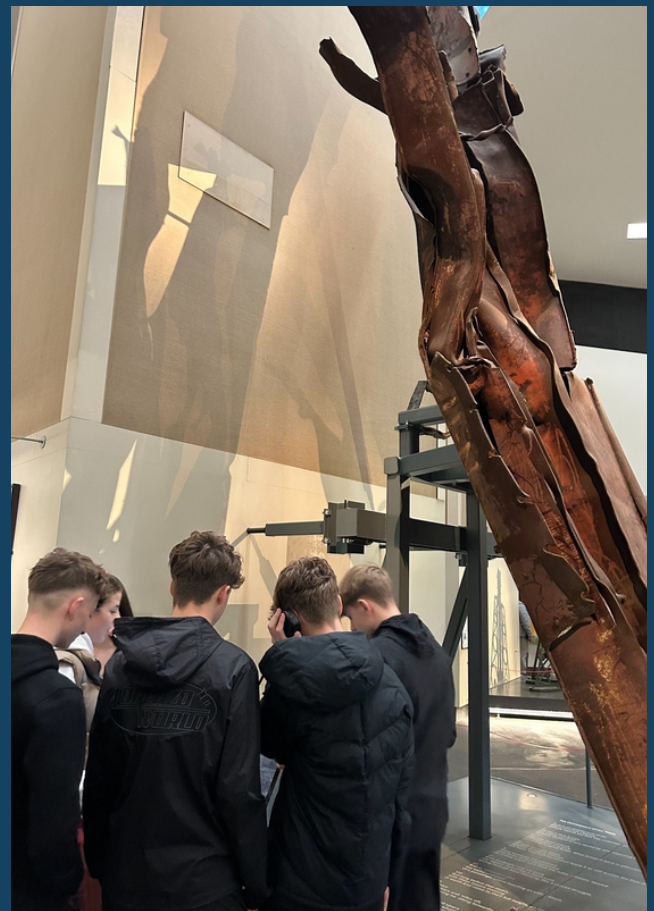
The visit perfectly supplements the students learning about modern warfare which is the main focus for Year 10 GCSE History studies. The students engaged in three 'Big Shows' during the visit which really developed their understanding and Mr Hilditch ensured that the visit saw the students work hard with a research activity.



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YEAR 10 HISTORY TRIP



YEAR 10 HISTORY TRIP



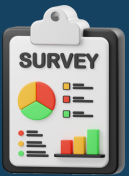
IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUMS



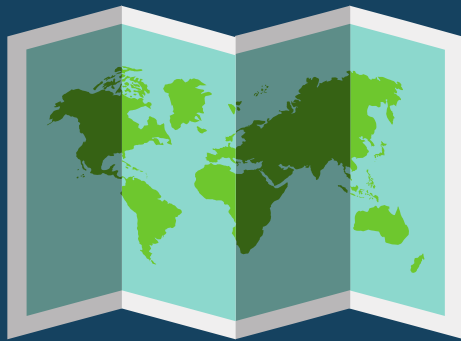
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YEAR 11 GEOGRAPHY TRIP



The Year 11 Geographers visited Salford Quays as part of their preparation for the field work element of their GCSE in the Summer. As part of their evaluation they have to think about why Salford was a suitable location for their study, they had to risk assess the trip, and they represented us brilliantly as they carried out a number of surveys around the Quays which will feed into their collections of data. The student's behaviour was exceptional and the quality of their data was great. The next stage is to present, analyse and evaluate. Well done Geographers!



YEAR 11 GEOGRAPHY TRIP



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YEAR 7 CHRISTMAS LANTERNS

A message from Mrs Postlethwaite...

Following the success of the lantern making sessions last year, B-Arts have been back into school for two days running lantern making workshops for Year 7 students ahead of the lantern parade on 2nd December.

Students once again produced some amazing willow and paper lanterns and we can't wait to see as many of them as possible at the parade. Please see the poster for additional FREE workshop dates which you can attend to make your own lantern.



