

HEADTEACHER BULLETIN

Friday 27th of October 2023

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

Dear Parents/Carers,

The half term break is upon us and what a brilliant eight weeks it has been.

Visits to Poland, Manchester and Alton Towers, along with a brilliant enrichment day, open events and some amazing learning experiences across a wide range of subjects.

The next half term looks to be one of our most exciting yet!

We are hosting an extra special Year 11 progress event, a student council led digital event, a Humanities trip to Salford (Imperial War Museum and Geography field trip), the Year 11 mock examinations begin and much more is planned. Once the mock examinations are completed the rest of the school will undertake their first performance assessments of the academic year which will be sat in the hall under strict GCSE examination conditions. Once completed a new look report will be sent home to parents/carers outlining each child's subject performance.

This is an exciting change to the culture at KSS as we celebrate our continued academic focus and relentless focus on students achieving their potential.

At the very end of the autumn term we will hold our first 'Kidsgrove's Got Talent' event which has been planned over a series of weeks and lessons through our project learning curriculum. We cannot wait to see our talented KSS students in action, showcasing their amazing talents.

Thank you to all of the Year 7 parents/carers who attended the 'meet the tutor' event on Wednesday 25.10.23. It was great to get such a positive turnout and for the form tutors to share how well the year group have settled in to life at KSS. Thank you to Dr Ma and Ms Mason for their hard work with this event.

We have also been delighted with the amount of students that are attending extra curricular enrichment sessions this half term which is really pleasing to see and thank you to the staff that go above and beyond in providing this enrichment. There is a poster included within this bulletin outlining what is available for students on our return.

Finally, it has been fantastic this week to celebrate with students their achievements through our celebration assemblies. It was amazing to see so many students came to the front of the hall to be recognised by their teachers for their hard work and continued growth mindset.

We wish everyone a relaxing half term break and a reminder to Year 11 students that there are intervention sessions taking place next week in Hospitality & Catering and Photography.



Upcoming Events:

Half Term Year 11 Intervention Sessions are taking place

Thursday 9.11.23 - Year 11 Progress Event

Friday 10.11.23 - Remembrance Event

Thursday 16.11.23 - Student Council Digital Tournament

Friday 17.11.23 - KS4 Humanities Visit to Salford

Yours faithfully,
Mr S Frost

Headteacher Reward Lunch

I was delighted to be joined by so many students who have received so many positive points this half term. As a thank you for their excellent engagement in lessons and for going above and beyond we treated the students to a free reward lunch. Well done to everyone that was invited.



NEW WEBSITE

The new school website is now fully up to date and full of key information that I am sure you will find useful. Along with the operational information about the school there is also a comprehensive section about the curriculum at KSS. This includes a curriculum map for each subject, so that you can track what your child is learning and when.

Please browse the site @ <https://kidsgrovesecondary.org.uk/> and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch with the subject leads:

Subject Leads contact email addresses:

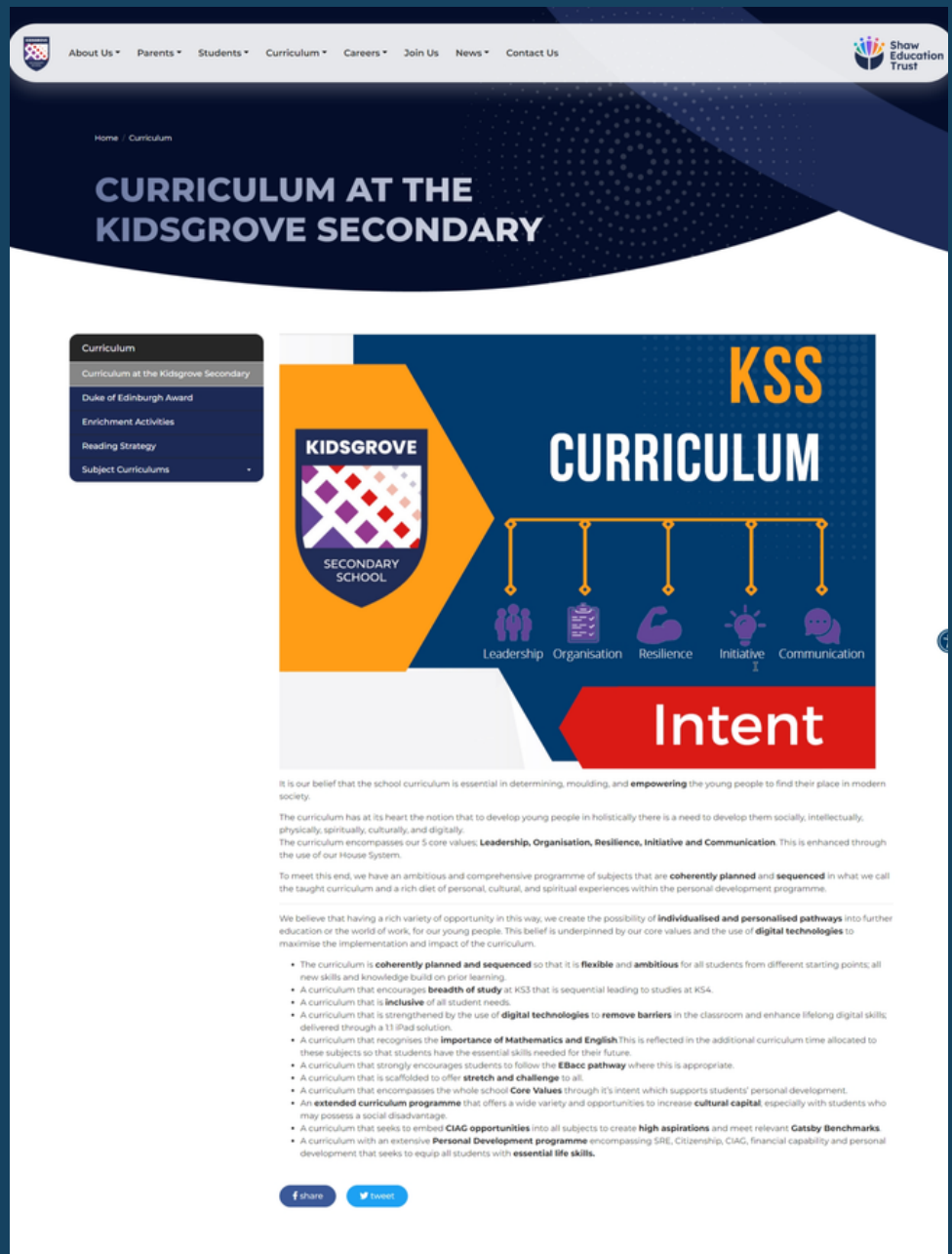
English - Mr Old @ martin.old@kss.set.org

Maths - Mrs Frost @ sarah.frost@kss.set.org

Science - Dr Ma @ Nicola.ma@kss.set.org

Humanities, Computing, Art and Technology - Mrs Weaver @ Larissa.weaver@kss.set.org

PE and Performing Arts - Mrs Castrey @ kim.castrey@kss.set.org



REMEMBRANCE

We have now launched our Poppy appeal in school as we prepare for a special remembrance event on the 10.11.23.

Poppies will be on sale in reception. It would be great to see as many students as possible wear their poppy with pride.



CORE VALUES



STEM

Our Y7s and Y8s took part in a roadshow ran by BAE in collaboration with The Royal Air Force and The Royal Navy celebrating STEM in 'From the depths of the oceans to outer space'.

They thoroughly enjoyed this interesting and informative experience and it was great to see so many of them wanting to volunteer to get up and ask questions!

Well done and a big thank you to the presenting team!



STEM



Attendance

KSS Attendance

Whole School



94.16%

Year group

7 - 94.95%
8 - 94.49%
9 - 93.21%
10 - 93.65%
11 - 94.29%



Best Form

8 HM

97.16%

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



We don't encourage lateness, but if your child feels unwell, ask them to take medication and then come into school. Slightly late is better than a whole day of absence. 1 day of absence = 5 lessons missed

Kidsgrove Secondary School

Attendance Matters

#StopTheDrop



Attendance

There are just **19 school days 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!

The image features a large, festive advent calendar grid set against a dark blue background with white stars. The grid consists of 24 numbered squares, each containing a different holiday-themed illustration: 1. Holly leaves, 2. Chocolate pinecones, 3. Holly leaves, 4. Pinecone with red bow, 5. Chocolate cake with red bow, 6. Snowman, 7. Christmas wreath, 8. Pretzels, 9. Roast turkey, 10. Poinsettia, 11. Christmas tree, 12. Hot chocolate in a mug, 13. Pine branch with holly, 14. Christmas tree, 15. Holly leaves, 16. Christmas pudding, 17. Holly leaves, 18. Hot chocolate in a mug, 19. Three gingerbread men, 20. Ham, 21. Poinsettia, 22. Chocolate pudding, 23. Fruit, 24. Martini glass with holly. To the left of the calendar is a large red Santa hat with a white pom-pom. In the bottom right corner, there is a small illustration of a red house with a snow-covered roof and a chimney. The Kidsgrove Secondary School logo is also present in the bottom right corner of the calendar grid.

