THE KIDSGROVE SECONDARY SCHOOL

HEADTEACHER BULLETIN

Friday 24.5.24

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Dear Parents/Carers,

As we draw the fifth half term of 2023-2024 to a close, we enter a really important time of the year. When we return in June we have only a few weeks before the start of the end of year performance assessments that all students from years 7 to 10 students will be sitting in the examination hall. Following these assessments, a final progress report will be sent home to all parents/carers. Over the next few weeks, subject teachers will be sharing revision topics in lessons to prepare the students for these important end of year assessments and I will write home to you all with a detailed timetable.

When we return after the break, we also have our second annual sports day held at Northwood Stadium, which is a fantastic event for everyone involved and a focus of the 'House' competition that has been warming up nicely all year. In addition, there will be a full week of work experience for Year 10 students. We cannot wait to hear about the students experiences from the world of work, which was such a success twelve months ago for our current Year 11 students.

In July, we also welcome our new Year 7 students for their transition week, which is always a very exciting time of the year, with Mrs Castrey organising such a brilliant week of new experiences for our newcomers. We cannot wait to meet them all!

We will also say goodbye to our Year 11 students in a few weeks time, who are performing so well in their GCSE examinations. Each morning it is so pleasing to see so many students arrive for their 8am breakfast prep sessions with their class teachers.

We are all convinced that they are on track to achieve some remarkable results.

There will be revision sessions taking place during the May Term break to supplement the students personal revision.

Finally, a reminder that we would encourage students to adopt the summer uniform expectations after the break to ensure that they are as comfortable as possible in final seven weeks of the term. This expectations are outlined within the bulletin.



Friday 31.5.24 - Year 9 Option Choices Deadline w/c 28th May- Half Term Year 11 Revision Sessions w/c 17.6.24 - Performance Assessments Begin Monday 24.6.24 - Sports Day w/c 1.7.24 - Year 10 Work Experience Week Friday 5.7.24 - Year 11 Prom

Upcoming Events:







Summer Reward Trip











Year 7 & 8









6 WEEK WINDOW 18 BEHAVIOUR POINTS OR BELOW (NO MORE THAN 3 PER WEEK)

96% ATTENDANCE (1 DAY : 3%)







PROUD TO BE KSS



iPad Upgrade - 2024-2025

We are excited to share that over the summer break, the student iPads will be replaced by brand new 10th generation devices. I will write to all parents/carers to formally announce the arrangements for the iPad return towards the end of term but I wanted to share this exciting news.

We cannot wait to see how the students will use these devices to maximise their learning even further.

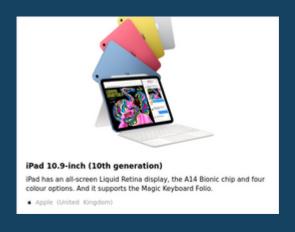
The new devices will coincide with a new app that will be central to student progress in September. This app is called 'Showbie' and it is a brilliant digital workbook that will enhance student independence.

Exciting times ahead @ KSS.



showbie







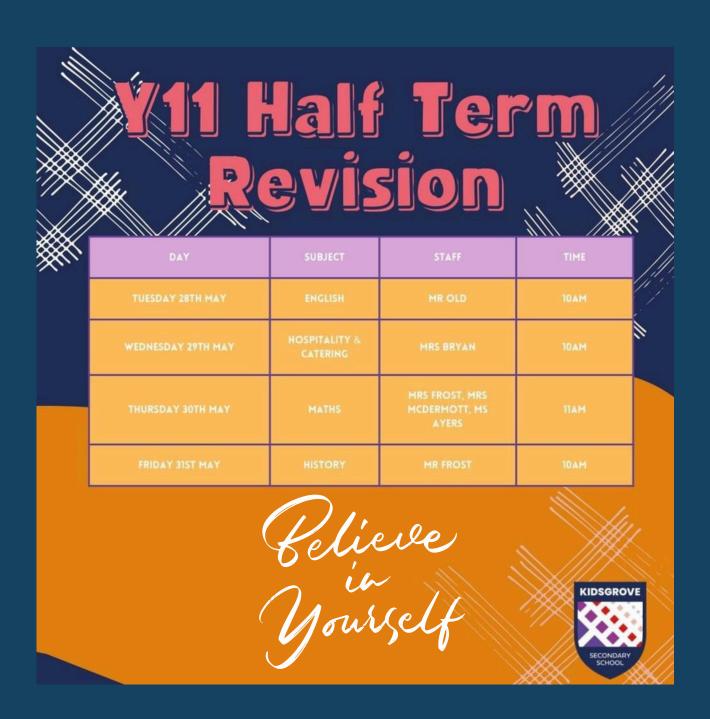




YEAR II MAY HALF TERM INTERVENTION

The school will be offering May half term sessions to support the students further with their revision and examination preparation.

