

HEADTEACHER BULLETIN

Friday 6.12.24

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

Dear Parents/Carers,

The second half term of the year is drawing to an end and as always it has been action packed since I last wrote to you all.

The performance assessments that have been planned by Mrs Correia and Mrs Frost have provided all students with the opportunity to shine over the last four weeks. The students have really risen to the challenge and although there have been lots of bugs and viruses doing the rounds, attendance has been excellent. Thank you for all parents and carers for their support over the last few weeks with this.

A special mention to our wonderful teaching assistant team that have supported students with every assessment over the last month in room 5. They have worked very hard ensuring that all students have accessed the assessments so that they can demonstrate their knowledge and skills.

The teaching staff have been working hard to ensure that all assessments are marked ready for the data entry deadline next week. Once Mrs Ryan (our data manager) has added these grades into the student profiles, we will then be sending the first progress report of the academic year home in January. We cannot wait to share with you, your child's progress so far this academic year. The spring term will also see the start of our parents evening window which will be instrumental in providing you all with subject specific updates concerning your child's progress.

Included within this bulletin and also on our Facebook page is information regarding what your child has been learning and what is coming up in lessons after Christmas. The curriculum at KSS is something that we are extremely proud of and it has played a key role in the successes that the Year 11 leavers had in their GCSE's examinations last summer and in our Ofsted report last year.

Finally, we have an action packed final two weeks ahead. There is planned, a Year 11 taster day at Newcastle College, Year 11 mock results meetings, a Health and Social Care trip, the Headteacher reward lunch, celebration assemblies, Christmas jumper day, Christmas lunch and two reward trips taking place. The event that we are all eagerly anticipating is the 'Kidsgrove's Got Talent' show on the 17th of December. This will see us have a slightly altered school day on this date, so that we can do justice to our brilliantly talented students and their showcases in the afternoon show.

Watch this space for lots of photographs of all of these events in our final Headteacher bulletin of the calendar year.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday 11.12.24 - Year 11 College Taster Day

Thursday 12.12.24 and Friday 13.12.24 - Year 11 Results Meetings

Tuesday 17.12.24 - Christmas Jumper Day

Christmas Dinner

Headteacher Reward Lunch

Kidsgrove's Got Talent

Wednesday 18.12.24 - Year 7 and 8 Reward Trip

Thursday 19.12.24 - Year 9, Year 10 and 11 Reward Trip



Yours faithfully,
Mr S Frost

Communication Update

Feedback from some parents & carers has suggested that on some occasions communication has not been as efficient as it could be.

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.



Attendance

WOW!



Whole School 94%

YEAR 7- 96.87%

YEAR 8 - 93.9%

YEAR 9 - 92.49%

YEAR 10 - 92.17%

YEAR 11 - 93%

**National Average =
92.3%**



Kidsgrove Secondary School

Attendance Matters

#StopTheDrop



Form Attendance



Kidsgrove Secondary School

Attendance Matters

#StopTheDrop



**EXCITING
NEWS**



PROUD



National School Attendance Award

2023/24 Academic Year



Kidsgrove Secondary School

Top 10% of similar FFT Secondary Schools in England



National School Attendance Award

2023/24 Academic Year



Kidsgrove Secondary School

Top 25% of all FFT Secondary Schools in England

Attendance Advent Event

Congratulations to the 200 students that received an advent calendar for their excellent attendance in November.

It was great to see so many students leave last Friday excited for the start of advent. Well done everyone!



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

KIDSGROVE
SECONDARY SCHOOL

**PROUD TO
BE
KSS**

KIDSGROVE
SECONDARY SCHOOL

Shaw Education Trust



≡ Welcome ≡



A huge KSS welcome to Mr James Gillespie who will be joining the school from next week as our new pastoral lead. He will be working closely with Year 7 and will be a great support to the staff, students and parents as a non-teaching pastoral member of staff.

Below are a few words about the man himself...

"I have worked with young people in some capacity for the last 13 years and my skills have taken me all over the UK and even to the USA in order to do what I love.

From teaching primary schools to working in children's care homes to touring the country promoting healthy eating and even directing Broadway children on the other side of the Atlantic, my work has taken me just about everywhere. Aside from working in schools; I'm a passionate thespian and regularly tread the boards in shows varying from Shakespeare to musicals. My favourite role was Jim Farrell in Titanic: The Musical despite my distinct lack of singing talent. I also relax by watching 'The Sopranos', 'Cheers' and 'Frasier' and I am very slowly learning how to play the acoustic guitar.

