

HEADTEACHER BULLETIN

Friday 31.1.25

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

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, thank you to all of you that have fed back regarding the parents evening format that we shared in our Headteacher bulletin two weeks ago.

I am delighted to share that the majority of parents/carers would prefer a face to face event for any future parents evenings. I am sure you will all agree that a face to face format will allow for more productive discussions about your child's progress and it will also be great to welcome you into the school environment to get a feel of our wonderful school culture.

Over the course of the last few weeks, we have had a conscious focus upon celebrating our creative subjects, as these are some of the most engaging lessons from our curriculum. This edition of the bulletin is dedicated to these lessons where students can showcase their creative and artistic talents. Whether this is in food technology making delicious dishes, in Art where students experiment with different styles of artistic resources, in computing where students are digitally creative or in performing arts lessons where students express themselves through dance and drama. There are lots of pages within this edition dedicated to these lessons and the students achievements.

Over the last few weeks myself, Mrs Postlethwaite and Mrs Weaver have spent time in the Maths department, observing lessons across all year groups. I must say that we have been delighted with the progress students have made and the progress that they have been making across a wide range of topics. There is real challenge in lessons and its great to see students rise to this challenge so well, stretching themselves mathematically.

Finally, we have Year 10 parents evening taking place next Thursday and we will also be holding our celebration assemblies in the final week of the half term. The celebration assemblies will focus upon the student successes from the autumn term performance assessments. We have been delighted with how students are progressing and its important that we celebrate this collectively as part of our vibrant achievement culture.



Upcoming Events



Thursday 6.2.25 - Year 10 Parents Evening
Monday 10.2.25 - Year 11 Intervention Week Starts
Friday 14.2.25 - Headteacher Reward Lunch

Yours faithfully,
Mr S Frost

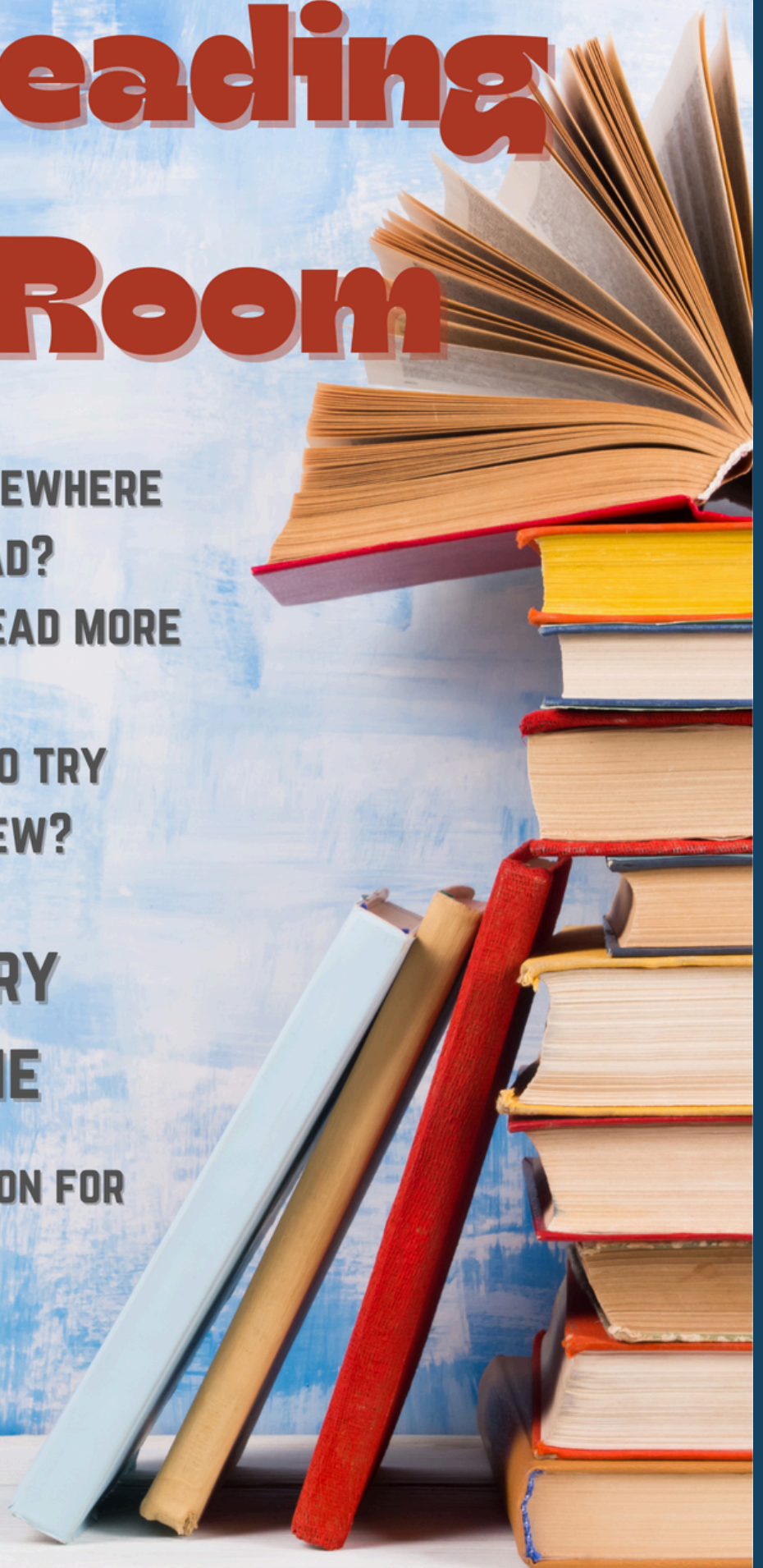


Reading Room

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



Parents Evening Feedback

Thank you to all 140 parents & carers that completed the recent feedback survey about parents evenings.

As a result of this feedback all of the parents evenings will now move to face to face events at school.

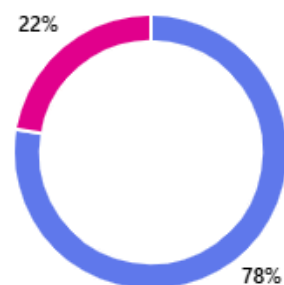
We cannot wait to invite you all into school.



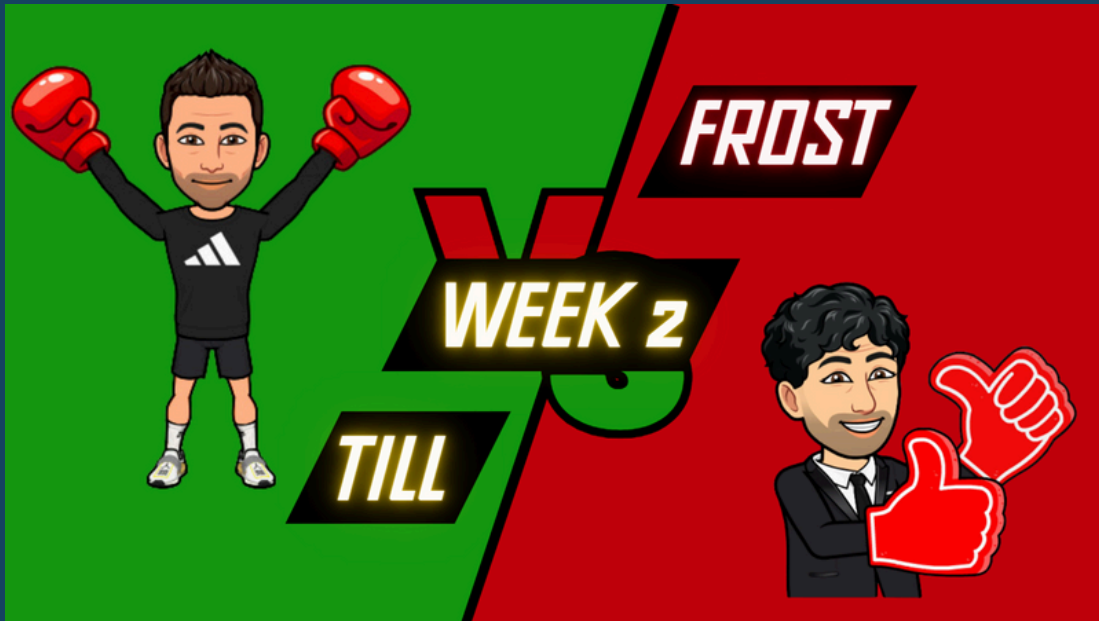
1. I would like parents evenings to be in the following format:

[More details](#)

- Face to Face (in person at the school) 108
- Online (virtual through the School Cloud Portal) 31



Frost vs Till

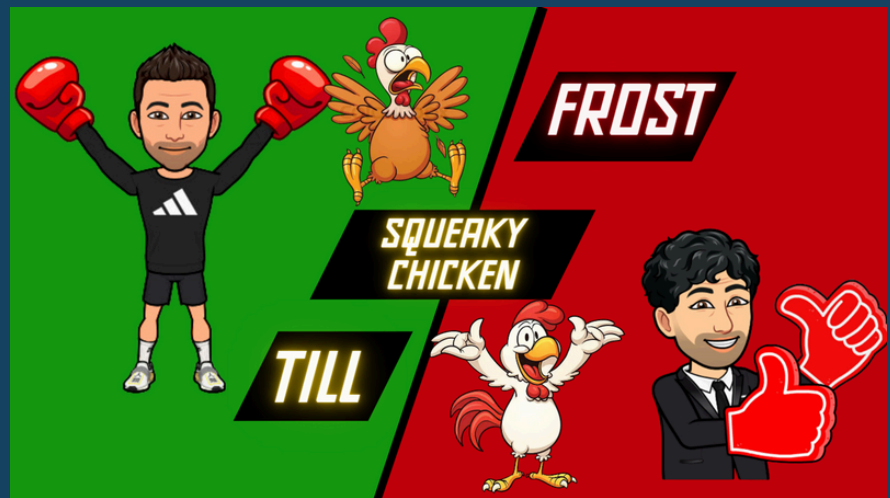


Week 2 of Frost vs Till concluded with a resounding win for Team Frost. This week’s challenge was an amusing ‘squeaky chicken’ game, which dealt the final blow for Team Till. Both teams have achieved a weeks win! With two more weeks to go, who will win Team Frost or Team Till?

Leader Board				
Week	Attendance	Behaviour	Above & Beyond	Challenge
1	1 POINT	1 POINT	1 POINT	1 POINT
2	1 POINT	1 POINT	1 POINT	1 POINT
3				
4				



Frost vs Till



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

KIDSGROVE
SECONDARY SCHOOL

PROUD TO BE KSS

KIDSGROVE
SECONDARY SCHOOL

Shaw Education Trust

Attendance



Attendance

JANUARY

J U M P S T A R T



13th Jan - 7th Feb

**100% Attendance
January half-term**

**Breakfast & brew
Gift card prize draw**

Kidsgrove Secondary School

Attendance Matters

#StopTheDrop



Attendance

**Whole School YTD:
93.5%**

YEAR 7 - 96.4%



YEAR 8 - 93.7%

YEAR 9 - 93.3%

YEAR 10 - 91.8%

YEAR 11 - 91.3%

**National Average:
91.8%**



Kidsgrove Secondary School

Attendance Matters

#StopTheDrop



Form Attendance



Kidsgrove Secondary School

Attendance Matters

#StopTheDrop



Year 11 Intervention

We have a number of Year 11 Intervention sessions that are on during the school day and after school.

Please encourage your child to attend as they really do have a big impact on progress!

Intervention Timetable



	Form time	Lunch time	After school
Monday			
Tuesday	Maths	7+ Maths (SFt)	Maths Higher Chemistry (EGL)
Wednesday	English Maths	5+ Maths (SFt)	English (MO) PE (AT & KHA) Biology (EP) History 7+ (SF)
Thursday			Photography (SB) Art (TM) Physics (NM)
Friday	PP Mentoring	Art (TM)	Spanish (KH) Geography (LW) Maths Foundation



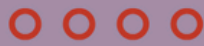


WORLD

Book Day

— MARCH 6TH —

Book Swap**The Masked Reader**Swap the story writing challenge**Bookmark making and lots more!




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



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Half term Intervention

In addition to the weekly intervention sessions, we are also pleased to offer some additional support sessions over the February half term break.

Please encourage students to sign up for these by speaking to their Subject teacher.

Half Term Revision



monday

9-11am Geography with Mrs Weaver

tuesday

*9-11am Photography with Mrs Bryan
12-2pm Higher Maths with Mrs Frost*

wednesday

9-11am History with Mr Frost

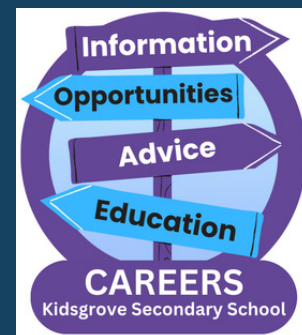
thursday

9-11am Art with Mrs Mason

friday



Work Experience



Y10 Work Experience

Monday 30th June – Friday
4th July 2025



During this week you will be out in the work place rather than in school unless you can not arrange a placement.

**NEXT
STEP**

Talk to parents, friends and teachers about what you might want to do.



Decided what you want to do and have contacted the company



Added the information on to your ConnectEd app for verifying and checks to be carried out.

During the first week in July, we are looking for all of our Y10s to be out on Work Experience.

Work experience is important for Year 10 students because it helps them develop essential skills, gain insight into potential career paths, and build confidence in a professional environment by:

- developing key skills
- exploring possible careers
- building confidence
- improving CV and future applications
- providing network opportunities.

Are you able to support us?

By offering a work experience placement, your business can shape the future workforce, spark ambition, and give young minds a chance to shine.

- ◆ Inspire the next generation – Share your expertise and ignite passion in young people.
- ◆ Boost your business – Fresh ideas, enthusiasm, and potential future talent at your doorstep.
- ◆ Make a difference – A small opportunity for them, a huge step toward their future success.

Join us in empowering young talent—be the business that helps students take their first step into the working world!

✉ Get in touch today to offer a placement and invest in tomorrow's workforce! – communications@kss.set.org

**Call to
Action**

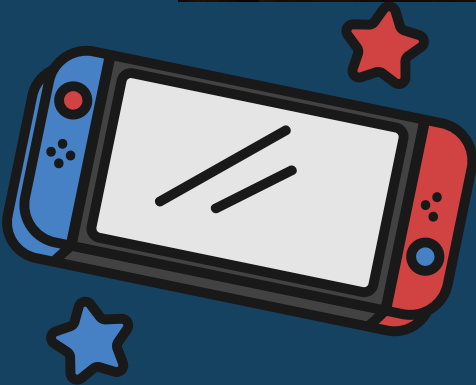


Digital Tournament

The student council delivered once again!

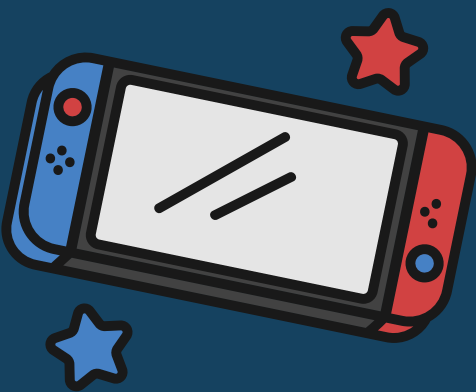
Another amazing digital event that saw a record number of students take part. Thank you to all of the student council members for your hard work. It was a very competitive event with a very close final match to crown the victors.