YEAR 7 CHRISTMAS LANTERNS



YEAR 7 CHRISTMAS LANTERNS



arts **NEWCASTLE LANTERNS** PEOPLE OF PEACE

LANTERN PROCESSION!
SAT 2ND DEC
STARTING 4:30PM
NEWCASTLE HIGH STREET

GET CREATIVE AT OUR **FREE LANTERN MAKING WORKSHOPS!**

SAT 4TH NOV 10:00AM – 3:00PM NEWCASTLE LIBRARY ST5 1BL	SAT 11TH NOV 10:00AM – 3:00PM BELONG, ST5 2RS	SAT 18TH NOV 10:00AM – 3:00PM NEWCASTLE LIBRARY ST5 1BL
SAT 25TH NOV 10:00AM – 3:00PM NEWCASTLE LIBRARY ST5 1BL	SUN 26TH NOV 11:00AM – 5:00PM NEWCASTLE TOWN MARKET	

The Strasser Foundation **LOVE N-U-L** **ROTARY INTERNATIONAL** **Amityhub** **THE BARRACKS TRUST** **arts**



CHRISTMAS REWARD TRIP

We will be visiting Cinebowl on the final day of the term (21st of December 2023) for our Christmas reward trip.

The criteria for the trip has been set and can be seen below.

We are hoping that all of the students rise to this expectation and make themselves eligible to attend.

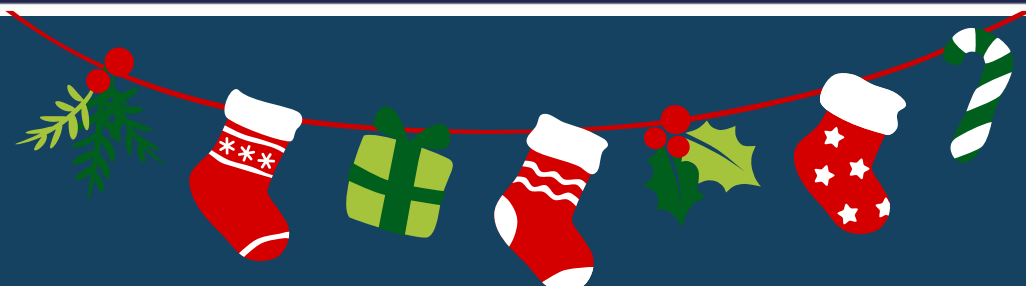
Mrs Castrey will be communicating with parents/carers closer to the trip cut of dates and the finer details.



Eligibility window: Thu 9th Nov to Thu 14th Dec (25 school days/ 5 weeks).

Criteria 1: Attendance of 96% or above.

Criteria 2: Maximum of 15 behaviour points. (3 per week maximum).



Join us for the annual...



KSS CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY (NON UNIFORM)

&

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Wednesday 20th of December 2023

If you would like to order a Christmas Lunch,
please see Ms Potts on reception for a ticket.



MATHS



A message from Mrs Frost...

We wanted to start by saying a huge well done to Year 11 who are underway with their mocks and how impressed we have been with the turn out to after school revision, form time intervention and lunch time Masterclasses. We are confident that the results of the mocks will reflect the hard work that they have put in.

With assessment weeks approaching for Years 7-10, we wanted to give you some revision top tips for maths.

Tip 1: Make a plan. Before you start, design a revision timetable so you can structure your revision around key assessments. Keep it realistic and something that you can actually commit to. Make sure you include time to eat, rest and socialise too.



Tip 2: Check your revision list and prioritise. All classes will have been supplied a revision list or booklet from their maths teacher. Look at this and highlight any topics that you particularly struggle with or don't remember very well. These should be the topics that you focus on the most, there is little use in doing lots of work on something that you already understand.



Tip 3: Look after yourself. Make sure that you eat well and get a good night's rest to set you up for success. Avoid overloading your mind by taking short regular breaks to stretch your legs or get some exercise.



MATHS

A message from Mrs Frost...