I can't wait to begin my journey at Kidsgrove Secondary School as my favourite roles over the years have always been pastoral based and I feel as though I can thrive in this environment and help the children in every possible way I can."



Year 11 Intervention Challenge

The Year 11 intervention box is filling up nicely.
Keep working hard Year 11's!

A draw will be made with a special reward before the end of term for the students that have attended the most sessions.



KEEP UP
• the good •
WORK



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.



Enrichment



Kidsgrove
Secondary
School

NOV-DEC

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



Photography club

KS4 GCSE

Technology – Digital Hub



Art club

Open to all

Room 10 – Miss Mason

WEDNESDAY

Lunchtime
13.30-14.00



Choir

Open to all

Room 26 – Ms Wagstaff

After School
15.05-16.05



Drama club

KS3

Room 26 – Ms Wagstaff



Art club

Open to all

Room 10 – Miss Mason



Kitchen garden club

Open to all

Tech – Mrs Bryan and Ms Morrell



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 – Miss Mason



Netball

Y7, 8 and 9

Changing Rm – Ms Wagstaff



Netball

Y10 and Y11

Changing Rm – Ms Hambleton



KS4 Football

Y10 and Y11

Changing Rm – Mr Till



Reading club

Open to all

Reading Room – Ms Tucker



Duke of Edinburgh

Y9-11

Room 7 – Miss Hud and Mrs Weaver

FRIDAY

Lunchtime
13.30-14.00



Chess club

Open to all

Room 2 – Mr Old

After School
15.05-16.05



Pride club

Open to all

Room 14 – Miss Ayers



Trampolining
Starts AFTER Assessments

All Years

Hall – Ms Hambleton

7 DAYS TO GO

COMING SOON

REGISTER NOW



KIDSGROVE'S GOT TALENT

Have you got a talent?

Dancing? Singing? Comedy? Play an Instrument?
Juggling? Football Skills?

Tuesday
17th December 2024

Start From 14.00



Please email Miss Wagstaff if you wish to audition: billie.wagstaff@kss.set.org



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



PROUD TO BE KSS



Performance Assessments

Well done to all students for their hard work in their recent performance assessments.

Subject teachers are busy marking the assessment papers, ready to generate the data for the **student reports that will be coming home in January**. We cannot wait to update parents and carers about their child's progress.

A thank you to all parents and carers for encouraging excellent attendance over the last few weeks. It is much appreciated!