The timetable for the available sessions can be found below and we hope to see as many students at these sessions as possible.











I would like to extend a warm welcome to Ms Wagstaff, who will be joining KSS as our new Performing Arts teacher from September.

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

Hi, I'm Billie Wagstaff, the new teacher of performing arts. I have a background in dance and performing arts, starting from a young age and, have done many performances at multiple theatres, and got into teaching through supporting voluntarily with younger students training, which developed into an interest in the performing arts in mainstream education. I trained and started my teaching career in Wolverhampton, and am currently working in Crewe, so I am looking forward to working in my home city. I am currently a Head of House, but I am excited to take this curriculum development pathway with my teaching career. I am really looking forward to joining Kidsgrove Secondary School in September and can't wait to start developing the performing arts at Kidsgrove.







Headteacher Reward Lunch

I was joined by a record **76** students for the Headteacher reward lunch on Thursday.

The students were selected by their subject teachers for amazing progress and growth mindset to their studies.

Well done to every student invited, keep up the great work!

















Headteacher Reward Lunch



















Attendance







I would like to extend a warm welcome to Mrs Hawthorne, who will be joining KSS as our new Associate Assistant Headteacher for Mathematics from July.

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

Hello, I'm Mrs Hawthorne and I'm thrilled to be joining the team as the new head of the maths department. With over 11 years of experience teaching maths, I'm eager to bring my passion for mathematics to the students at Kidsgrove Secondary School.

I've contributed to writing maths textbooks and classroom resources and enjoy sharing innovative teaching methods at national conferences. I'm particularly excited about integrating technology into the classroom, exploring new ways to make maths engaging, and applying real-world models to enhance learning. I look forward to meeting you all very soon.







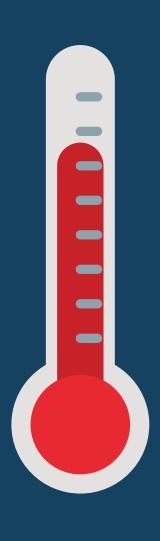
Summer Uniform



Just a reminder that following parent and student feedback last year we adapted our uniform to allow students to wear black tailored school shorts instead of trousers **from May half term.**

If your child chooses to wear shorts to school, then black socks should be worn and the rest of uniform (shirt, tie and blazer) remains the same.

The shorts should be tailored school shorts and not sports shorts. Some parents stated that the bigger sizes were difficult to get from shops last year, so we are giving you plenty of notice to get prepared if your child wishes to wear shorts for the last half term.









Sports Day 2024



Our annual Sports Day is almost upon us!

We will be taking over Northwood Stadium on Monday the 24th of June in true KSS style, with an amazing day planned of sporting events.

Mrs Castrey and Mr Till will be leading the way (and without doubt the staff race).

If any parents or carers wish to come and spectate, there will be a designated space made available as you enter the complex. Mrs Castrey will be in touch with the finer details after half term.

Below are some highlights from last years event to get us all into the

competitive spirit.









Over the last half term, Y7 have been taking part in an interform competition to see who can obtain the most achievement points.

The forms have been assigned a themed team name to create a positive buzz around the tag line 'turn that me into us', showing the importance of contributing to the school ethos and community.

7TM Tigers and 7NM Knights have drawn on points for the last three weeks, however in the process they have also managed to take the 2nd position on the whole school achievement points total!

As a reward for the winning form, Mr Till organised a special event. Keep up the great work Year 7 there has been a huge impact!









For the first two weeks both forms have drawn on behaviour ratio points. However in week 3 7NM Knights took the win resulting in the first single form reward since launching the competition. There are still a further 3 weeks to go and an opportunity for 7TM Tigers to 'claw' back a win.