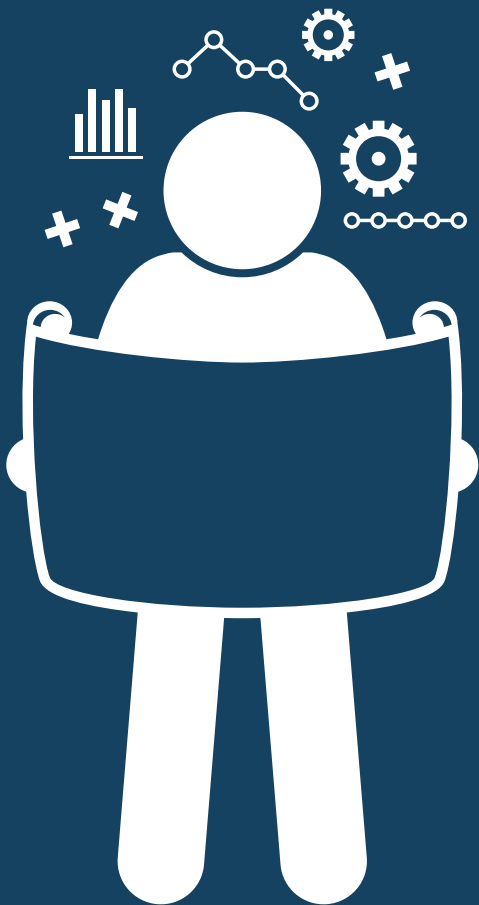
Here are our favourite online resources for maths revision:

Sparx Maths independent learning is a great place to start, and you have the codes to use in your revision lists or booklets.

Corbett Maths has some great videos and worksheets with answers you can check yourself.

Maths Genie has lots of exam questions for GCSE revision.

Most importantly, please remember that we are only an email away or a trip up the stairs at break or lunch. Good luck and please do not stress, just see us any time.