FREE ADVENT CALENDAR

KIDSGROVE SECONDARY SCHOOL

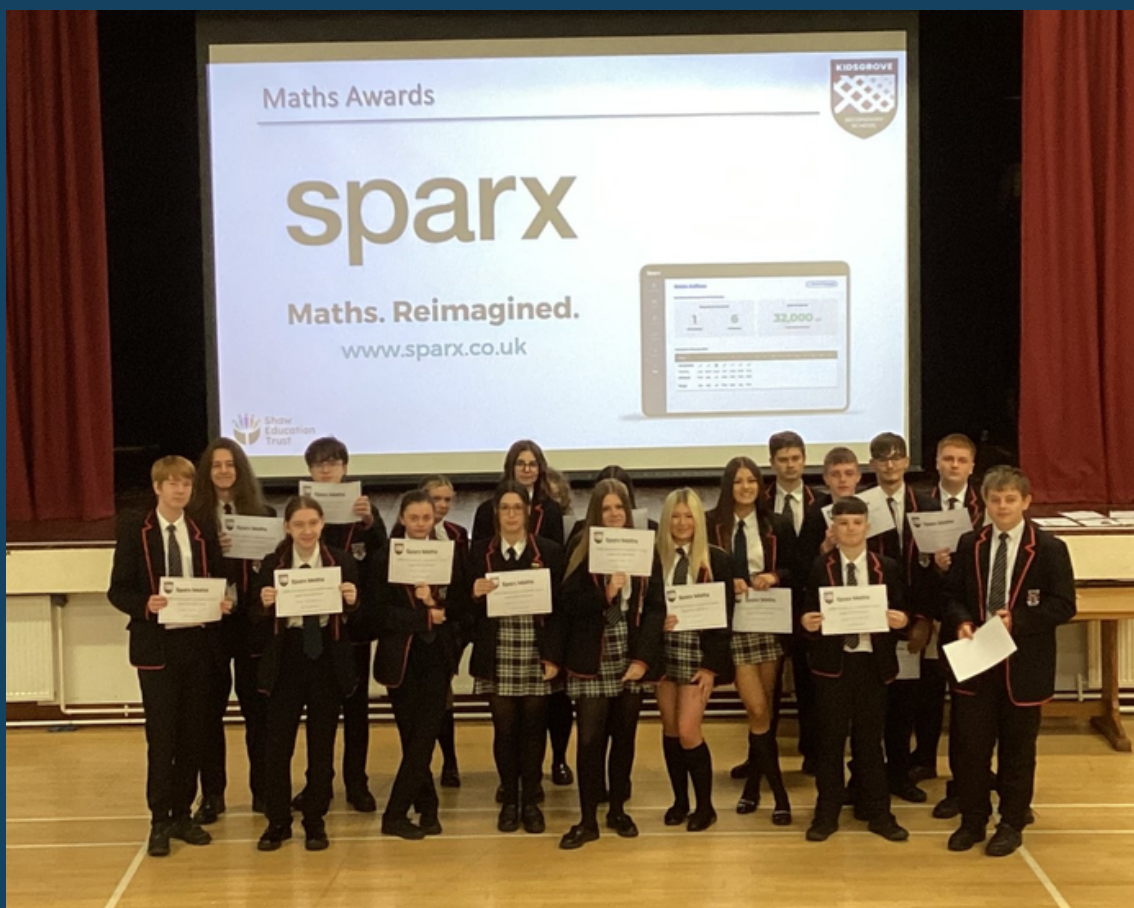
Any student with 100% attendance in November

Celebration Assemblies

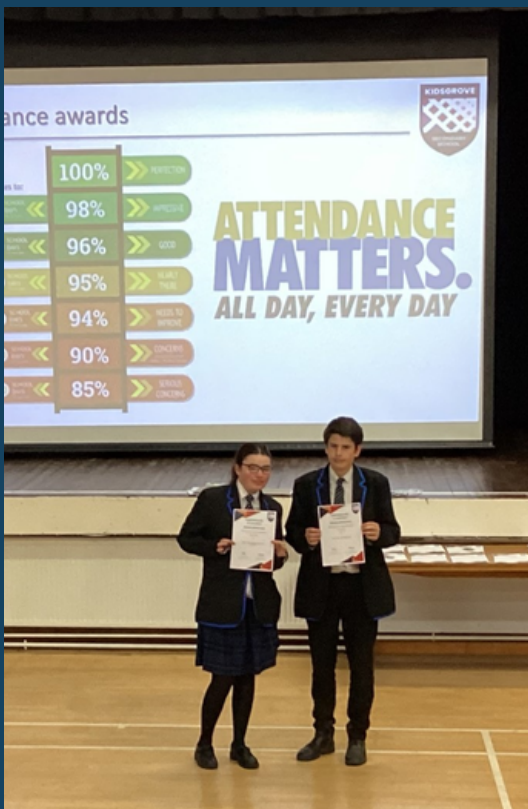
The first half term is complete and yesterday we held celebration assemblies to recognise the students that have gone above and beyond this last 8 weeks. A huge well done to all students that received certificates.



Celebration Assemblies



Celebration Assemblies



Celebration Assemblies



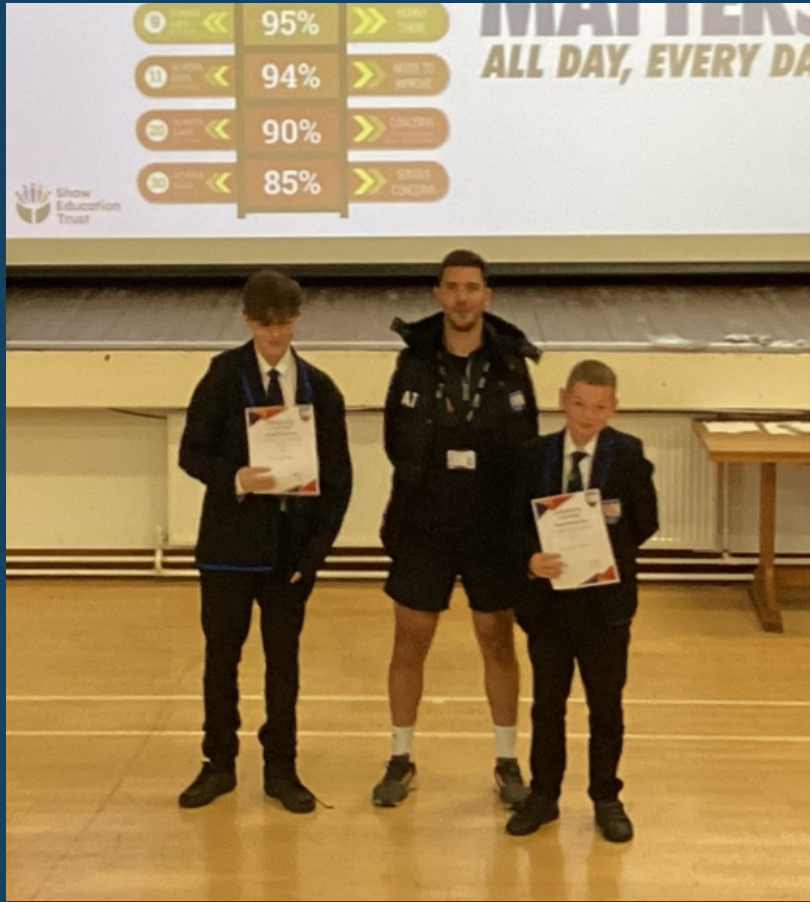

"If you do enough small things right,
BIG THINGS can happen"