Well done to all teams that took part and thank to Mr Gillespie and Mr Allen for supporting the event.



Digital Tournament

To top it off, the final game was live streamed to all classes via our YouTube channel. It was a great way to end the day. Thank you to Tommy D for being our streaming expert and making the stream happen so seamlessly.



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

Digital Tournament




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

Digital Tournament




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



**PROUD TO
BE
KSS**



What is next?

FRIDAY 7TH MARCH

ENRICHMENT DAY 3

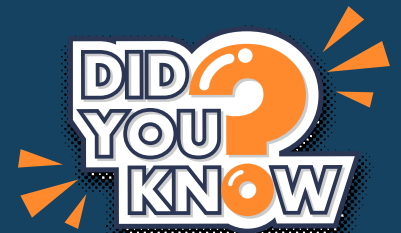
During the first week in March, we will continue to delve into the world of work as part of National Careers Week. We are currently working on an exciting day where we will welcome visitors from different jobs and careers in to our school to present talks and real life activities for our students. Students will also get the opportunity to take part in a treasure hunt linked to our staffs routes into their careers.



We are looking forward to continuing our work with Higher Horizons who will be coming into school to present an assembly on Higher Education to our Y11s in March. They will also be back to work with our Y9s and Y10s later in the year as well as revisiting us with the popular StarDome later in the year.

During form time, students take part in 'World of Work' sessions where they have been investigating the ten ECF skills identified by employers. We have been looking at;

World of Work



- how they fit in to our core values
- what employers want linked to these skills
- how we can develop these areas
- how they fit into our jobs of the week.



We have also been investigating 'Crazy Careers' to raise awareness of the range of opportunities out there. It has certainly got conversations going.

Half Term 3 Enrichment



Kidsgrove
Secondary
School

JAN - FEB

EXTRA CURRICULAR ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MONDAY

Lunchtime
13.30-14.00



Science support

KS3

Room 23 - Dr Ma

After School
15.05-16.05



Science club

Y7 and Y8

Science Rm - Miss Wood

TUESDAY

Lunchtime
13.30-14.00



Science support

KS3

Room 23 - Dr Ma

After School
15.05-16.05



Dance club

Open to all

Fitness Suite - Ms Wagstaff



Art Open Studio

Open to all

Room 10 - Mrs Mason

WEDNESDAY

Lunchtime
13.30-14.00



Choir

Open to all

Room 26 - Ms Wagstaff



Young Carers Club

Invites

Conference Room - Ms Potts

After School
15.05-16.05



Graphic Design Club

KS3

Room 15 - Ms Morrell



Drama club

KS3

Room 26 - Ms Wagstaff



Art Open Studio

Open to all

Room 10 - Mrs Mason



KS3 Football

KS3

Changing Rm - Mr Hilditch

THURSDAY

Lunchtime
13.30-14.00



Music

Open to all

Room 26 - Ms Wagstaff

After School
15.05-16.05



GCSE Open studio

GCSE Art

Room 10 - Mrs Mason



Netball

Y7, 8 and 9

Changing Rm - Ms Wagstaff



Trampolining Club

Y7

Changing Rm - Ms Hambleton



Reading club

Open to all

Reading Room - Ms Tucker



Duke of Edinburgh

Y9-11

Room 7 - Miss Hud and Mrs Weaver



Cooking club

Open to all

Tech - Week 2 - Mrs Bryan

FRIDAY

Lunchtime
13.30-14.00



Chess club

Open to all

Room 2 - Mr Old



Pride club

Open to all

Room 14 - Miss Ayers

After School
15.05-16.05



Trampolining

All Years

Hall - Ms Hambleton



KS4 Football

Y10 and Y11

Changing Rm - Mr Frost

Careers and Further Education

Y10 ESports @ Newcastle College

The Esports Extravaganza was a wonderful event designed to bring together students from across the district for a day of information and friendly competition. Held at Newcastle College, the event featured various esports activities, engaging workshops, and experienced group leaders, with the Rocket League competition being the highlight of the day.

After a brief introduction, the day was split into 3 segments:

1. Understanding character design and using specialist websites to design a character fit for purpose.
2. Understanding and learning the mechanics of Rocket League ready to compete in the preliminary rounds of the competition
3. Using initiative to understand 'Overwatch' and 'League of Legends' as our specialists wanted the students to experience the games without too much exposition allowing for free exploration.

Following the students experiencing all given activities; the day ended with the finals of the Rocket League competition in which 2 students from Kidsgrove (and one student from Ormiston) battle against a team of Ormiston students and were sadly knocked down at the final hurdle.

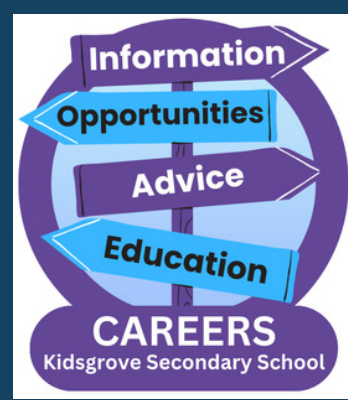
I was really impressed with the students' engagement; tenacity at new challenges and interest in a world they hadn't seen before.



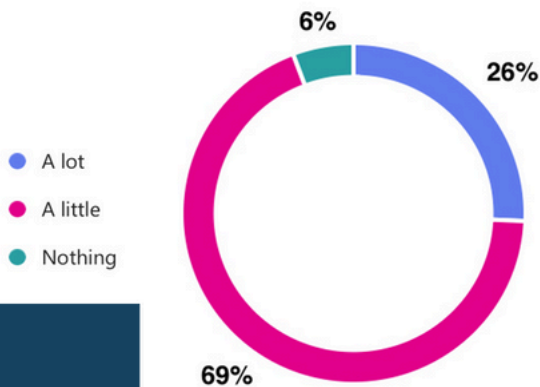
Careers and Further Education

Feedback from our Y8 Campus Day to Staffordshire University

Ensuring all students have access to further education and higher education pathways is very important. I previously shared information about the trip we ran to Staffordshire University with Higher Horizons and how valuable we felt it was as staff. I am so pleased the students felt the same as shown in their feedback.



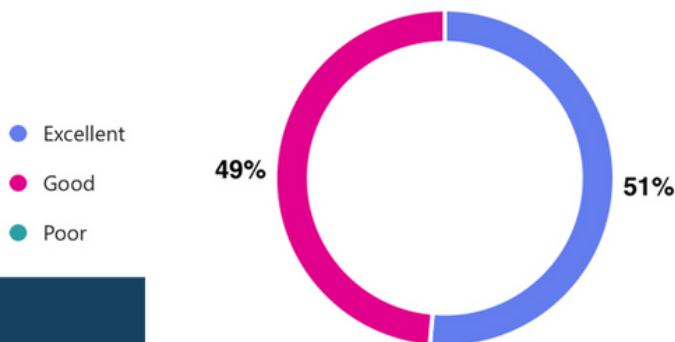
1. How much did you know about university before your visit today? (0 point)



2. How would you rate your visit to the University today? (0 point)



4. How would you rate your session? (0 point)



Please write one or more sentence about your visit today and how you found it, it would be great to know what you enjoyed about it

- It was good because now I want to do other things
- I really enjoyed everything and how we learnt and spoke about the law.
- I enjoyed the tour because it showed you what university is actually like.
- I really enjoyed it was good to work in teams and use team work in engineering it would be a good choice to pick for university
- I liked seeing the different classrooms and study spaces
- I liked being able to ask questions on student debt, I understand better now



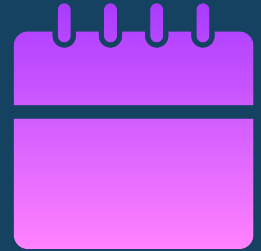
Careers and Further Education

What is next?