ENGLISH

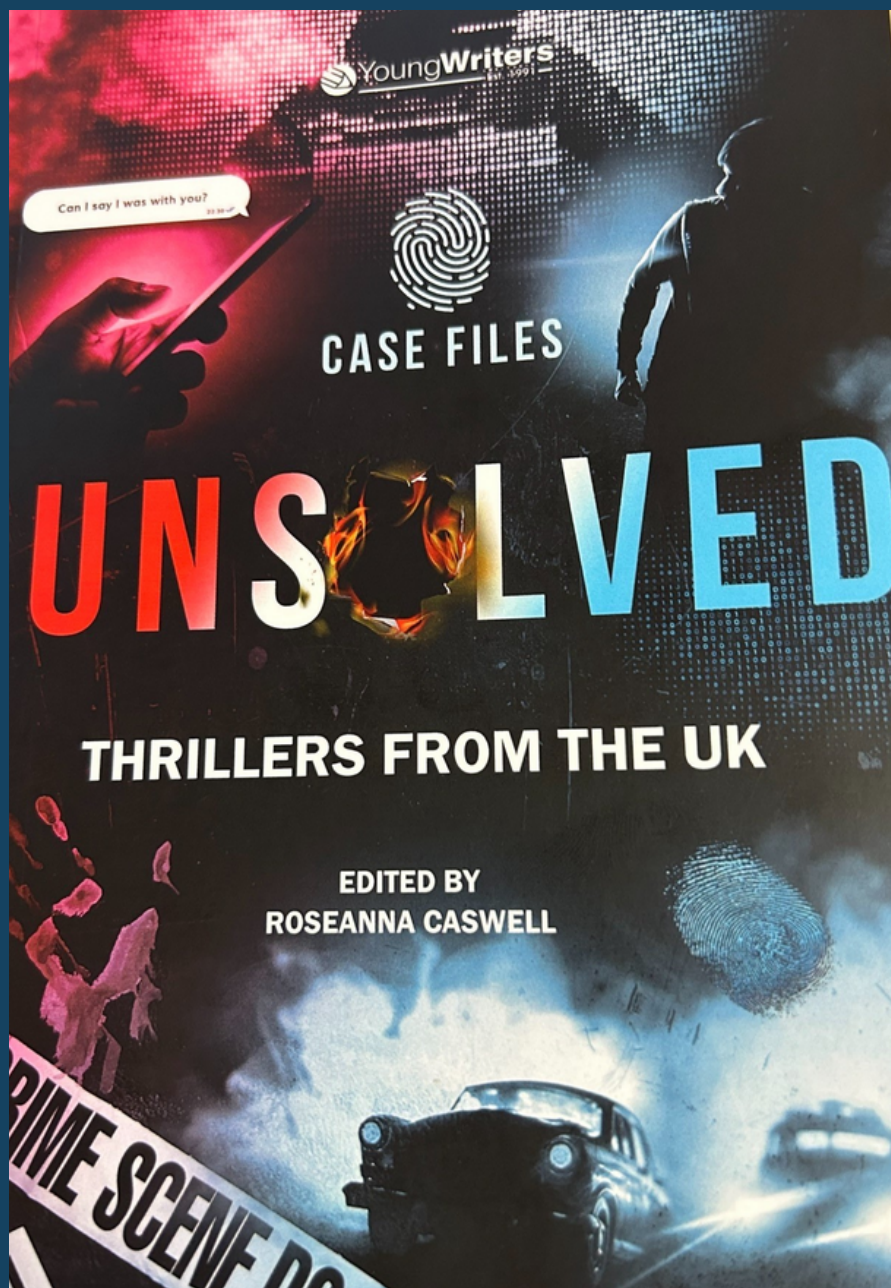


A message from Mr Old...

To be published is always an achievement but to be selected nationally to be published into a book of thrillers is such a remarkable accomplishment for our students.

Well done to Lily-Peach, Ava, Louie, Max, Alfie, Max, Madison, Amy, Tommy, Leah, Abi, Mollie, Edie, Logan, Liam, Reece and Brooke who have all been selected for the 'Case Files, Unsolved thrillers from the UK' compilation.

Well done everyone!



ENGLISH

A message from Mr Baldwin...

Well done to all of the students for consistently engaging in our new reading initiative 'Sparx Reader'.

This is an amazing collective effort and achievement to read 272 books and 1,704 hours of reading which is 71 days.

Keep up the great work!



Kidsgrove Secondary School

Your students have completed

1,704 hours

of careful reading this year in Sparx Reader.
Great effort!

Kidsgrove Secondary School

Your students have read

272 books

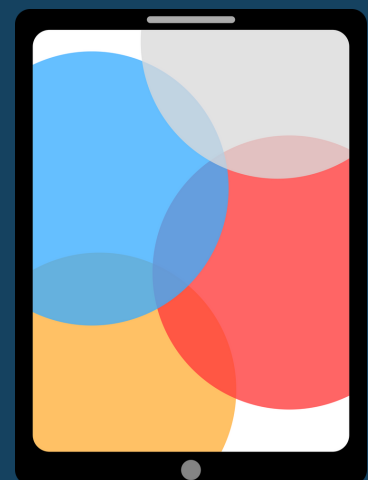
this year in Sparx Reader. Well done!

Sparx Reader

sparxreader.com

Sparx Reader

sparxreader.com



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HOUSE REWARD EVENT



As a well done to all of the members of the Spitfire House, Mrs Castrey organised a reward buffet for students.

As the house rewards ramp up we are looking forward to students accessing even more rewards for going above and beyond in their approach to learning. Well done Spitfire!



HOUSE REWARD LUNCH



You are invited to a reward lunch to celebrate Spitfire achieving the most House Points last half term