**PROUD TO
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KSS**



Celebration Assemblies



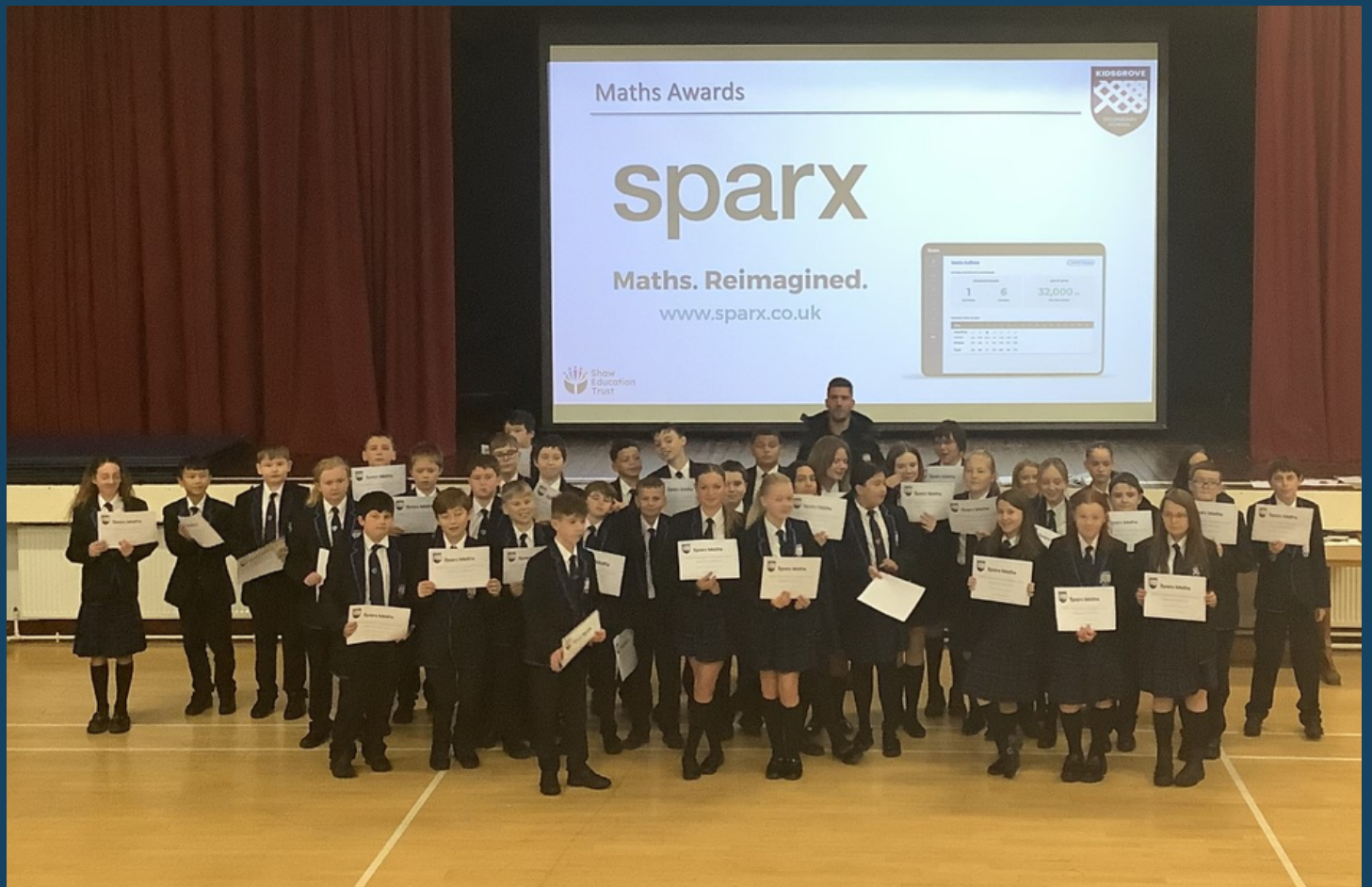
Celebration Assemblies



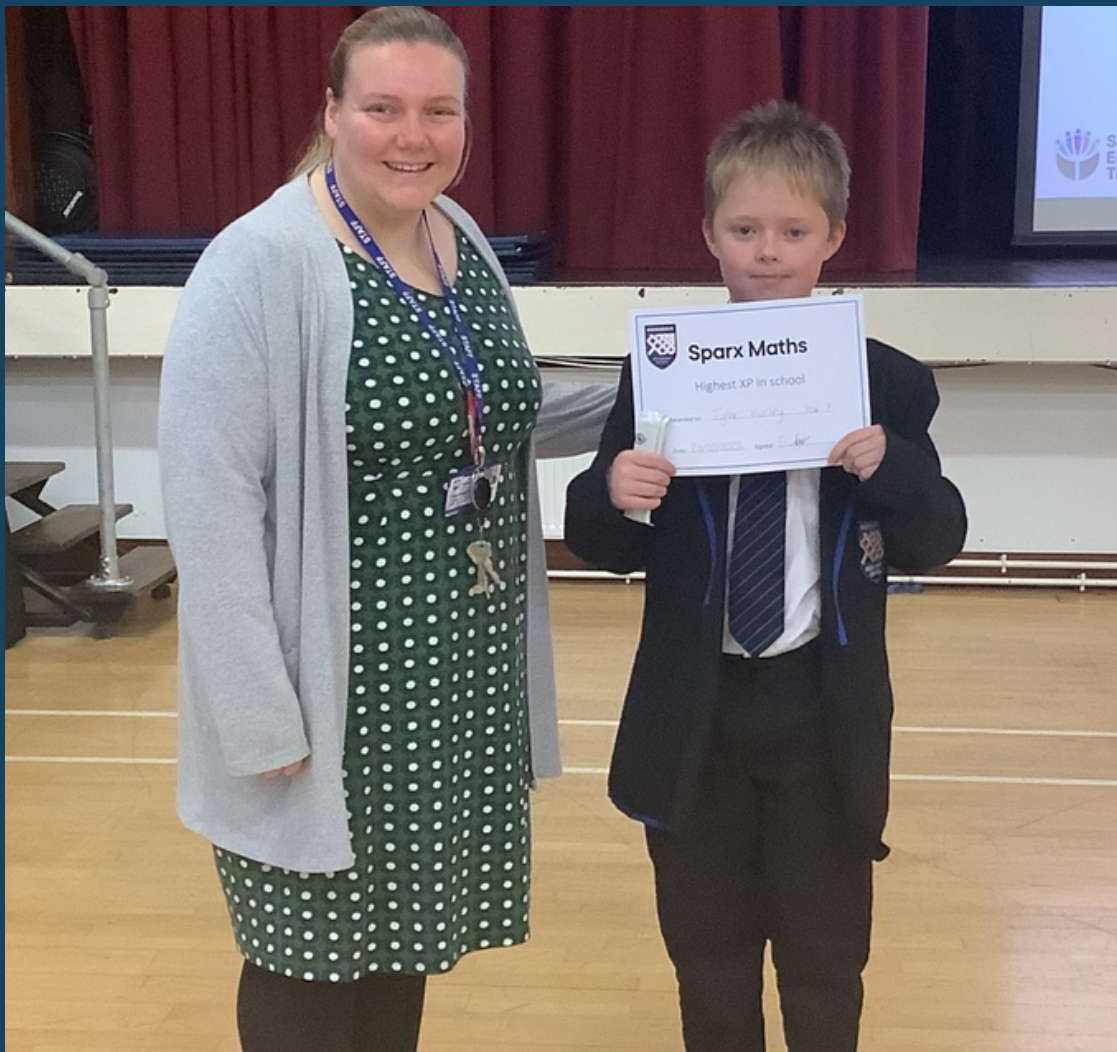
Celebration Assemblies



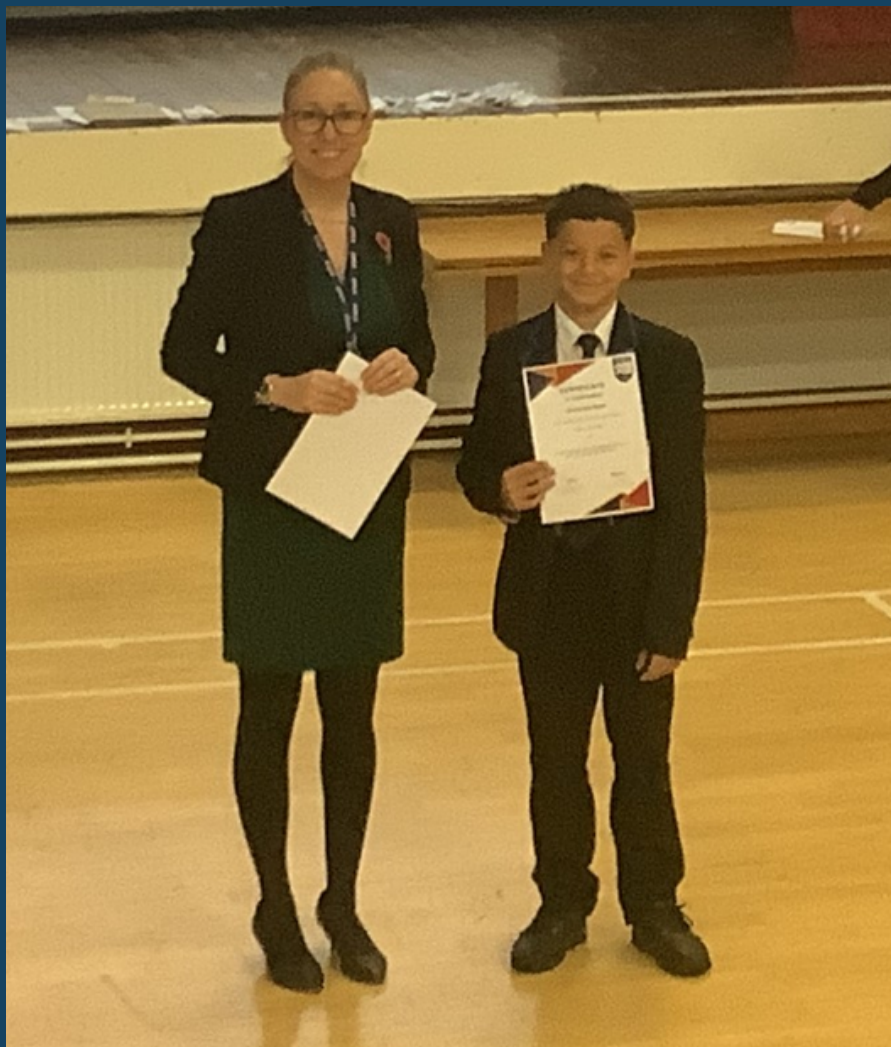
Celebration Assemblies



Celebration Assemblies



Celebration Assemblies



Celebration Assemblies



Celebration Assemblies



Celebration Assemblies



Well Done!