**NATIONAL
APPRENTICESHIP
WEEK 2025**

Week
commencing



On Tuesday 11th February our Y10s will be visiting the Big Apprenticeship Expo. This will provide them with the opportunity to learn about pathways available to them, experience meaningful encounters with providers from further education and employers and to ask any questions they have about post-16 options.



We are looking forward to welcoming visitors from Stoke on Trent college to talk to our Y8 and Y9s about the opportunities available to them at their college and what apprenticeships are.

Y11

The Big Apprenticeship Expo does have open sessions for parents/students after school on the dates provided here.

[The Big Apprenticeship Expo Website](#)

Click on the web link above if you are interested in attending to book your slot.



Enrichment Day

Last week our students took part in their second Enrichment Day to support our Personal Development curriculum. The sessions were a mix between KSS staff led, and those led by external providers.



Relationship



Citizenship

Financial capability



Our focus:

- Y7 - 'Looking after our future selves'
- Y8 - 'Being a good citizen'
- Y9 - 'Developing our skills for the future'
- Y10 - 'Preparing for our next steps'

Health and wellbeing



Our Y9's took part in an Elite Skills workshop which tested their LORIC values and encouraged them to think about how they will be important in the future.



Enrichment Day



On the back of the successful visit to Staffordshire University, Higher Horizons came into school and carried out a Mini Programme with our Y7s. They focused on what university is, the pathways you can take and how we can budget and save effectively.



**YOUR
OPINION
MATTERS**



Our Y8 and Y11 students took part in youth consultation session where young people between 10 – 24 get their say on what they like and dislike about Stoke-on-Trent. Their thoughts from the consultation goes to Staffordshire and Keele University to put towards councils to see what changes young people want.



Hospitality and Catering

Year 9 Food Technology students have been making savoury cheese sticks recently in lessons.

They have produced some excellent results. Well done Year 9!



Hospitality and Catering



yum,
yum


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

Hospitality and Catering

Key stage four Hospitality and Catering students have been perfecting their skills in bread making, no cook cheesecakes and pancakes.