Spanish



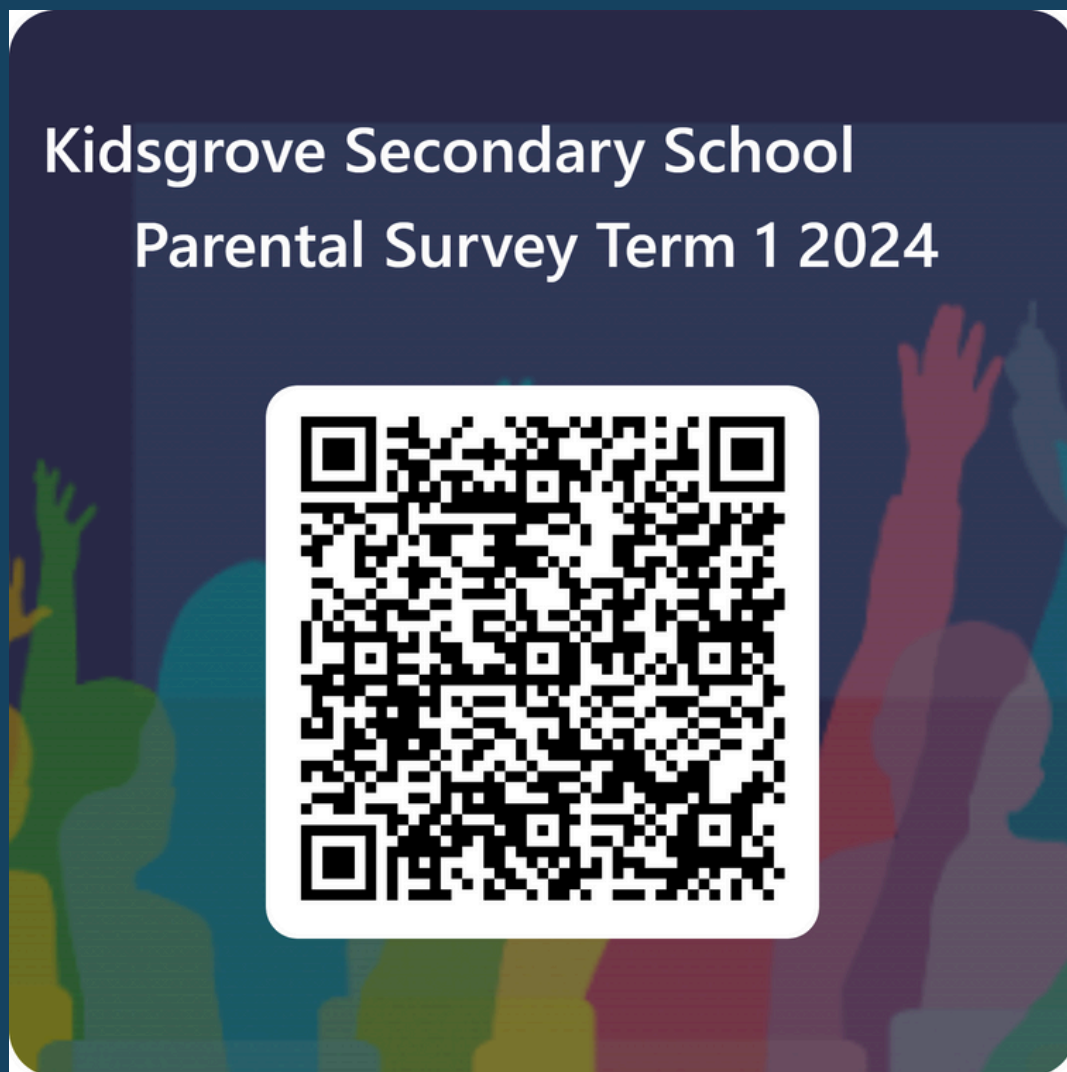
Another successful Spanish trip to Manchester happened this week! Due to the GCSE specification changing, year 10's now study the topic of food instead of in year 11. Therefore, it was their turn to experience a Spanish restaurant. We also used the trip to Manchester as an opportunity to look at some architecture and fashion, to inspire some of the year 10s who are also studying GCSE Art.



Parent/Carer Survey

I would be very appreciate if as many parents & carers could spend a few minutes completing our latest survey. This provides us with a very useful insight into how you view the school and also provides ideas and feedback about what we do well and what we can do better.

Thank you to the 124 parents & carers that have responded so far, it is much appreciated.



Deadline - 13.12.24



Term Dates 2025-2026

The term dates have recently been published for 2025-2026 on our school website. The key dates can be seen below and can also be found at the following web address: <https://kidsgrovesecondary.org.uk/termdates>.

Autumn Term 2025

Staff: Monday 1st September – STAFF INSET DAY (School Closed to Students)

Staff: Tuesday 2nd September – STAFF INSET DAY (School Closed to Students)

Staff & Year 7 Students only: Wednesday 3rd September

Staff & All Students: Thursday 4th September – Thursday 23rd October

Staff: Friday 24th October – STAFF INSET DAY (School Closed to Students)

Holiday: Monday 27th October – Friday 31st October

Staff & Students: Monday 3rd November – Thursday 18th December

Staff: Friday 19th December – STAFF INSET DAY (School Closed to Students)

Holiday: Monday 22nd December – Friday 2nd January

Spring Term 2026

Staff & Students: Monday 5th January – Friday 13th February

Holiday: Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February

Staff & Students: Monday 23rd February – Friday 27th March

Holiday: Monday 30th March – Friday 10th April

Easter Sunday: Sunday 5th April

Summer Term 2026

Staff & Students: Monday 13th April – Friday 22nd May

May Day: Monday 4th May

Holiday: Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May

Staff & Students: Monday 1st June – Friday 17th July

Staff: Monday 20th July – STAFF INSET DAY (School Closed to Students)



Join us for the annual...