Year 11



YOU ARE INVITED!

Join Us!

Photography Half Term Intervention

Monday 30th October
10am - 2pm



You can do this!
#proudtobekss



Room 15



PROUD TO
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KSS



Spanish



A message from Ms Hud...

Year 11 Spanish students visited Manchester to consolidate some of their learning in "real life". We visited Manchester Art Gallery, where students worked in groups to find artwork that had been described for them in Spanish, and write in Spanish their opinions on art. Despite the rainy weather, we had a walk around the city- seeing culturally significant parts such as China Town, which will enable students to write their views more easily on cities in Spanish. Finally, we tried a variety of Spanish food in La Bandera. Students ordered their drinks well in Spanish, and Churros were the firm favourite.



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Spanish



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



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Spanish



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



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Further Education Open Evenings 2023/2024

Alsager Sixth Form

Thursday 12th October

Time: Starts at 6.00 pm

Cheshire College South and West

Wednesday 11th October

Time: 5.30 pm.- 8.00 pm

Tuesday 21st November

Time: 5.30 pm.- 8.00 pm

City of Stoke-on-Trent sixth form College (Fenton)

Wednesday 11th October

Time: 5.00 pm.- 7.00 pm

Tuesday 21st November

Time: 5.00 pm.- 7.00 pm

Tuesday 27th February

Time: 5.00 pm.- 7.00 pm

Newcastle Under Lyme College

Wednesday 4th October

Time: 5.30 pm.- 8.00 pm

Thursday 16th November

Time: 5.30 pm.- 8.00 pm

Saturday 20th January

Time: 10.00 am.- 12.00 am

Reaseheath College

Saturday 7th October

Register online

Saturday 4th November

Register online

Saturday 2nd December

Register online

Saturday 13th January

Register online

Stoke On Trent College

Wednesday 18th October

Time: 5.00 pm.- 7.30 pm

Wednesday 29th November

Time: 5.00 pm.- 7.30 pm

Wednesday 6th March

Time: 5.00 pm.- 7.30 pm

Saturday 18th May

Time: 10.00 am.- 2.00 pm

St Joseph's 6th Form College

Tuesday 18th October

Time: Starts at 7.00 pm

The Kings Sixth Form

Thursday 22nd February

Time: 4.30 pm.- 6.30 pm

Further Education College Information

Alsager Sixth Form



Cheshire College South and West



City of Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form College (Fenton)



Newcastle Under Lyme College



Reaseheath College



Stoke On Trent College



St Joseph's 6th Form College



The Kings Sixth Form



Uniform



Now that the weather is getting cooler, it is a good time to remind parents and carers of our uniform policy.

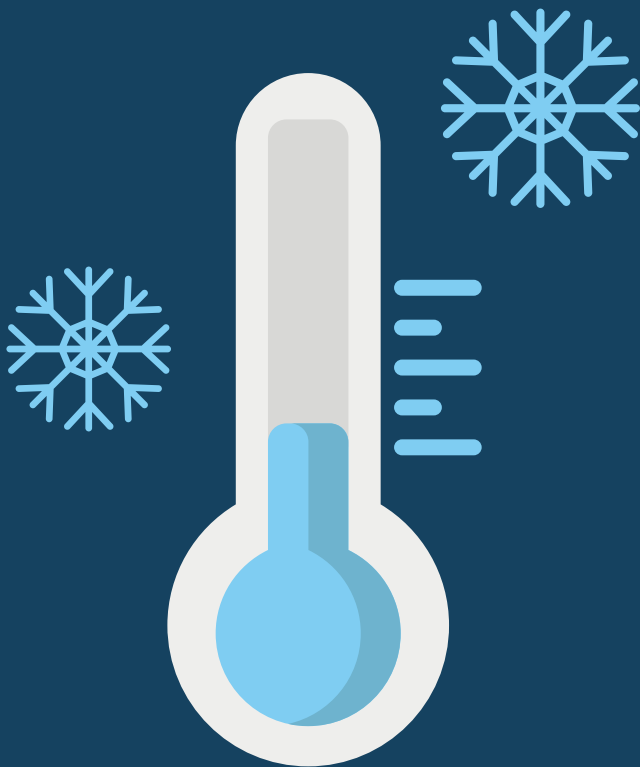
In the colder months, students can wear a **plain black V-neck school jumper** under their blazer for warmth.

No other sweaters/ hoodies are permitted to be worn on the school site.

We have coat racks in reception every morning for students to hang outdoor coats so they don't need to carry them around all day.

If students wish to wear footwear such as boots/ wellies/ trainers to school in icy or wet weather, they need to ensure they have their school shoes with them to change into before going through the double doors into the main corridor.

If any families are struggling with any uniform issue, please don't hesitate to contact us and we will do our best to help.



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



Maths

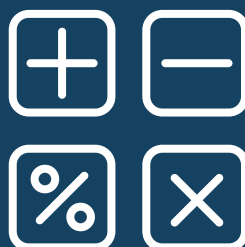
A message from Mrs McDermott...

It has been amazing to see the progress of our students in maths during our first half term; Year 7's have been demonstrating our core values as they have settled in to lessons. Year 8's have continued the outstanding achievement and engagement shown as Year 7's, Year 9's are building confidence and maturity in their learning as they start to move towards GCSE options. Year 10's have positively engaged with the early units of their GCSE maths courses, Year 11's have wholeheartedly taken advantage of intervention and revision sessions offered to prepare them for their upcoming mock exams, their engagement in extracurricular opportunities has been phenomenal.

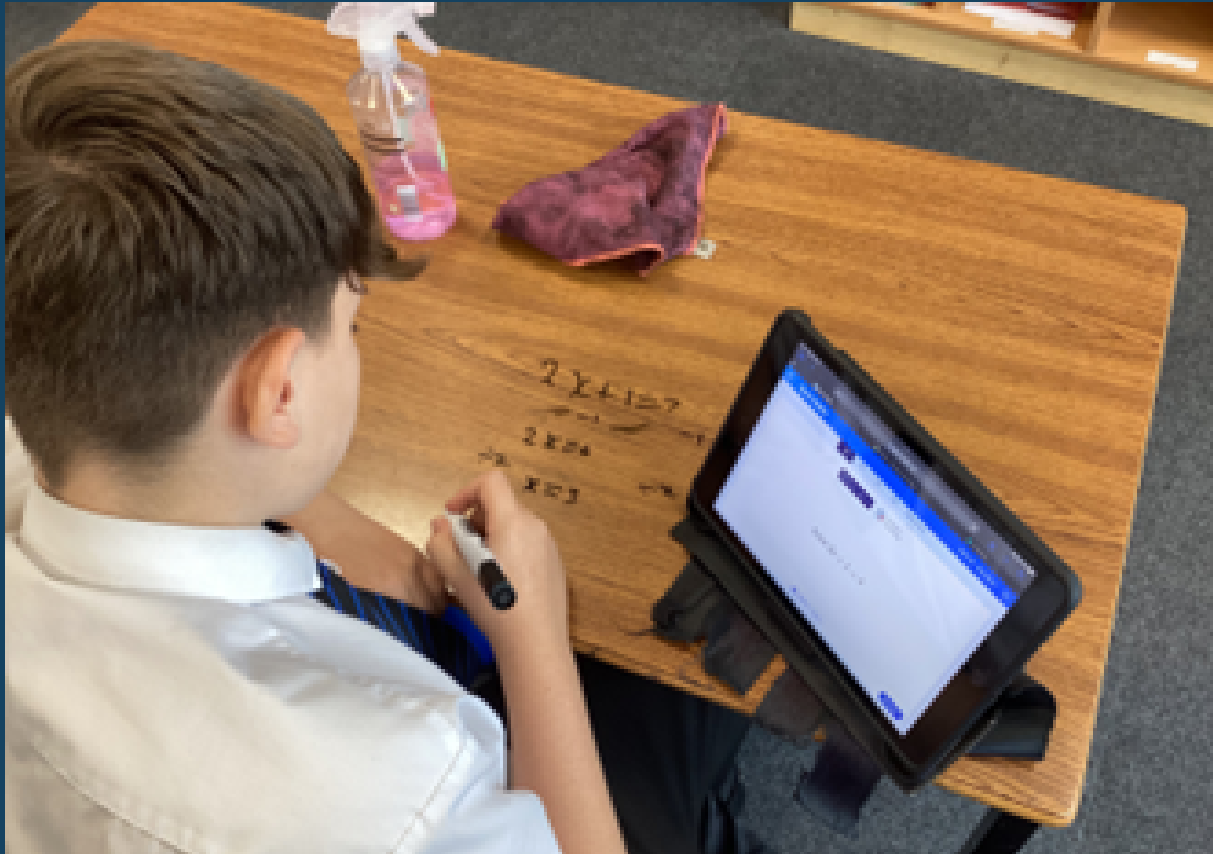
It has been lovely to see so much peer support in lessons across all year groups, not only is this giving our students the opportunity to build confidence in the use of their maths skills, but it is also developing mathematical communication and literacy skills. I have been particularly impressed with the amount of students showing leadership qualities by becoming the teacher, many overcoming their maths anxiety to share their thought processes with the class and model answers at the board.