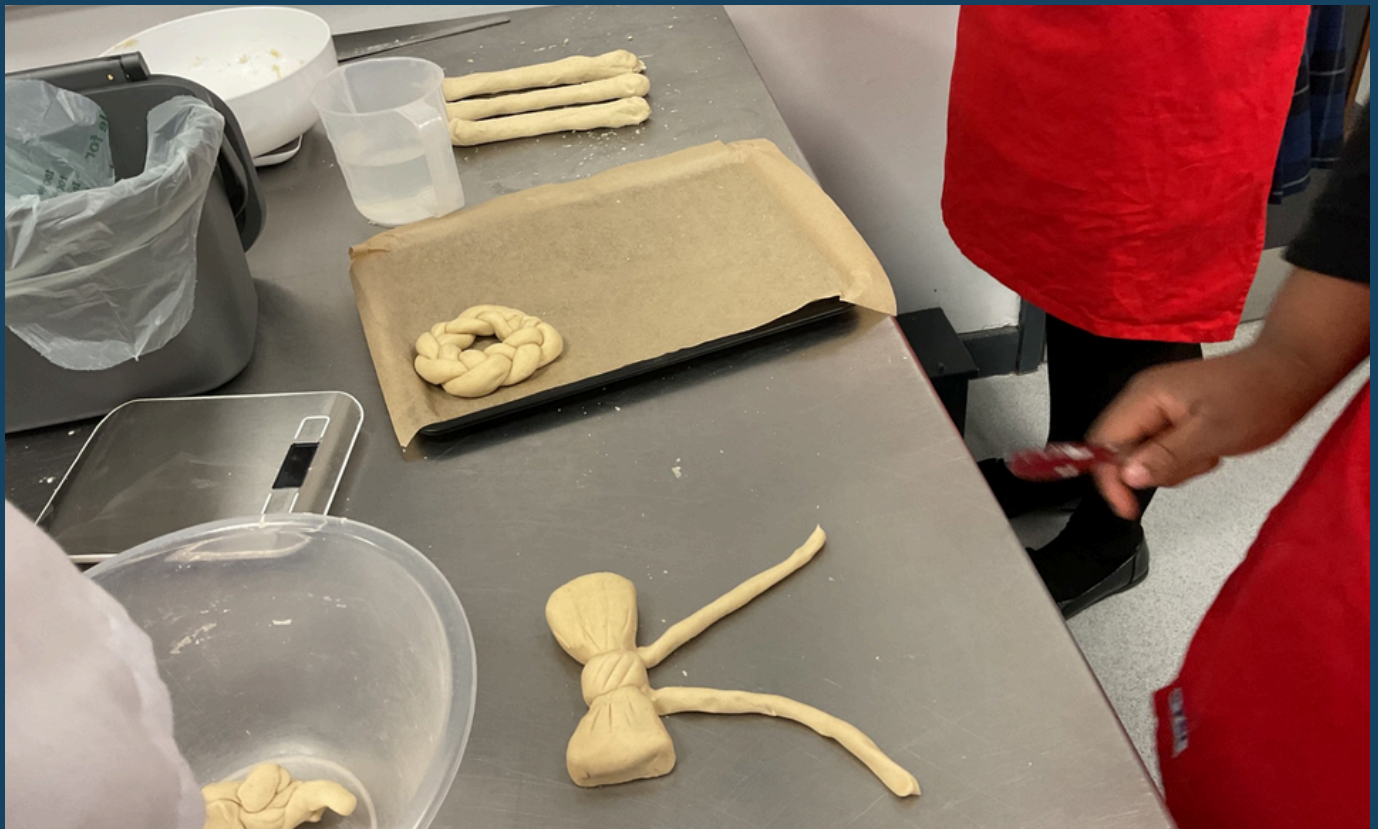


Hospitality and Catering




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

Hospitality and Catering



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



**PROUD TO
BE
KSS**

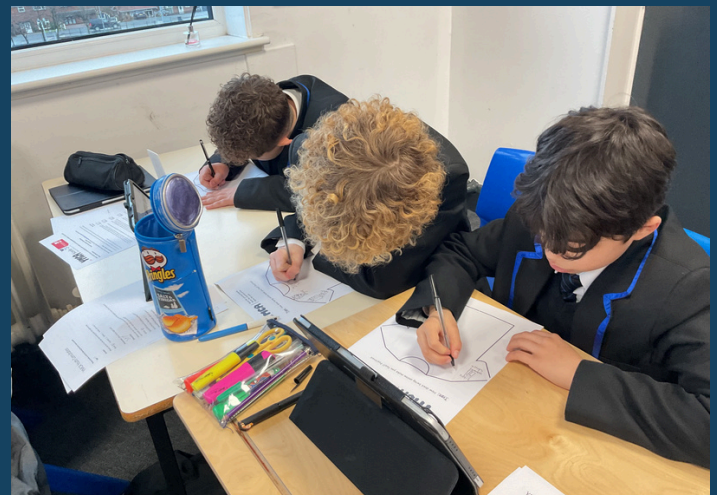


**YOUR
OPINION
MATTERS**

Personal Development

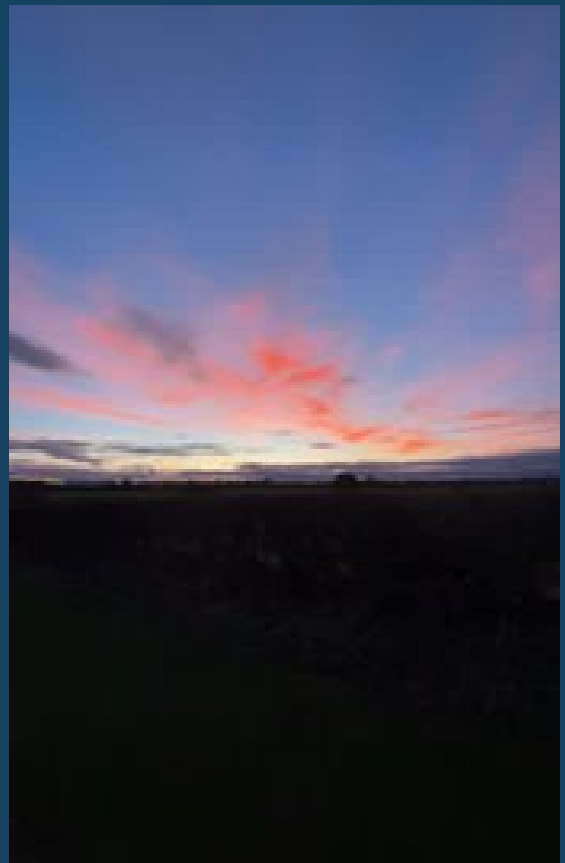
We are exploring 'your voice is powerful'. Whether it's in school, our community, or society, speaking up allows us to shape decisions that affect us and others. When we share our ideas, opinions, or concerns, we contribute to positive change, challenge unfairness, and help create a world that reflects the needs of everyone. Every voice counts!

Our Y7, Y9 and Y10s are also taking part in the Youth Consultation programme with NCS. Working with members of the team they are sharing their thoughts on questions such as "What is good/bad about the local area you live in?", "What is good/bad about being online/the internet?" and "What excites you about the future/what worries you about the future?"



Photography

Key stage four photography students have been practicing their editing skills and producing some wonderful results. Keep up the great work!




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

YMCA GO!

Activities for young people aged 10-16

Department for
Digital, Culture
Media & Sport



Serving young people in North Staffordshire since
1851

YMCA

Leading activities for
young people aged 10-16

Weekly activities

Tuesday

Sports Youth Club @ YMCA 6pm-
8pm (50p)

Wednesday

Northwood Youth Club @ Northwood
Parish Hall 6pm-8pm (50p)

Detached Youth Work @ Sneyd
Green from 3pm-5pm FREE

Thursday

Detached Youth Work @ Joiner
Square Park from 3pm-5pm FREE

Friday

Detached Youth Work @ Blurton,
Newstead Park from 3pm-5pm FREE

Blurton Youth Club @ Blurton
Community Hub 6pm-8pm
(50p)

83% of young people
said they were more
confident since joining
YMCA GO!



Want to see more?



YMCA GO!

Activities for young people aged 10-16

Department for
Digital, Culture
Media & Sport



Serving young people in North Staffordshire since
1851

YMCA

YMCA GO! is a funded city-wide project, aiming to provide exciting experiences, activities, and opportunities to young people aged 10-16. Working closely with Stoke on Trent City Council and local organisations, we have access to children's centres and community spaces to provide free activities in the evenings and exciting day trips during the school holidays.

Every week we run our youth clubs, which you can simply show up to at the low cost of 50p! Why join?

- ✓ Fun Activities: From sports, arts & crafts, to games and music – there's something for everyone!
- ✓ New Friends: Meet awesome people your age and build friendships that will last a lifetime.
- ✓ Exciting Events: Monthly challenges, movie nights, parties, and more!
- ✓ Safe Environment: Our friendly staff is always here to ensure a safe, inclusive, and welcoming atmosphere.

Whether it's enjoying a Halloween Spooktacular at the circus, gliding into the Christmas season with ice skating, or basking in the sun and great vibes at the beach, we've got exciting trips every school holiday! With 8 convenient pick-up and drop-off locations around the city, having fun has never been more accessible for young people.

For more information,
please contact:

amy.murray@ymcans.org.uk

or call us at
01782 222376



YMCA North
Staffordshire



[ymca.go](https://www.tiktok.com/@ymca.go)



[ymca_go](https://www.instagram.com/ymca_go)

Drama

This half term for performing arts has been full of exciting topics. Years 7 and 8 are currently studying musical theatre and its different influences. Year 7 have made a fantastic start at studying Matilda the Musical and creating their very own 'Revolting Children' performance.

Year 9 have had a busy half term of drama and looking at the influence of character archetypes. Here they are looking at the role of a Narrator. Year 9 have worked hard this year to step outside of their comfort zone and embrace this new curriculum. Well done year 9!



Drama



SHOW TIME




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



PROUD TO BE KSS



Shaw Education Trust

Communication Update

At KSS we pride ourselves on answering any queries and always being available to support you when you need it.

If you have any messages, queries or concerns that you would like the school or key staff to be aware of about your child, please contact us in the following ways:

Call Reception at 01782 948250.

Call Miss Potts on the attendance line by pressing the relevant option via the school telephone number (outlines above).

Email parentsupport@kss.set.org (this is checked continually throughout the day and into the evenings), this is for any pastoral or attendance related queries or support that you may require.

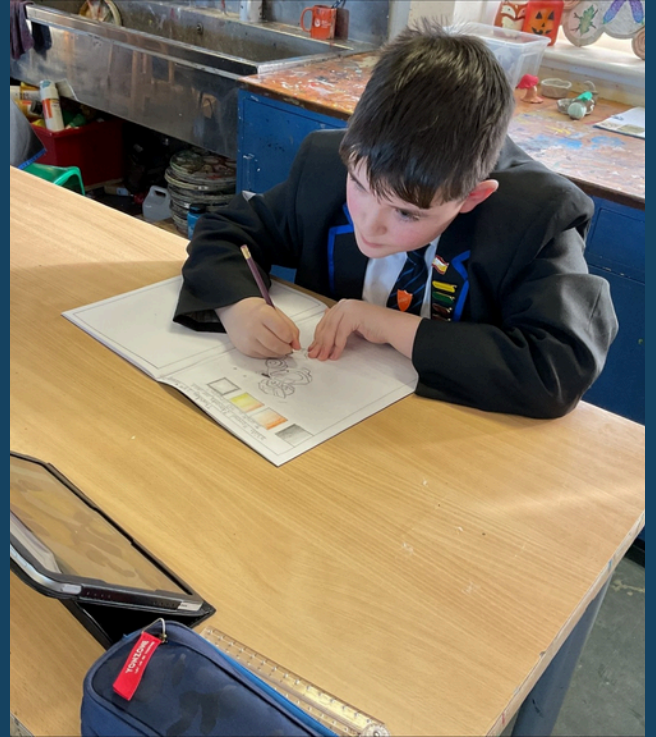
Email communications@kss.set.org (this is checked daily). This is for upcoming events, trip queries, term dates and administration queries.

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



Art - Robots

Year 8 have been exploring Robots and linking this with the story 'The Iron Man'. We have looked at the formal elements of shape and form to create these robot observational drawings. Great work Year 8!



Art Club

Art club have been exploring a variety of materials looking at different textiles. The 'open studio' gives students every week a space and materials to explore in order to shape their own creative ideas.