KSS CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

(NON UNIFORM) &

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Tuesday 17th December 2024

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



Year 11 Parents Evening

Year 11 Parents evening will be a **face to face** event in the school hall on **Thursday 23rd January**.

Appointments are now available to book on School Cloud:

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

We will also have colleges in attendance for you to speak to about Post-16 choices.

We look forward to seeing you there.



APPLY NOW

We're Hiring!

School Crossing Patrol

- £12.65 per hour
- various hours per week
- locations across Newcastle and Staffordshire Moorlands

[Apply Here](#)



House Points

The total house points so far are below.

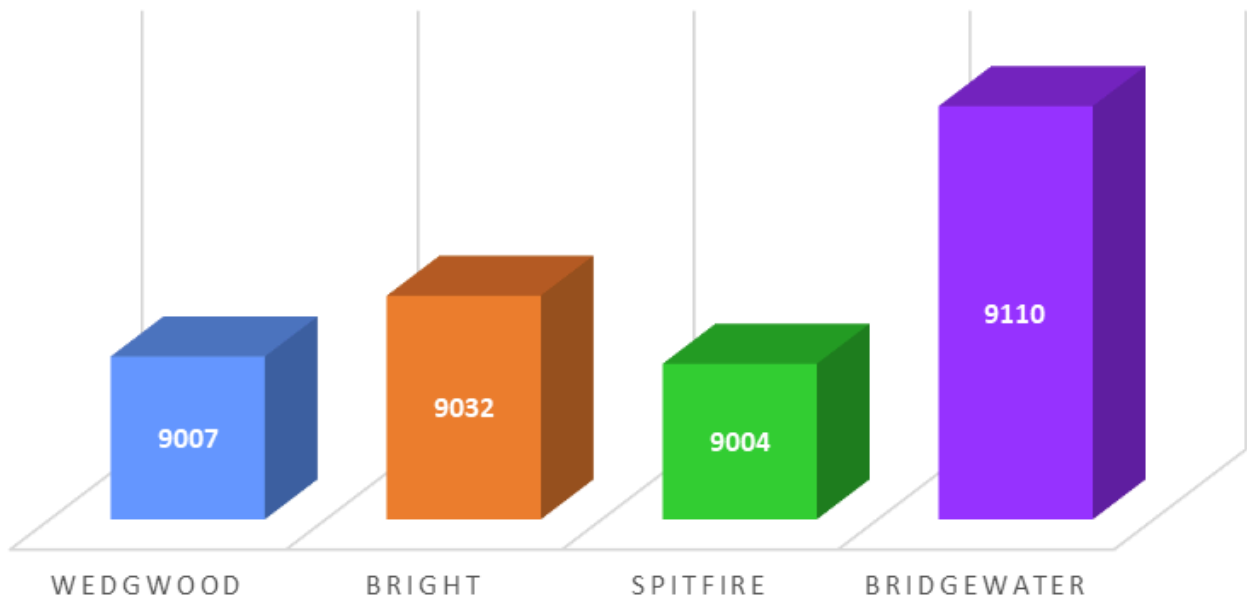
With two weeks to go, there is only 78 points between 1st and 2nd place.

It's still all to play for!

Remember house points consist of attendance, achievement points, extra curricular attendance and being a good citizen.

Everyone can contribute to their house team's score!

TOTAL HOUSE POINTS



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

**PROUD TO
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KSS**



Twelve Days
of Christmas

From
29th November
to
17th of December 2024

Attend school everyday and you will be
entered into a daily prize draw!

Kidsgrove Secondary School
Attendance Matters
#StopTheDrop

KIDSGROVE
SECONDARY
SCHOOL

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

KIDSGROVE
SECONDARY
SCHOOL

**PROUD TO
BE
KSS**

Shaw
Education
Trust

DIGITAL CHAMPIONS

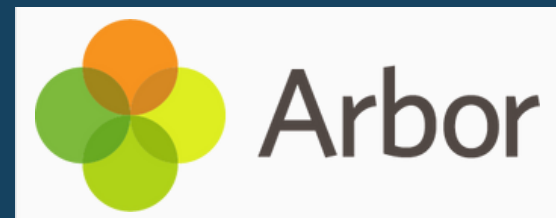


Fraser M
Dylan M
Anthony P
Katie W
Ayla-Jane E
Joe S

Tommy M
Leon B
Nevaeh-Mai W
Amy B
Dakota A
Alexia L
Tyler D



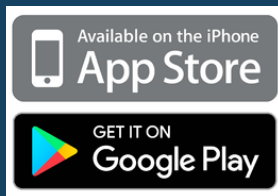
Last week saw our first meeting of the Digital Champions. Our first meeting was around the launch of the student Arbor App. This allows students to access their timetable, what homework they have coming up and track any achievement and behaviour points they have.