Conduct Points Leaderboard									
	<u>Form</u>	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6		
	7TM (Tigers)								
	7NM (Knights)								
	KNIGHT								

7TM VS 7NM Rewards:

So far both forms have been rewarded with off timetable activities during form time, designing their form sports day banner (Week 1 reward), 10 minutes early lunch for a week (Week 2 reward).

Week 3's reward, went to 7NM who won on points, was a form brunch. A lovely atmosphere with pupils sitting down engaging in meaningful conversations over oatcakes, pastries, hot chocolate and tea. The students even gave a round of applause to the canteen staff for all of their hard work preparing the event between breaktime service and lunchtime set up.





7TM



7NM





















APRIL ATTENDANCE ACCELERATOR

Over the course this half-term there has been a focus upon Y9 attendance which was aptly named the 'April Attendance Accelerator'. Attendance has a direct link to student outcomes/progress and at Kidsgrove Secondary School and we take pride in our relentlessly high expectations of this.

A huge well done to all of the Y9 students have achieved the April Accelerator, which had a minimum attendance criteria of 96%. Over 67% of the cohort met this figure with 32 students maintaining a 100% record. We hope that you enjoyed your end of term reward!













Parent/Carer Feedback

As you know your feedback is really important to us at KSS. Would you please spare a few minutes to complete the survey via the link below:



Take this survey powered by surveymonkey.com. Create your own surveys for free.

surveymonkey.com







Year 7 and 8 Scout Camp

Thirty students from years 7 and 8 will be participating in a one-night residential at Kibblestone Scout Camp near Stone in the middle of June. They will be orienteering, climbing and abseiling as well as building shelters and having a camp fire. We are really excited to spend time with them in a new environment and see how they cope without technology!









I would like to extend a warm welcome to Mrs Price, who will be joining KSS as our new Mathematics teacher from September.

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

Hello everyone. A bit about myself, I have been teaching since 2020 but have lots of prior experience in education from a wide range of schools. I'm looking forward to joining KSS and the maths department, and looking forward to having a positive impact on the students.











Spanish and South American Art Festival

At the start of May, KSS hosted a Spanish and South American Art Fiesta! Students showcased the Spanish and South American themed Art work that they have created whilst sampling some Tapas!

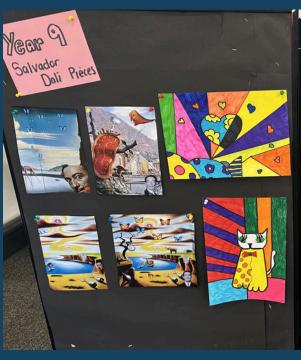
Well done to all of our fabulous, creative students and thank you to all of the parents/carers that attended.