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



**PROUD TO
BE
KSS**



Art Club



ART

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



**PROUD TO
BE
KSS**



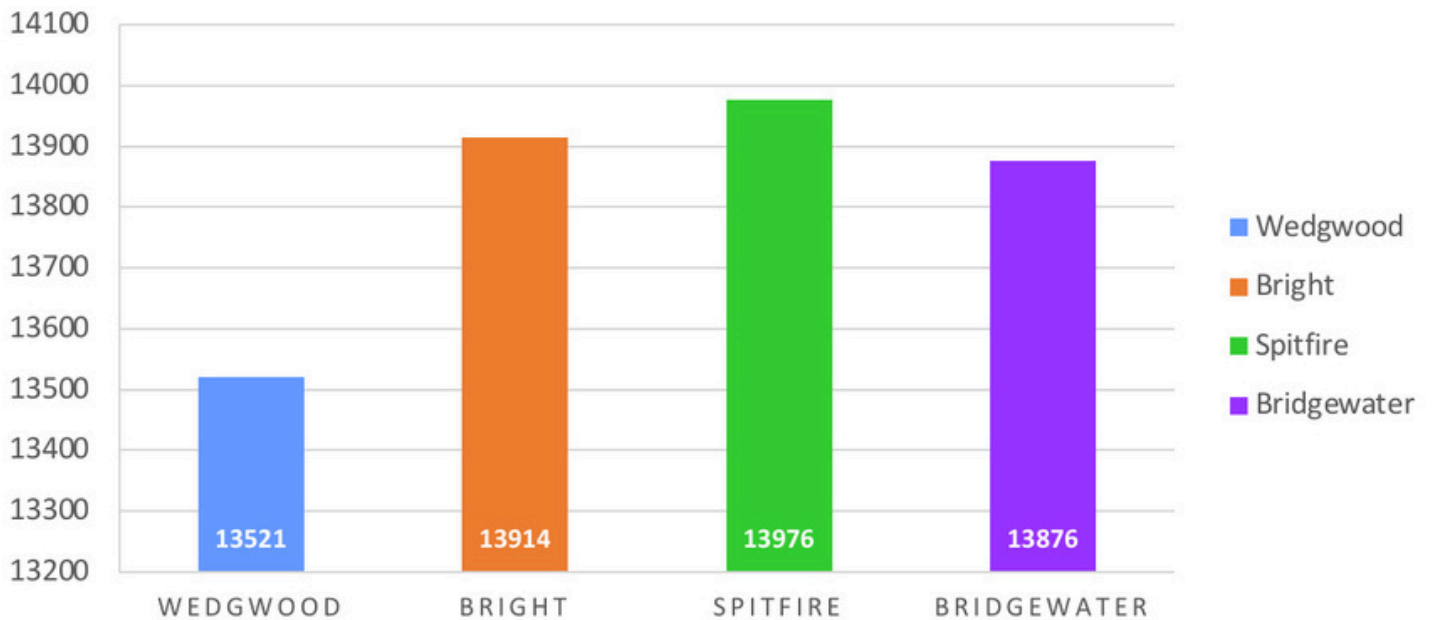
House Points

Lots of achievement points are being received by students at the moment with an average of 3662 being achieved per week!

This week, the house topping the charts is....

SPITFIRE

TOTAL HOUSE POINTS



Well done to all the students in Spitfire! Keep up the hard work!



Year 10 Parents Evening

Year 10 Parents Evening is on Thursday 6th February from 4-7pm. This will be held face-to-face in the school hall.

In addition to teachers being available for appointments, we also have colleges and local apprenticeship providers in attendance to start discussing next steps.

Please log into School Cloud to make your appointments.

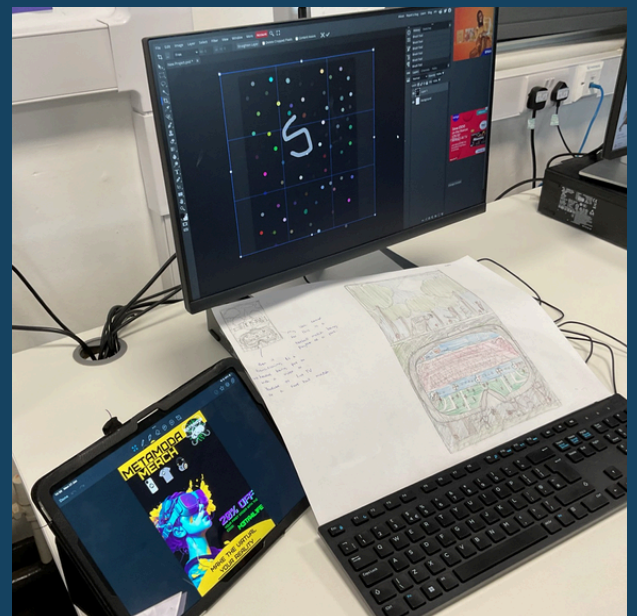
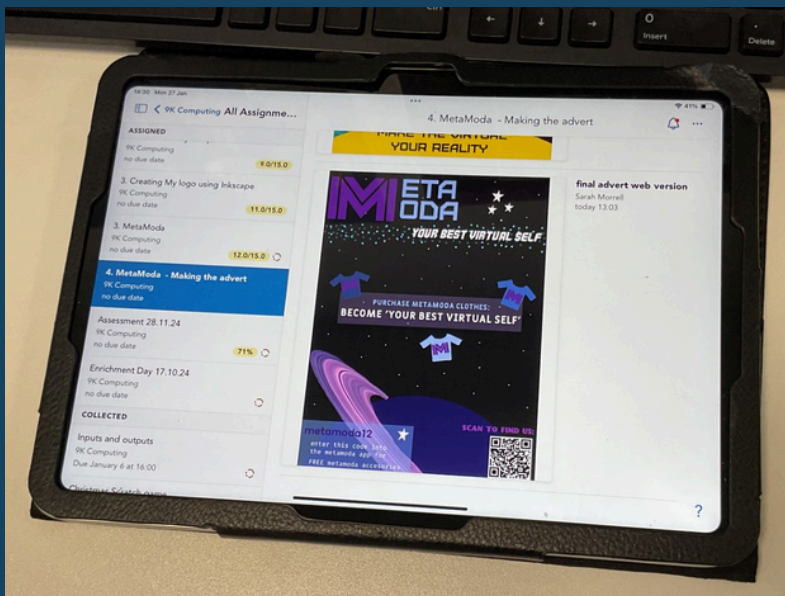
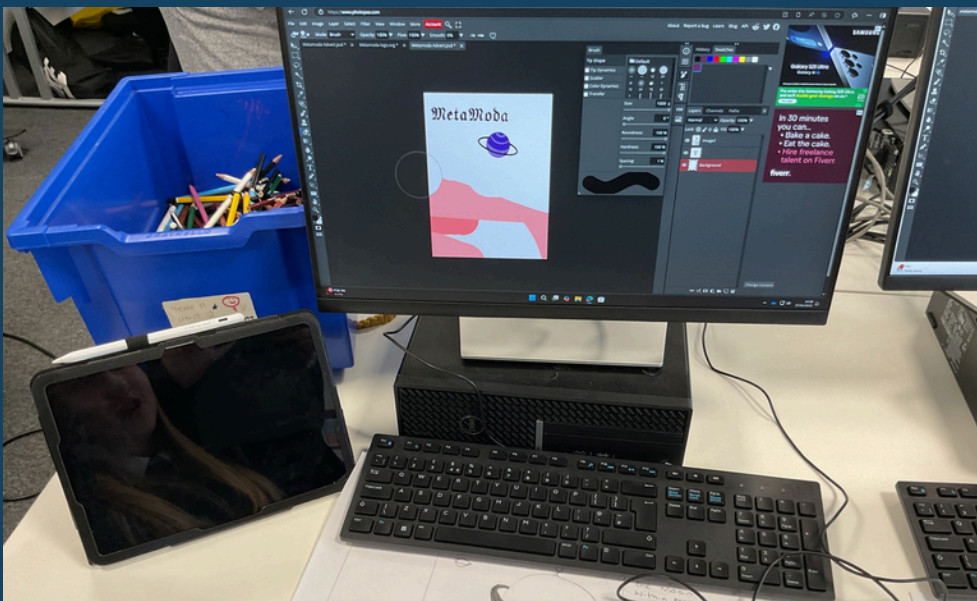
<https://kidsgrovesecondary.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

If you have any issues logging in, or would like help to book your appointments, please call the office and Miss Wood will be happy to help.