Our Digital Champions trialled it for a day and produced a supportive video to share during form time with the rest of our students. Each morning, students have time set aside in form time to check the app to support their organisation, one of our core values.



<https://shorturl.at/v7TU1>



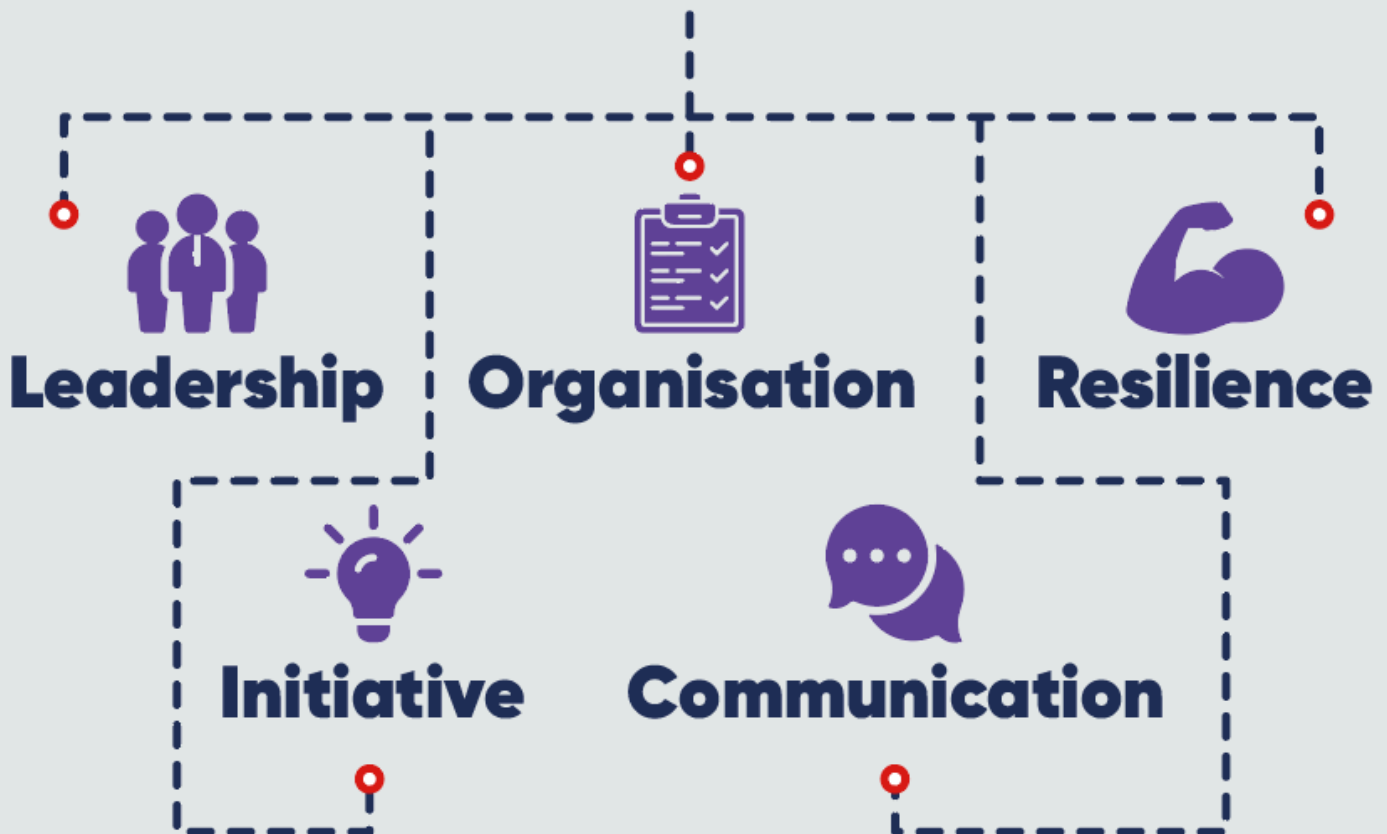
There is a Parent App available, similar to the ClassCharts app we previously used and would ask that all of our Parents/Carers access this. Here is a link to the help centre [Your paragraph text https://support.arbor-education.com/hc/en-us/articles](https://support.arbor-education.com/hc/en-us/articles)

We have lots of exciting projects coming up which will be led by our Digital Champions. Our next order of business next week is to launch our Digital Christmas Card competition. We are looking forward to sharing the winning Christmas Card with our local partners.