Spanish and South American Art Festival















Spanish and South American Art Festival



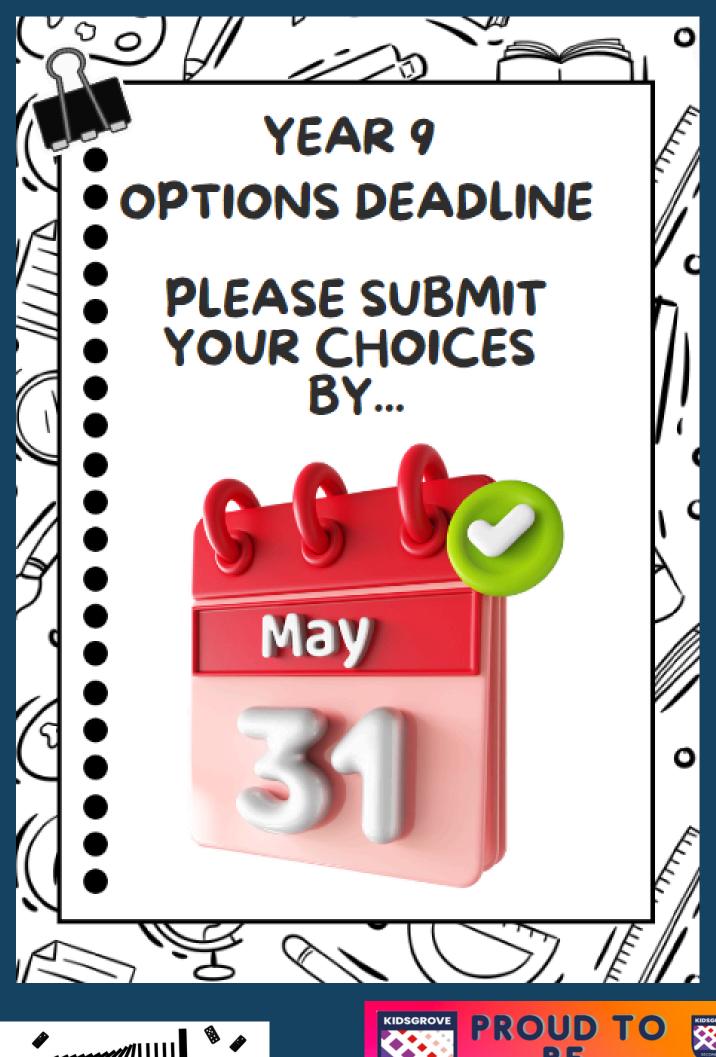




















'KSS Bucks'

This week has seen Years 7-10 cashing in their 'KSS Bucks' and it is been great to see so may students rewarded for completing their Sparx Maths homework early and also spending time doing Independent Work on Sparx.

A huge well done to all students and a big thank you to the maths department!













SPARX READER

A big well done to the following students for the incredible amount of reading they have done this year. The number alongside their names is the total number of Sparx Reader points they have gained this year. Remember, the more reading you do, the cleverer you get!

Sophie	Е	Year 9	46,284
Holly	P	Year 9	40,406
Reece	J	Year 9	38,695
Alexia	L	Year 8	33,969
Amber	В	Year 9	30,709
Joshua	В	Year 7	25,481
Amy	В	Year 8	24,774
Tyler	Н	Year 7	21,746
Maisie	В	Year 8	21,521
Matilda	G	Year 7	21,425
Shakirah	М	Year 8	21,096
Olivia	D	Year 8	20,954
Abi	G	Year 8	20,833
Isla	S	Year 7	20,571







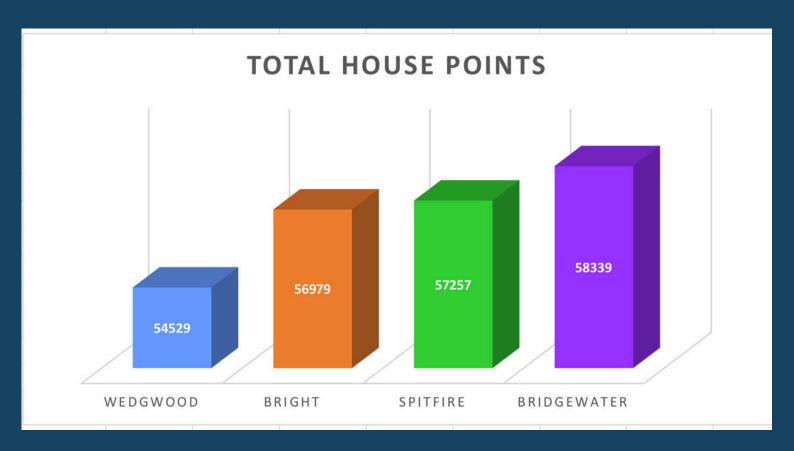
House Update

Below are the House totals for the year so far...

A huge well done to Bridgewater who have smashed it this half term!

Remember it's the little things that make a big difference!

With Sports Day coming up next half term, who will be the overall winners of the House Cup?!





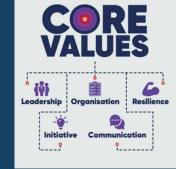












Physical Education





Tuesday



Y7/8 Football

Wednesday



Multisports club Y10 & 11 Fitness Club

Thursday



GCSE Revision Club

Friday



Y10 & 11 Football
Trampolining (all years)

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













KSS



ATTENDANCE

Term Time Leave update

You will be aware that the Department of Education made important changes to the law for families wanting to request leave of absence in term time. The changes made it clear that Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. The Local Authority and School Governors support this; therefore, students will only be given permission to take leave in term time if there are exceptional circumstances.

I would hope that upon reflection you are able to support this decision in line with the Local Authority and Government policy, that leave should be restricted to the 13 weeks school holidays except in exceptional circumstances.