Computing

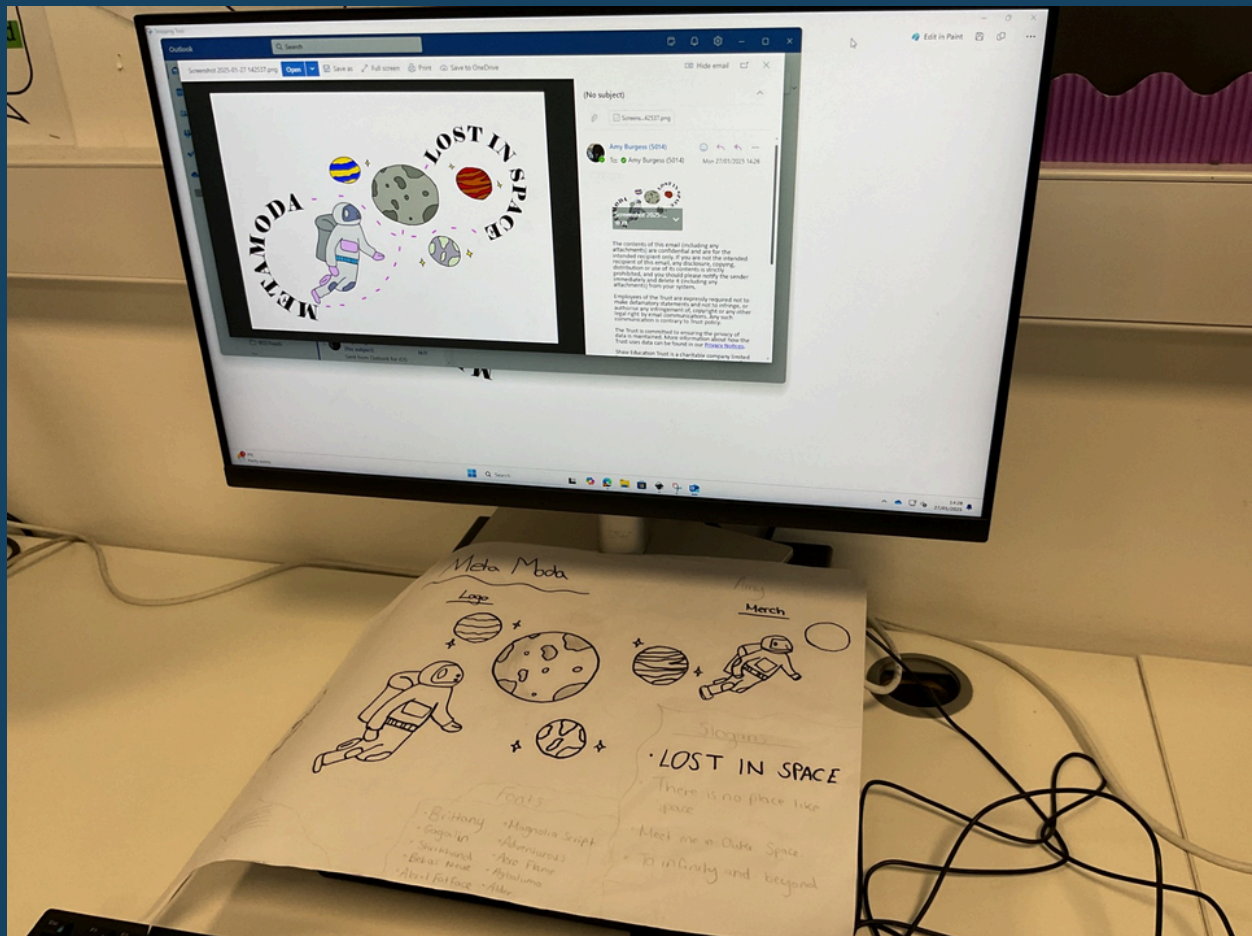
Our talented Year 9 students have been tackling a GCSE iMedia brief, flexing their creative muscles to design a visual identity and magazine advert for the brand "Metamoda." Starting with intricate hand-drawn concepts, they've showcased incredible imagination and artistic flair. Now, they're bringing their ideas to life on the computer, using digital tools to transform their initial sketches into polished, professional designs. The results so far have been outstanding, highlighting their growing skills in graphic design and branding. Watch this space for the final pieces – a testament to their hard work and creativity!