A key contributor to developing the confidence we are seeing is the use of iPads in conjunction with maths software programs such as MathsPad, MathsBox, Corbett Maths, Maths Genie, Third Space Learning, BBC Bitesize, EED and Sparx Maths. As students have become more proficient in the use of these programs for assessment, recall and retrieval, their independence, resilience and confidence is soaring.

During this week students have had the opportunity to reflect on their learning from this half term using a variety of these programs.

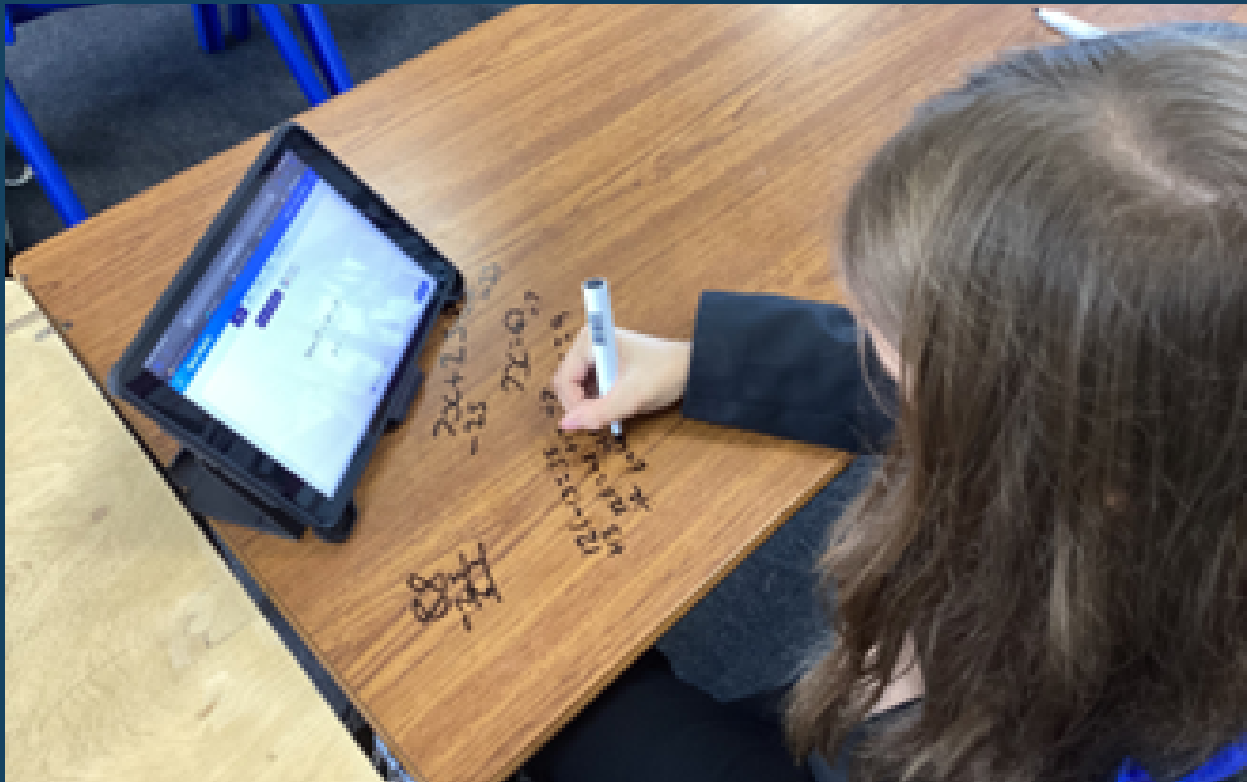
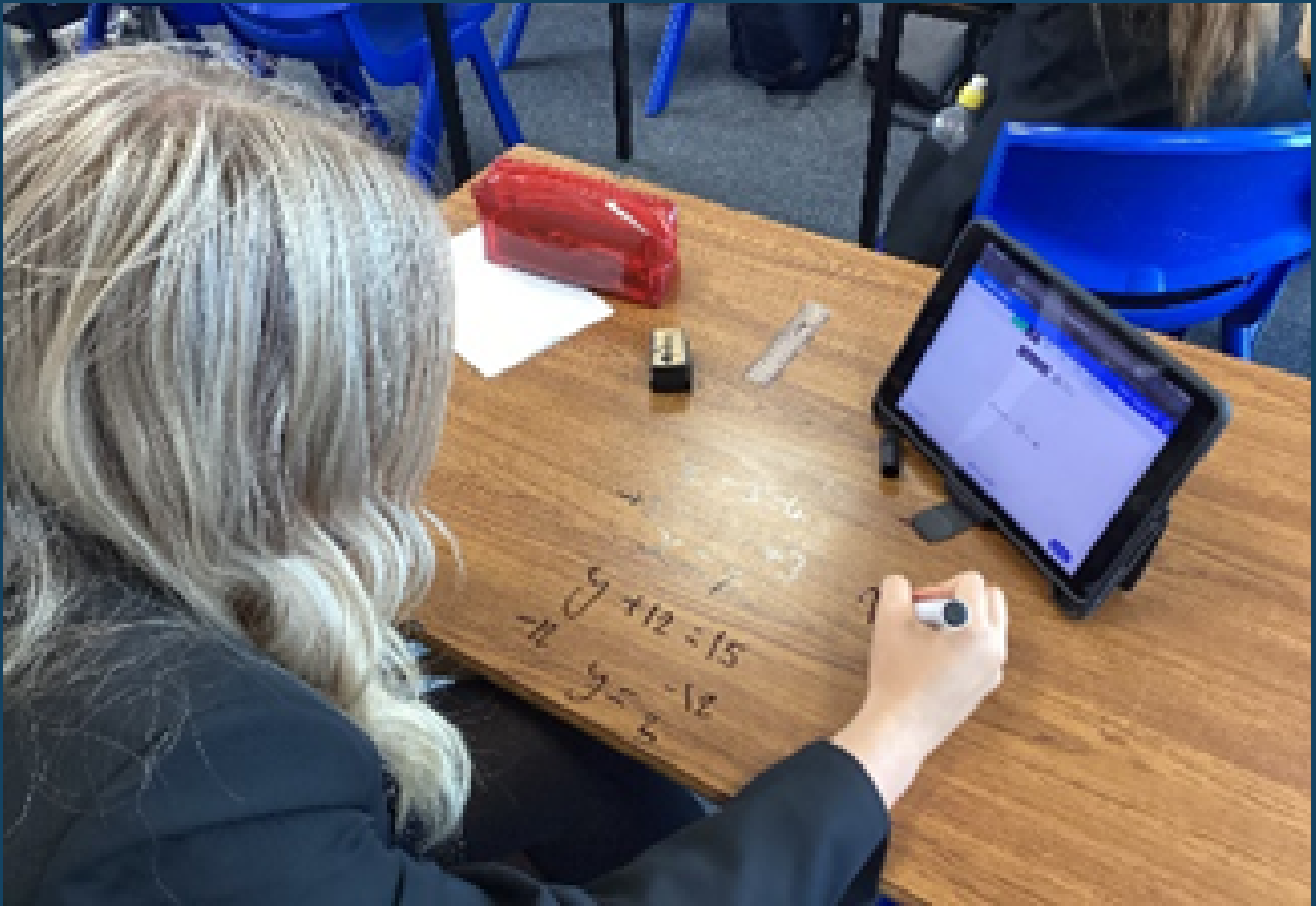


Maths




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

Maths




"If you do enough small things right,
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Maths

A message from Mrs McDermott...

A polite reminder to all Year 11 students that we have after school revision every Tuesday, the uptake has been great and we look forward to welcoming more as the mock exams get closer.

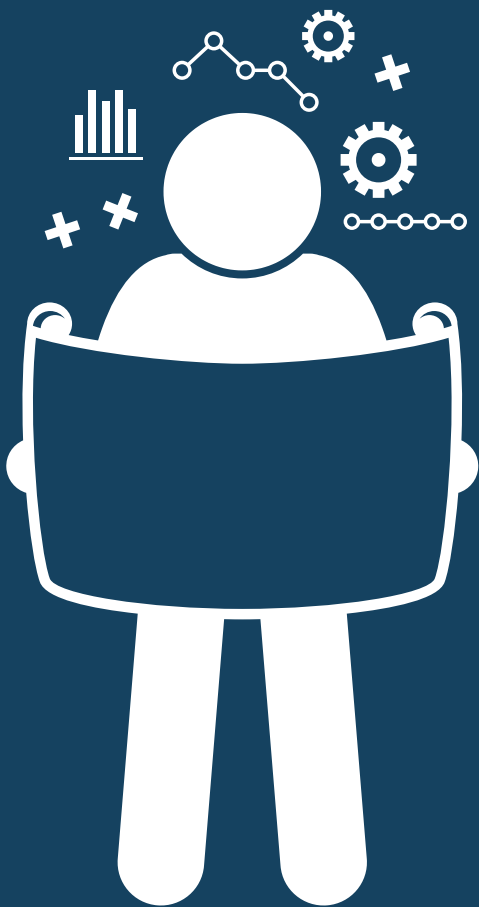
Year 11 Key Dates;

Mock Paper 1 (non-calculator) – Tuesday 21st November

Mock Paper 2 (calculator) – Thursday 23rd November

Mock Paper 2 (calculator) – Wednesday 29th November

Finally, a huge well done to the 150 students that received a certificate in the Celebration Assemblies this week. Every one of these have completed 100% of their Sparx maths homework every week since the start of term. Keep it up!