THURSDAY
23RD
NOVEMBER

1PM

CANTEEN



ART

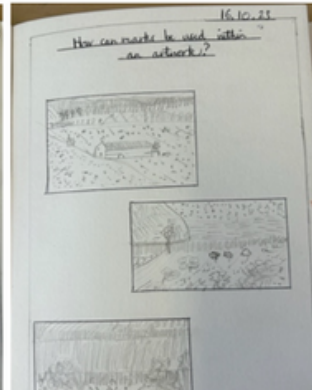
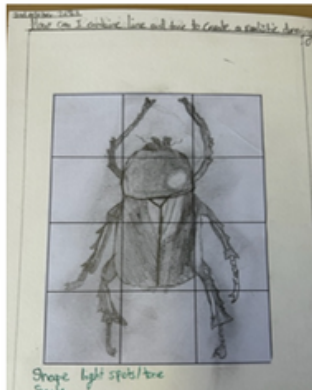
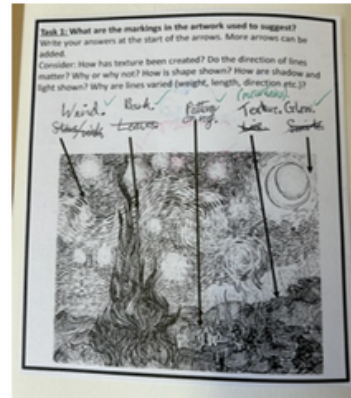
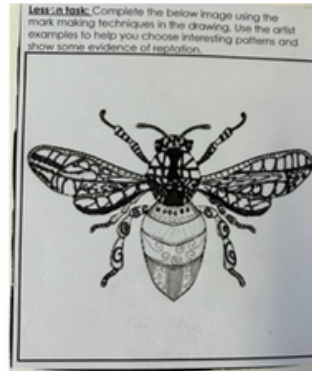
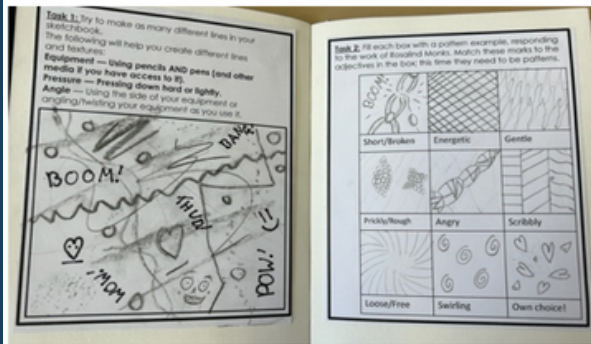


A message from Mrs Mason...

Please see below for a flavour of the pieces of work that students have created over the last few weeks...

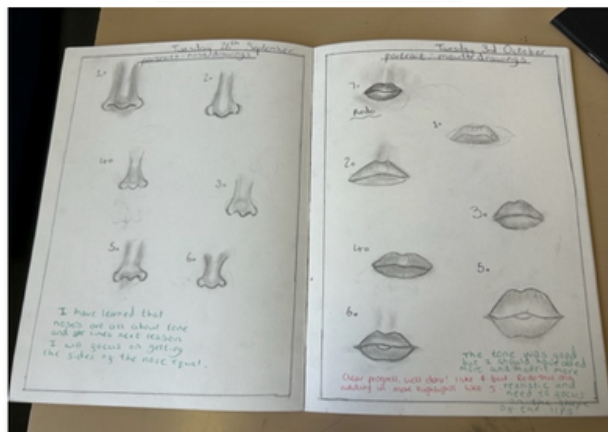
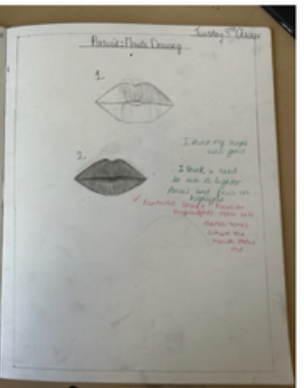
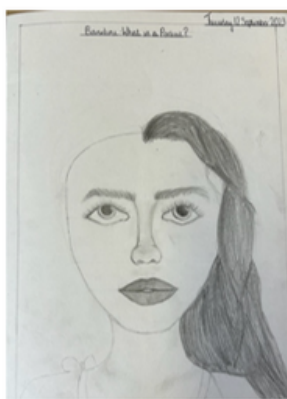
Year 7

- Year 7s have made a fantastic start to the academic year in their Art lessons. We have been exploring line through observational drawing techniques, exploring drawing materials and have now begun to combine line with other formal elements such as pattern and colour. Artists such as Vincent Van Gogh and Rosalind Monks have informed our outcomes. Here are some great pieces of work. Well done Year 7.



Year 8

- Year 8 have been exploring portraits. We have focused on developing their ability to apply tone and consider proportion to create more realistic features. They are now ready to conduct their self-portraits when they arrive back after half term. Fantastic work Year 8!