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

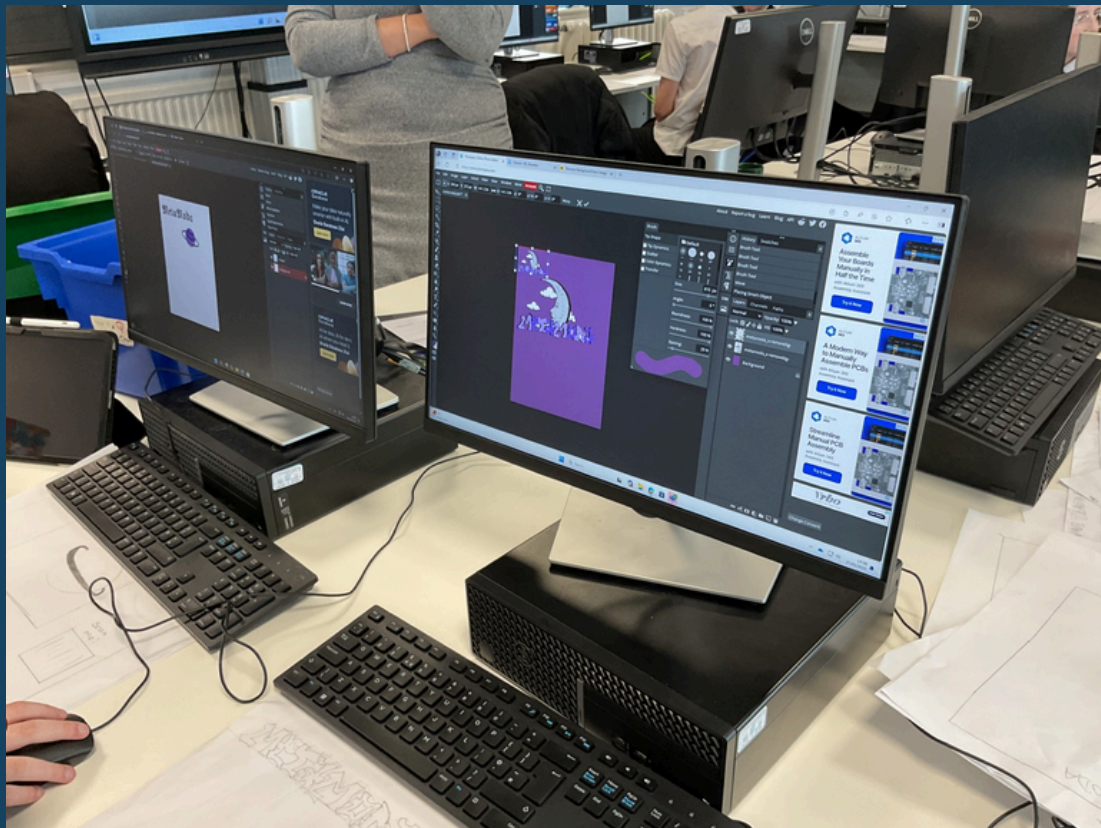
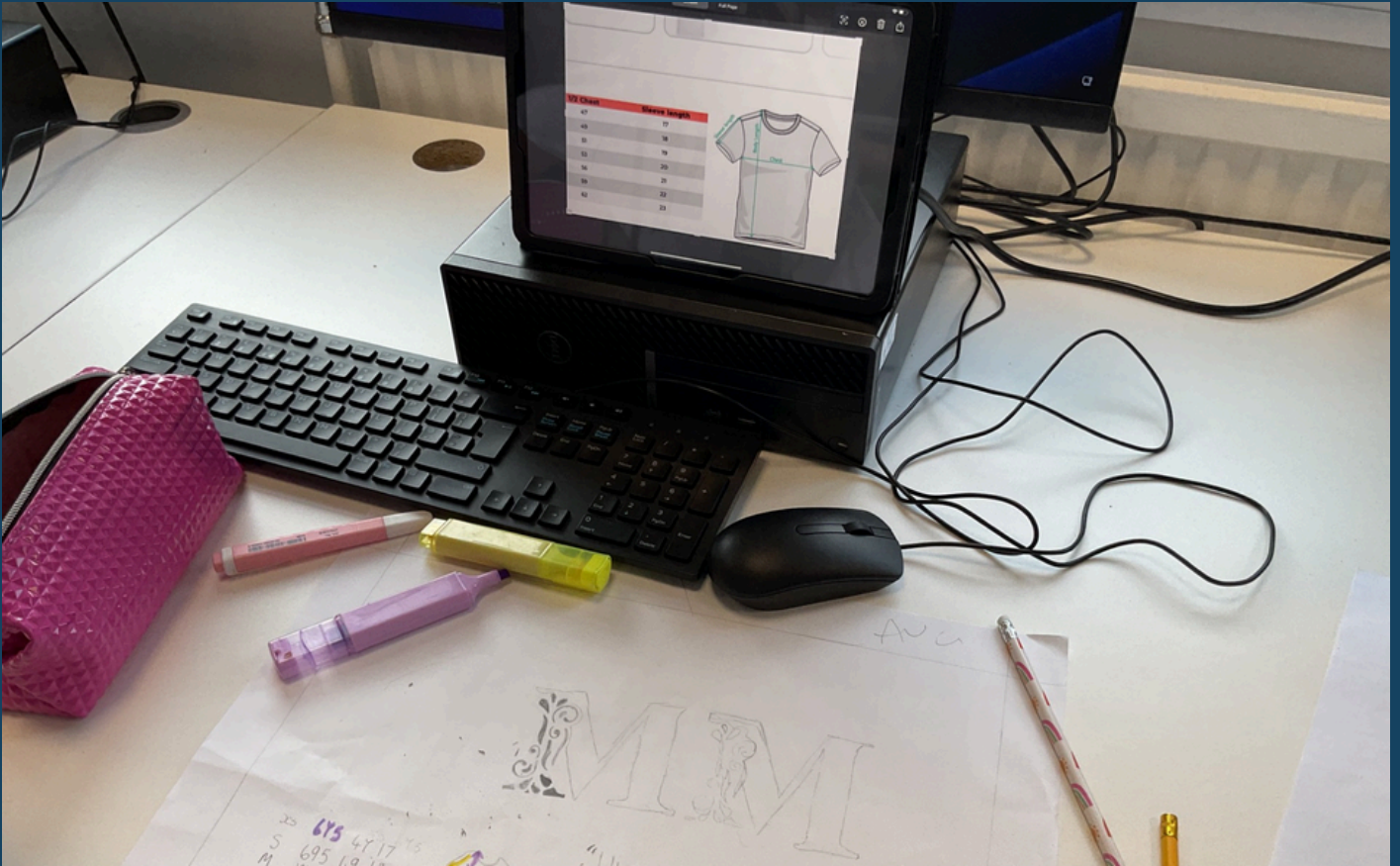


Computing



**"If you do enough small things right,
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Computing




"If you do enough small things right,
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What is my child learning?

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

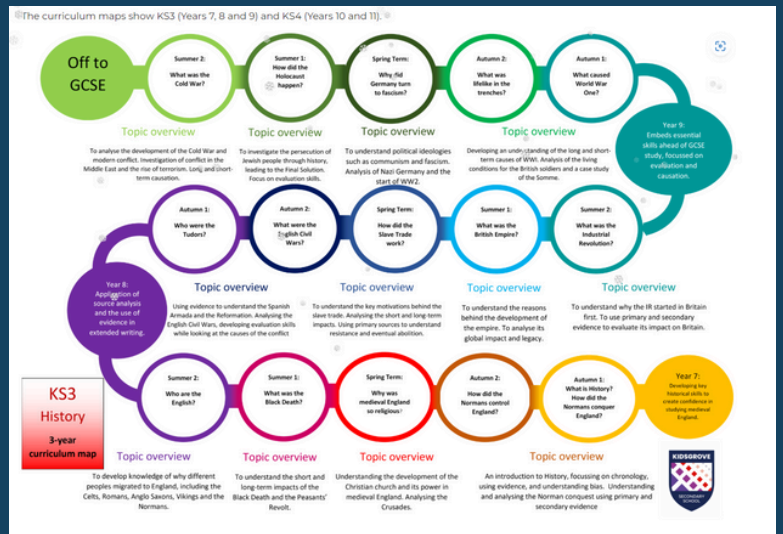
When Ofsted visited the school last year they were impressed with our subject curriculums and how the students were taught the key themes.

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.





Physical Education

KS3 Trampolining Club is well under way. It has been fantastic to see students further developing their skills and confidence outside of lessons!



Physical Education

As part of our PE curriculum the students have been learning about hockey. Year groups have been developing their skills and knowledge of the sport through both field and unihockey. Whilst KS3 have been learning the core skills in hockey, KS4 have been developing their tactical awareness, transferring their knowledge from other invasion games and applying it to outwit opponents.



Physical Education

Football:

The Y8 Boys started their league campaign this week, playing the first match against St John Fisher School. Despite a loss the team showed great resilience and positivity, already knowing where they need to adapt. A special mention for Blake (goal scorer) and Ronnie, two of our Year 7s who played exceptionally. Well done to Will (Captain) who commanded the team well and Dan who was voted as Player of the match.



Week 3 - Thurs 13 Feb	Venue - CCSC			Venue - Keele			Venue - New Coll		
	CCSC	v	SJF						
	SJF	v	Kidsgrove				Orme	v	Clayton
	CCSC	v	Kidsgrove						
Week 4 - Thurs 27 Feb	Venue - CCSC			Venue - Keele			Venue - New Coll		
	Madeley	v	Kidsgrove						
	Madeley	v	Kings	CCSC	v	Clayton	SJF	v	Orme
	Kings	v	Kidsgrove						
Week 5 - Thurs 6 March	Venue - CCSC			Venue - Keele			Venue - New Coll		
	Madeley	v	Clayton						
	Orme	v	Kidsgrove						
	Madeley	v	Orme						



Attendance



IS YOUR CHILD FACING
BARRIERS TO
SCHOOL ATTENDANCE?

**KIDSGROVE SECONDARY
CAN HELP!**



**WE CAN
SUPPORT
YOU WITH**

- Breakfast On Arrival
- Uniform
- Equipment
- Transport
- School Meals



Kidsgrove Secondary School

Attendance Matters

#StopTheDrop