Reminder

CORE VALUES



Careers at KSS



Through our careers programme, we ensure that all of our students have equal opportunity to access careers information, experiences and guidance, to support them in making mature and informed decisions related to their future pathways.

This is done as part of our Personal Development programme, through our Enrichment Days and through our subject's curriculum offers.

We are a member of Stoke on Trent and Staffordshire Careers Hub and work with local businesses and employers and our community to ensure our students have access to a wide range of experiences.

We have been doing a lot of work around raising awareness of our local Labour Market Information (LMI) and the Employer Competency Framework (ECF) with students. This develops their knowledge of employment growth areas in our local region, and what skills employers value.



Please find here a link to a short video around LMI, created by a member of the Stoke on Trent and Staffordshire Careers Hub
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9JyWB0CnH0I>

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;

- 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.



**8 DAYS
TO GO**



CHRISTMAS REWARD TRIP

**TO QUALIFY:
NO MORE THAN 8 NEGATIVES
NO MORE THAN 2 DAYS OF ABSENCE**

**THE QUALIFYING WINDOW RUNS FROM:
11TH NOVEMBER TO 6TH DECEMBER**



**DECEMBER 18TH 2024 (YEAR 7 & 8)
DECEMBER 19TH 2024 (YEARS 9,10,11)**

**CINEBOWL
(ICE SKATING, BOWLING, CINEMA)**



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Shaw Education Trust

Higher Horizons



As part of the support offered to pupils as they embark on their Careers and Further Education journey, I am delighted to say we will be working with Higher Horizons to raise awareness of Higher Education opportunities. Higher Horizons have been delivering outreach activities in Stoke on Trent and Staffordshire since 2017, with the aim to allow students to gain knowledge on University options available to them.

In previous years, we have worked alongside Higher Horizons to provide a number of different opportunities to our students, and we are excited to develop this further.

We have been developing a plan aimed across all year groups to raise awareness of higher education routes and opportunities available to students.

What do we have to look forward to?



Whole year group campus visits for Y9 and Y8s.



Subject specific campus visits for Y10 and Y11 students.



Star Dome visit for Y7s and Y8s



Mini programmes for Y7, Y9 and Y10 students.

Please contact us if you have any questions around this programme offer.



Newcastle-Staffs

foodbank



Please support our

Reverse Advent Calendar

Choose how you can help out! It doesn't have to be everyday.

Bring it in to Reception and add to our collection .

2ND

A tin of soup or beans

3RD

A packet of pasta or rice

4TH

Shampoo, conditioner or shower gel

5TH

Biscuits or crisps

6TH

Toilet rolls or soap

9TH

Tinned meat or fish

10TH

Curry Sauces

11TH

Cereal or tinned fruit

12TH

UHT milk or juice

13TH

Please bring your final donations ready for taking to the food bank.

Once we have completed our Advent, we will take our products to support our local food bank.

Christmas is a worrying time for people, numbers continue to stay high for using the food bank, in fact it has increased massively since the pandemic and cost of living crisis. For some it is an unexpected bill, for others it is the shortfall in wages or benefits given the continued increase in the cost of living. Anything you can do to help will be very much appreciated.

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



PROUD TO BE KSS



Brew and a Biscuit



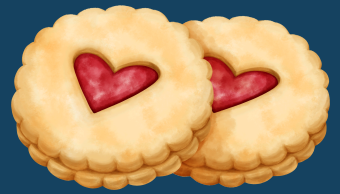
As a small token of thanks to Year 11 for their hard work in the recent mocks, the students joined us for a cuppa and a biscuit last week.

We cannot wait to see how they have performed in the upcoming mock results meetings.





Brew and a Biscuit




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

 **PROUD TO BE KSS** 


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