ART



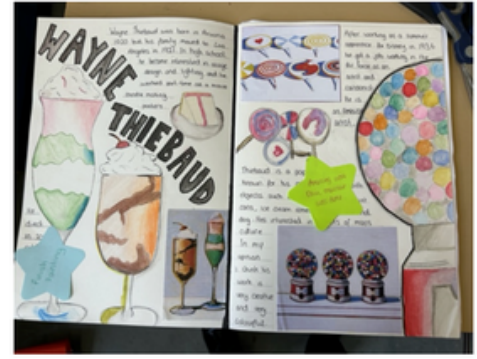
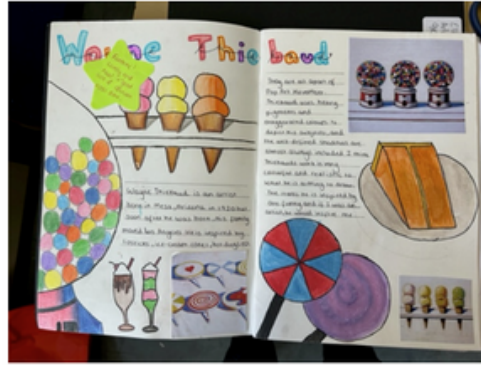
A message from Mrs Mason...

Please see below for a flavour of the pieces of work that students have created over the last few weeks...

Year 9

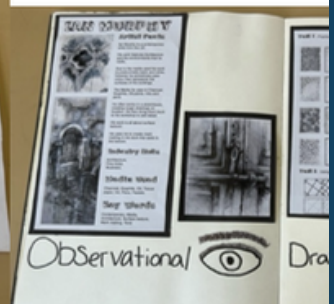
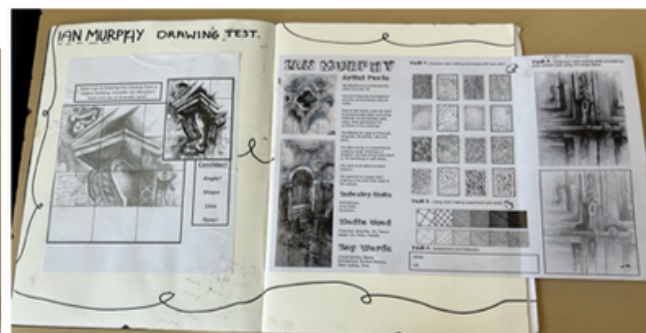
Year 9 have been looking at Pop Art and more specifically the work of Wayne Thiebaud.

Through their artist page, the students have been developing their colour knowledge and their 3D drawing skills which have been put to the test in their most recent cake drawings. Well done Year 9.



Year 10

- Year 10 have started their first coursework project. Their theme this time is Architecture so the students have been exploring this starting point through mind maps, researching relevant artists and testing their observational drawing skills. What an amazing start Year 10.



Attendance

KSS Attendance

Whole School



93.90%

Year group

7 - 94.67%
8 - 93.95%
9 - 93.33%
10 - 93.33%
11 - 94.15%

Best Form

8 HM

97.02%

As winter approaches, we recognise that children do get ill. Minor illnesses can be managed with over-the-counter medication and we can provide this in school.

Best House



68% of students have 100% attendance for the month of November so far.

Students who achieve this will win an ADVENT CALENDAR

Kidsgrove Secondary School

Attendance Matters

#StopTheDrop



Attendance

There are just **4 school days remaining in November**.

Any students who achieve 100% attendance from Monday 6th November to Thursday 30th November will receive a chocolate advent calendar ready for the 1st December! We currently have **216 students** receiving a calendar (72% of the school!)



HEADTEACHER DROP IN

A reminder that every Friday morning, we hold a Headteacher drop-in hour from 9am until 10am.

This is a great opportunity to come and see me regarding any queries or questions that you may have about the school.

Please just call in as there is no appointment required at this time.

KIDSGROVE SECONDARY SCHOOL



HEADTEACHER DROP IN



Every Friday
9:00am-10:00am

If you have any queries or questions, feel free to drop into the session and talk to Mr Frost.



CORE VALUES



House Update

Below are the House totals so far....