Year to date

Whole school 94.14%

Year 7 - 94.98%

Year 8 - 93.63%

Year 9 - 91.66%

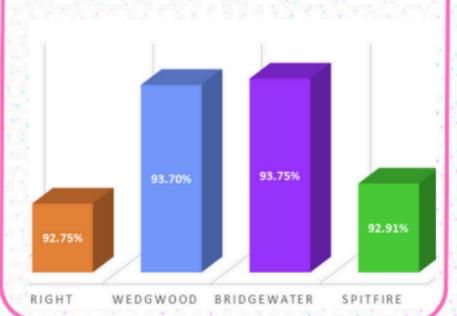
Year 10 - 93.38%

Year 11 - 94.09%

National Average 91.1%



House Attendance



Absence = missed learning

We know everyone can be ill from time to time but as a parent its important not to let your child take time off school for minor ailments - particularly those which would not stop you as a parent from going to work.

School stocks Calpol ibuprofen and paracetamol and can provide to students where needed. Antibiotics can be kept in school and provided at the time required. Heat packs and wheat bags can be kept in school to help with stomach cramps and bloating pain.



"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

Dr Seuss



Punctuality

School starts at 8:35am and all students should be in school and ready for their AM mark. at this time.

After this time students will be marked as late which will mean they have a 20 minute detention the same day 15:05 - 15:25

BARRIERS TO ATTENDANCE

If your child is facing barriers which means they are missing school, please speak to Miss Hume. Conversations are confidential and we are here to support you.

01782 948267

Attendance@kss.set.org



Attendance





Most absences for acceptable reasons will be authorised by the school:

- Illness.
- Unavoidable medical or dental appointments (if possible, these should be arranged for after school or during school holidays).
- Day of religious observance.
- Exceptional family circumstances, such as bereavement.
- An interview with a prospective employer or college.

Some of the following examples are reasons why a school may NOT authorise absence:

- Shopping during school hours.
- Day trips.
- Birthdays.
- Looking after brothers or sisters or ill relatives.
- Term-time holiday.
- Caring for a disabled parent.



Attendance

PENALTY NOTICE FINES FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IS CHANGING







The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or irregular Attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.



SECOND OFFENCE (WITHIN 3 YEARS)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child to be paid within 28 days. No reduced rate will be offered. The following changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines issued after 19th August 2024.



THIRD OFFENCE AND ANY FURTHER OFFENCES (WITHIN 3 YEARS)

The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court. Magistrates; fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child.

Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on a Parents future DBS certificate, due to failure to safeguard a child's education'.

10 SESSIONS (5 DAYS) OF UNAUTHOURISED ABSENCE IN A 10-WEEK PERIOD

Penalty Notice Fines will be considered when there has been 10 sessions of unauthourised absence in a 10-week period.

Please follow the link for the Publication that will start from 19th August 2024. www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance





KIDSGROVE SECONDARY SCHOOL

APR-JULY

EXTRA CURRICULAR ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MONDAY

Lunchtime 13.30-14.00



Science Support

KS3

Room 23 - Dr Ma

TUESDAY

After School 15.05-16.05



Y10 Performing Arts

Year 10

Music - Mrs Evans

Open Studio

Open to all

Room 10 - Mrs Mason

WEDNESDAY

After School 15.05-18.05



Multi Sports/Rounders Club

Open to all

Changing Rooms - Mrs Castrey

Football

KS3

Changing Rooms - Mr Hilditch

Fitness

Open to all

Fitness Suite - Mr Till

THURSDAY

Lunchtime 13.30-14.00



Science Support

KS4

Room 23 - Dr Ma

After School



Open Studio

Open to all

Room 10 - Mrs Mason

15.05-16.05



Football Fixtures

KS4

Changing Rooms - Mr Till



DofE Sessions

DofE

Room 9 - Mrs Weaver

FRIDAY

Lunchtime 13.30-14.00



Chess club

Open to all

Room 3 - Mr Baldwin

Pride Club

Open to all

Room 14 - Miss Ayers

After School 15.05-16.05



D&D Club

If interested, speak to Miss Ayers

Room 14 - Miss Ayers

Football

KS4

Changing Rooms - Mr Till



The electronic tablets are used to develop pupils digital skills, alongside enhancing subject learning.





www.kidsgrovesecondary.org.uk