**PROUD TO
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KSS**



STUDENT COUNCIL 2023-2024

Please meet our new student council for this academic year. We have already held two productive meetings and we are already planning our first event. This will be a digital gaming event on the 16th of November 2023. We cannot wait to plan and get this event off the ground.

KSS STUDENT COUNCIL

7TM - RILEY B

7NM - LEWIS B



8KH - LOGAN J L

8KH - ISAAC B

8HM - AMY B



9MH - ISAAC S

REECE J

9SB - TOMMY D



10EGL - LIAM T

10MO - TYLER S



English



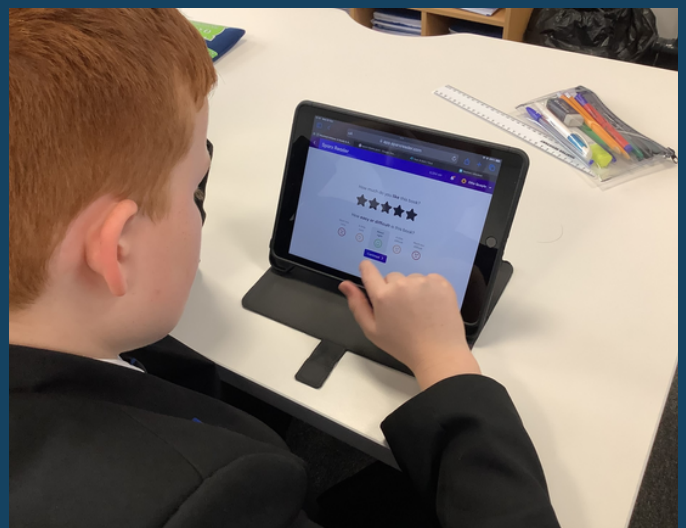
A message from Mr Baldwin

Yet another amazing half term of reading at Kidsgrove Secondary School has come to an end.

Students have continued with their Drop Everything and Read programme, have been working through some fantastic texts in English (from Oliver Twist to Sherlock Holmes to Poetry) and students have also got on board with Sparx Reader as part of their weekly English homework.

A group of Y7, 8 and 9 students have had the opportunity to work with Higher Horizons and Sophia from Staffordshire University as part of Limitless Literacy Club. The feedback about our students was phenomenal and thus cannot wait to return to KSS after the holidays to work with different groups of students!

Thank you for all that you do to support our students with their reading it really is making a difference.=!



House Update



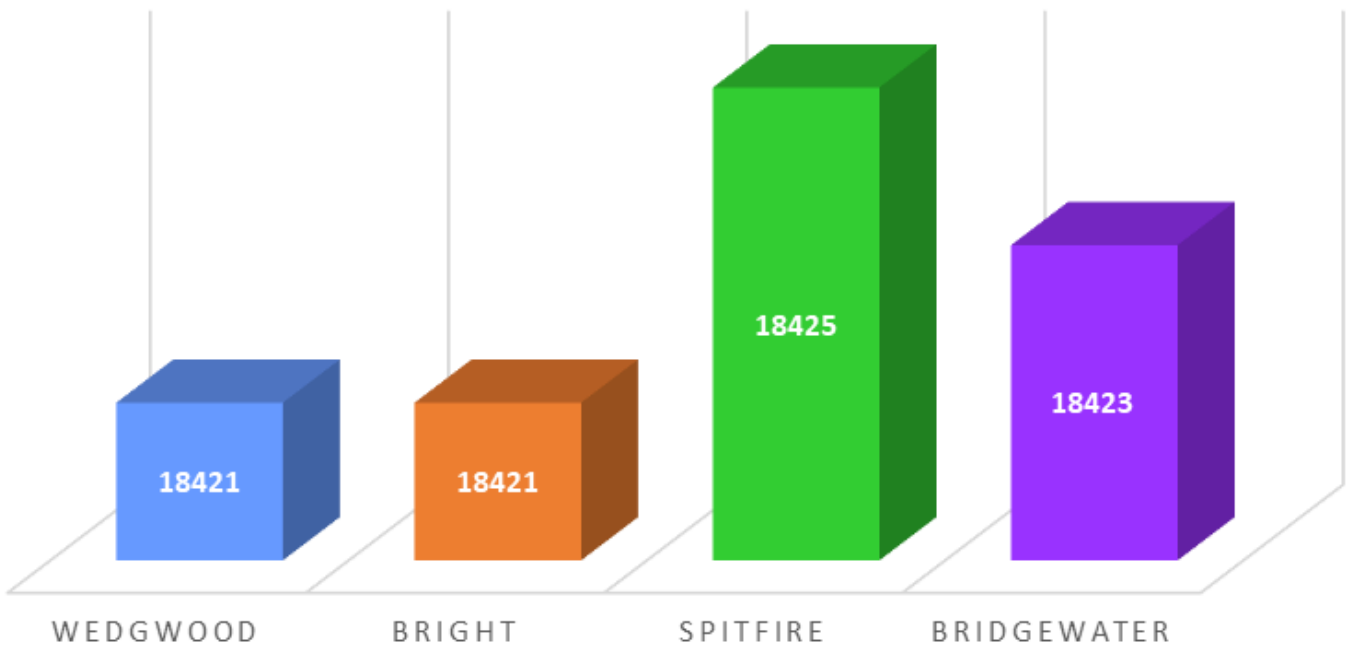
Below are the House totals so far....

These are the House totals at the end of the half term.

It was an incredibly close competition with only a few points separating all Houses!

Well done to the **Spitfire**, who just pipped Bridgewater to the post. Mr Baldwin will be in touch with your prize information very soon.

TOTAL HOUSE POINTS



CORE VALUES



Science

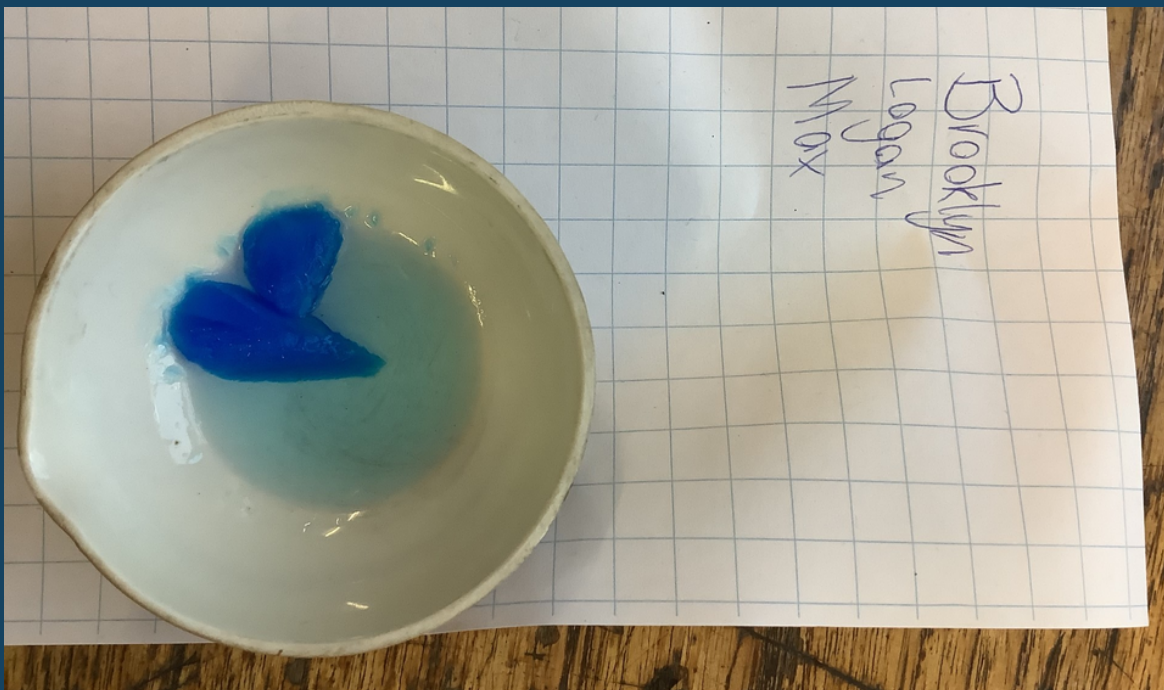
A message from Mrs Grice-Lowe...

Year 8 were challenged to use their knowledge of acid/base Chemistry to grow the biggest copper sulphate crystals in the class 💎

Pupils reacted sulphuric acid with copper oxide and after a little wait for the crystals to form, the results are in!