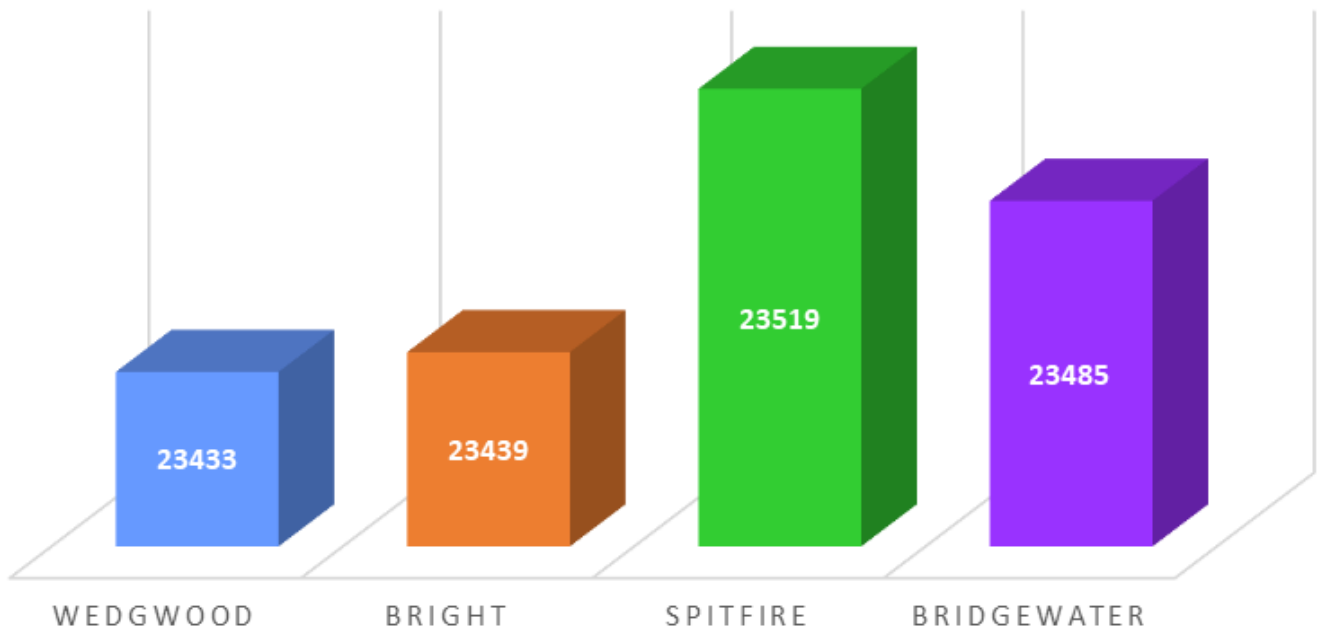
It is still very close at the top.

Will Spitfire claim another victory?

It's all to play for leading up to Christmas.

Keep up the great work everyone to get as many positives.

TOTAL HOUSE POINTS



CORE VALUES





KIDSGROVE SECONDARY SCHOOL

NOV-DEC

EXTRA CURRICULAR ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

EVERYDAY

Lunchtime
13.30-14.00



Reading club

Open to all

Reading Room – Mr Baldwin

MONDAY

Lunchtime
13.30-14.00



Key Board Club / Rehearsal
Rooms

Open to all

Music – Mrs Evans

TUESDAY

Lunchtime
13.30-14.00



Choir

Open to all

Music – Mrs Evans

After School
15.05-16.05



GCSE Performing Arts

Year 10

Music – Mrs Evans

Open Studio

Open to all

Room 10 – Miss Mason

WEDNESDAY

After School
15.05-16.05



Netball

Open to all

Changing Rooms – Mrs Castrey



Fitness Club

Y10 and Y11

Changing Rooms – Mr Till

THURSDAY

After School
15.05-16.05



Open Studio

Open to all

Room 10 – Miss Mason



Football

Fixtures

Changing Rooms – Mr Till

KS3

Changing Rooms – Mr Till

FRIDAY

Lunchtime
13.30-14.00



Chess club

Open to all

Room 3 – Mr Baldwin



Keyboard club/Rehearsal rooms

Open to all

Music – Mrs Evans



Pride Club

Open to all

Room 14 – Miss Ayers



Football

KS4

Changing Rooms – Mr Till



Trampolining

Open to all

Hall – Mrs Castrey



Kidsgrove Secondary School

"if you do the small things right, big things can happen."



www.kidsgrovesecondary.org.uk

Ofsted
Good
Provider



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Physical Education

A message from Mrs Castrey...



PE CLUBS

Tuesday



Y7/ 8 Football

Wednesday



**Netball (all years)
Y10 & 11 Football**

Thursday



GCSE Revision Club

Friday



KS4 Volleyball

Please see a member of the PE department for further details about these sessions.