🏆 Well done to Lilly, Brandon, Zara, Connor and Alfie! 🏆

You will receive a crystal grower's prize during lesson time 🙌💎🧪🏆



Science

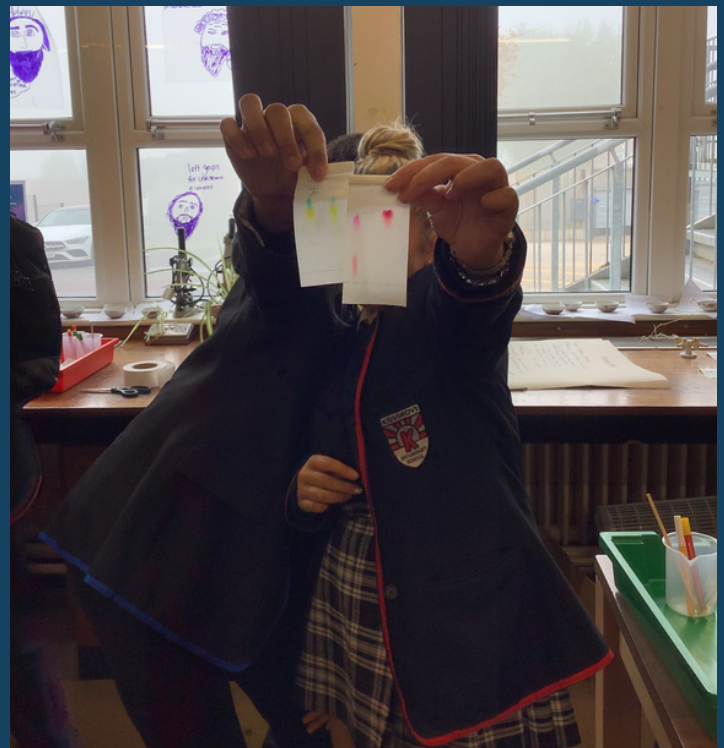
A message from Mrs Grice-Lowe...

Year 11 have been studying how to determine the purity of substances and this week, they analysed inks in pens to find out many pigments were in each colour's formulation. 🧑🏫🖋️

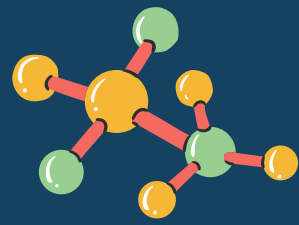
They produced Chromatograms of two similar pens, and calculated Rf values for each pigment; a technique commonly used in Forensic Science to compare pen inks in forgery cases. 🧑🏫👮

They were able to then identify which pigments were common in both inks.

Fantastic work year 11!

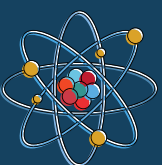


Science



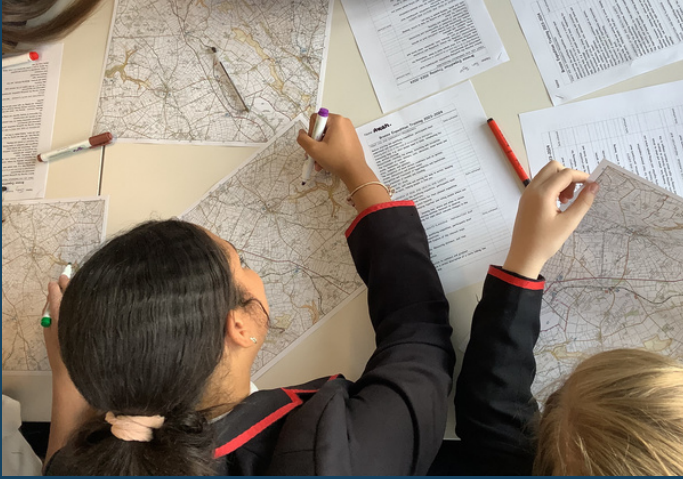
A message from Mrs Postlethwaite...

Year 10 were demonstrating their understanding of communicable and non communicable diseases in Science this week. They were using their iPads to show me what they understood about the topic in a great assessment for learning strategy. Well done Year 10!



Duke of Edinburgh

Over the last few months, it has been great to develop a range of skills preparing our Y10 students as they began their Duke of Edinburgh award.



The first step was to retrieve their map reading skills to ensure that they are able to read maps, navigate and plan their routes.



We have also thought about what food we may take with us and what would be nutritional.

Our favourite session so far was trangia safety. After discussing how to be safe and how to set them up we had a go and celebrated our success with a hot chocolate and biscuits.



Our next session after half term, will revisit trangia safety and instill our core values alongside our culinary skills.

We will use:

- Organisation to see how best to plan our meals as a team.
- Communication to ensure our meal is ready at the same time.
- Initiative when thinking about what to cook.



Project Learning

Project Based Learning is a teaching method that makes learning come alive for students.

Students work on a project over an extended period for example a term or half-term. A topic is provided that engages students in solving a real-world problem or answering a complex question.

Students demonstrate their knowledge and skills by creating a product or presentation for a real audience.

As a result, students develop deep content knowledge as well as critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, and communication skills. Project Based Learning unleashes a contagious, creative energy among students and teachers.



Project Learning

Our KS3 pupils (Y7, 8 and 9) are currently engaged in the following projects: Y7 have been creating Spanish maths resources to be used by Y5 and Y6 pupils at Kidsgrove Primary School, Y8 have been planning and performing a Remembrance service for local veterans and a whole school assembly and Y9 are organising and performing in our Christmas show for parents and carers.



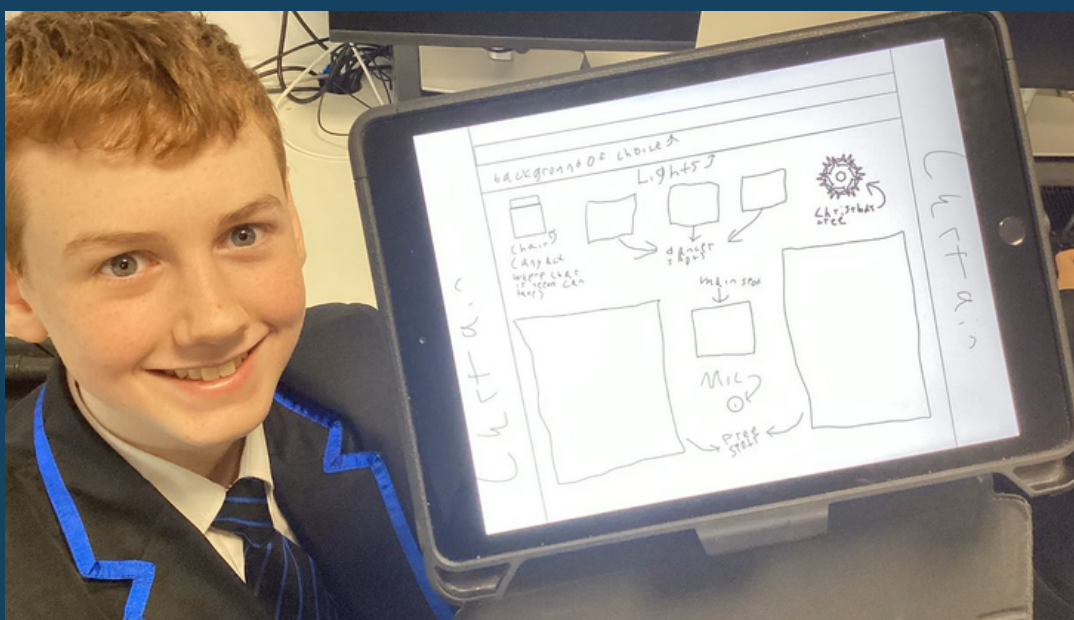
Project Learning

Y7 will be working on the following projects over the coming academic year; using our new SPIKE Lego sets to build and program robots that will perform certain tasks, using Scratch to compose a piece of music and building a F1 racing car to compete in a racing competition.

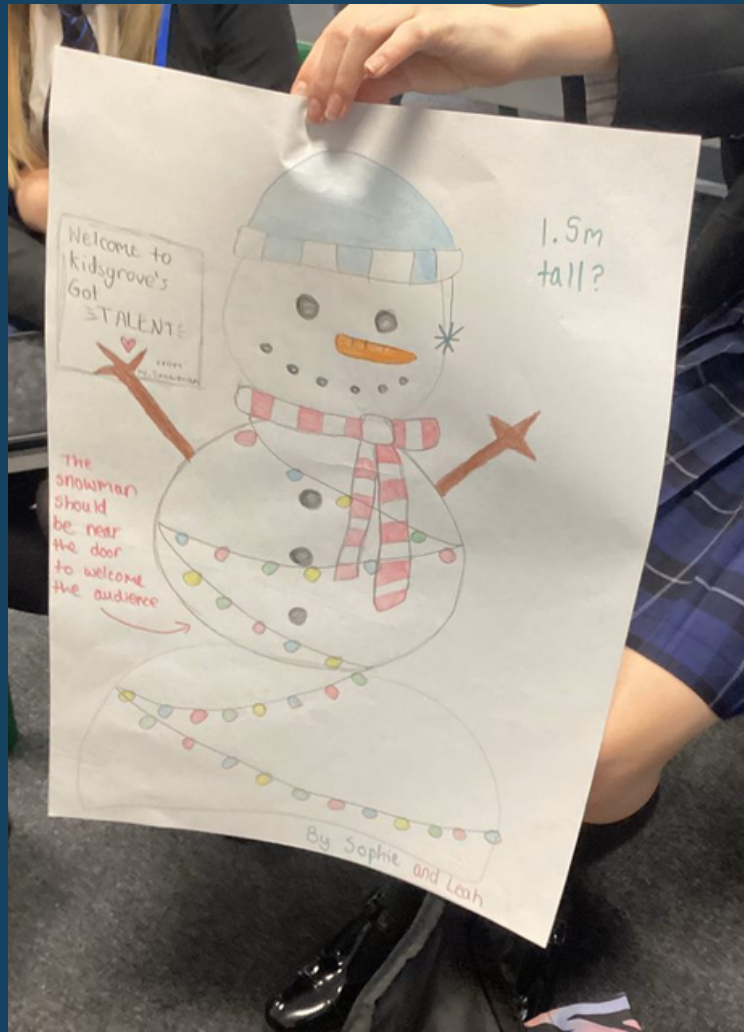
Y8 will be designing, building, testing, and competing in a robot war with your very own robot! Creating art, music, and food from Spain to invite the community to come along to our gallery evening.

Y9 will be creating art, music, and food from Spain with year 8 to invite the community to come along to our gallery evening and getting involved with the robot wars competition.

The students have really enjoyed taking control of their own learning and we are so excited to see the finished projects – Well done KS3!



Project Learning



Technology

A message from Mrs Bryan...

The students have been extremely busy being creative over the last 6 weeks. Below is a flavour of their brilliance from their technology practical lessons in the new state of the art food room.



Technology




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



**PROUD TO
BE
KSS**



Technology

A message from Mrs Bryan...

8S baking shortbread, they weighed out, combined ingredients and baked. All were able to follow the recipe correctly and worked safely. Some wonderful results that were tested by Mr Baldwin and Mrs Postlethwaite. Well done 8S!



Technology

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8S baking shortbread, they weighed out, combined ingredients and baked. All were able to follow the recipe correctly and worked safely. Some wonderful results that were tested by Mr Baldwin and Mrs Postlethwaite. Well done 8S!




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Kidsgrove Secondary School



SEPT - NOV

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

Art Club

Open to all

Room 10 - Miss Mason

WEDNESDAY

After School
15.05-16.05



Netball

Y9, 10 and 11

Changing Rooms - Mrs Castrey

Football

Y9 and Y10

Changing Rooms - Mr Till

Y11

Changing Rooms - Mr Frost

THURSDAY

After School
15.05-16.05



Art Club

Open to all

Room 10 - Miss Mason

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

After School
15.05-16.05



Volleyball

KS4

Gym - Mr Till

Trampolining

KS4

Hall - Mrs Castrey



Photography

A message from Mrs Bryan...

The Yr11 Photography students completed their first photoshoot taking pictures based on the work of Irving Penn. Irving Penn's work includes black and white images, pictures of skulls and bones, portraits and still life. I was really impressed with the creativity the students displayed when producing their images. Well done.



Photography



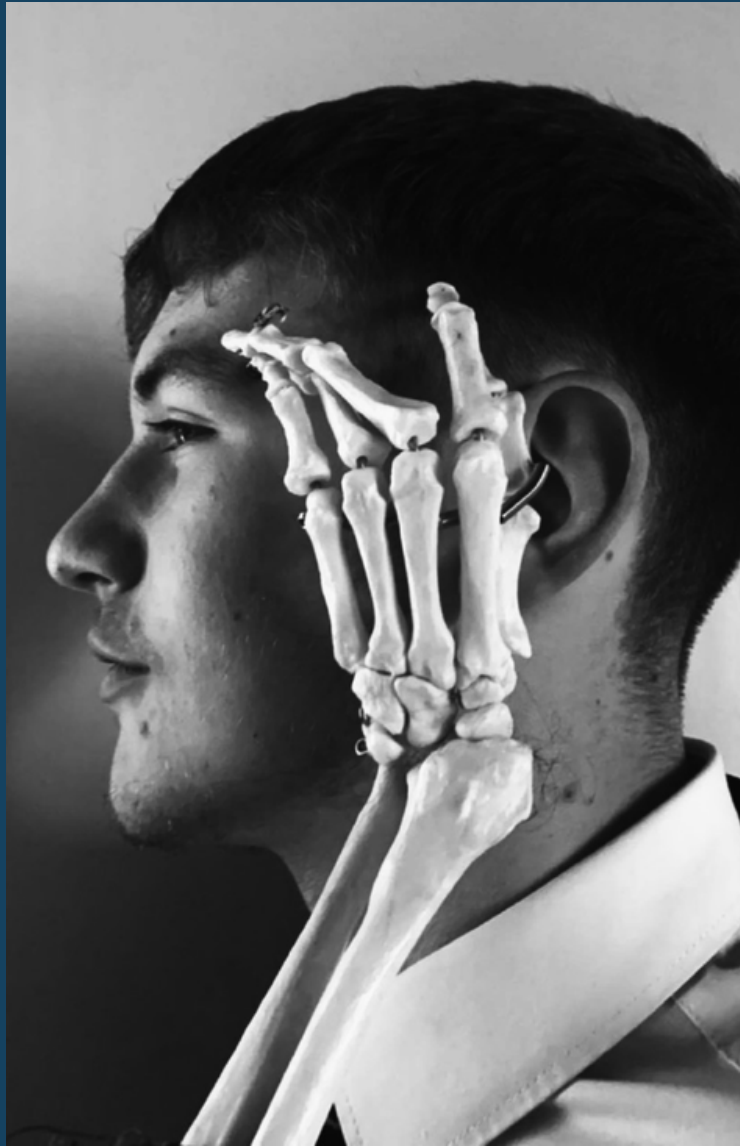
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**PROUD TO
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KSS**



Photography



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**PROUD TO
BE
KSS**



Physical Education

A message from Mrs Castrey...



PE CLUBS

Tuesday



Y7/ 8 Football

Wednesday



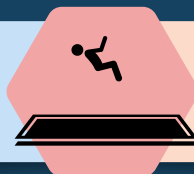
**Netball (all years)
Y10 & 11 Football**

Thursday



GCSE Revision Club

Friday



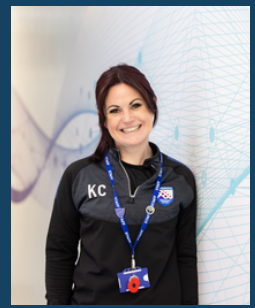
**Trampolining (all years)
KS4 Volleyball**

More KS3 clubs will commence after the October half term break.

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



Physical Education



A message from Mrs Castrey...

Are are changing the way we assess our students in PE.
We are moving to using the 'Head, Heart, Hands' approach.

Students will be assessed practically (Hands), on their knowledge and understanding of the sport (Head) and through their demonstration of core values across PE (Heart).

Each half term students will be given a knowledge organiser with key skills, rules and tactics for them to revise from. They will then complete a short quiz based on this. At each data capture, students will sit a larger exam in the hall, similar to other subjects.

This will give us a holistic view of the students ability and knowledge of each sport.

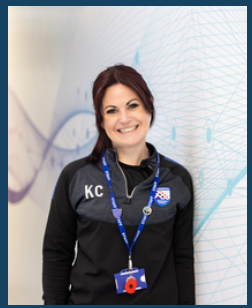
This information was shared with KS3 students during an assembly this week.

Head	Heart	Hands
1. Knowledge	1. Communication	1. Physical Ability
2. Understanding	2. Leadership	2. Fitness Levels
3. Analysis	3. Respect	3. Competitive
4. Feedback	4. Resilience	4. Technique
5. Responsibility	5. Effort	5. Tactics
6. Rules	6. Confidence	6. Problem Solving



Physical Education

A message from Mrs Castrey...



PE Kit

As we approach the end of the first half term we have become increasingly concerned at a small – but rising – number of students who are extending the boundaries of bringing the correct PE kit to lessons. Please read below to clarify what the PE kit should be to ensure that your son/daughter is fully prepared in correct kit at the start of the next half term.

- **Kidsgrove school PE T-shirt (black and blue) – NO FOOTBALL TOPS**
- **Plain black sports shorts (no cycling shorts or Nike Pro shorts)**
- **Plain black tracksuit bottoms or plain black sports leggings**
- **Kidsgrove school hoodie (black and blue)**
- **Training shoes NOT pumps or Converse. Shoes that are worn around school as part of the school uniform are not suitable for PE.**
- **Long hair must be tied back; a hair bobble is part of PE kit.**
- **Girls should not wear false nails or jewellery in PE lessons or have excessively long nails as it poses a safety issue.**
- **Shin pads are compulsory for Football and Hockey.**
- **A gum shield is compulsory for Rugby and Hockey.**

We recognise that the cost of living may impact school PE kit. To aid with this we have made the decision to allow plain black shorts, leggings and tracksuit bottoms instead of the school kit with the badge on. **Please ensure that any shorts worn are not cycling shorts or Nike Pro shorts.** There has been an increasing number of students wearing inappropriate length shorts for PE lessons.

We ask you, as parents/ carers to please support us on this PE kit issue and ensure that your child is appropriately dressed for PE so that they can participate well and safely.

