

HEADTEACHER BULLETIN

Thursday 21st of December 2023

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

Dear Parents/Carers,

As another calendar draws to an end, what a year!

An Ofsted visit, trips galore, careers experiences, enrichment days, trips, sporting events, progress events and much more. Thank you for all of your support, it is something that we do not take for granted.

In the recent parent/carers survey, **97% of you said that you would recommend the school to friends and family**. That is absolutely amazing to read and it is down to the brilliant partnership that exists between school and home. We of course will not take this for granted as we enter 2024 and we will continue to look for new ways of ensuring that the relationship remains strong.

When we return in January, the season of parents evenings will commence. We cannot wait to share with you updates about how your child is performing academically and pastorally, especially as we have recently completed our first performance assessments in December. The schools push on academic excellence is relentless and the students have really stepped up, supporting each other and ensuring that they have been individually prepared.

The term ended with a bang as we had our first ever 'Kidsgrove's Got Talent' event. It was filled with showcases of amazing performances. This included singing, dancing and even stand up comedy! A big thank you to all of the students that took part and to our winning act (Alfie Year 8). The show would not have been possible without the many students who supported with the behind the scenes duties, doing a brilliant job with lighting, sound and props. The performing arts are a great way of building students confidence and resilience, it was so pleasing to have such a number of extraordinary acts on stage.

Today also saw 228 students attend our Christmas reward trip to Cinebowl. The students had a great time as they ice skated, bowled and watched the new 'Wonka' film. The bar was high to attend this trip, so to have so many students take part was positive to see.

Finally, all that is left is to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very happy new year.

A reminder that the school reopens to staff and students on Tuesday 9th of January 2024.



MERRY
Christmas

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday 9.1.24 - School reopens for staff and students

Thursday 18.1.24 - Year 11 Parents Evening (Face to Face)

Wednesday 24.1.24 and Thursday 25.1.24 - Year 10 Mock Results





HEADTEACHER REWARD LUNCH

Well done to the brilliant 24 students selected for the last Headteacher reward lunch of 2023. Each student was selected for their amazing attitude towards their studies this term.

It is always a highlight of the half term to sit and eat lunch with the students that go above and beyond. Keep up the great work!



SHAW EDUCATION TRUST CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION 2023



We received some fantastic entries for our SET Christmas Card Competition and for the Salvation Army Christmas Card campaign this month.

Here are the three entries that made it to the final rounds of the competition.





The winner of the Secondary School competition in the trust went to Lilly S with her amazing design.

Amazing work Lilly!

Well Done!



CURRICULUM

A proportion of parents/carers expressed in the recent survey feedback that they were not aware of what their child was studying in each subject area.

To address this there is a comprehensive breakdown of the curriculum that your child follows on our new school website. This information can be found by clicking [here](#) or scanning the QR code below to discover our curriculum pages:



If you have any questions at all regarding the curriculum, please do not hesitate our subject leads who can be contacted at the following email addresses regarding subject specific queries:

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



KS3 UPDATE



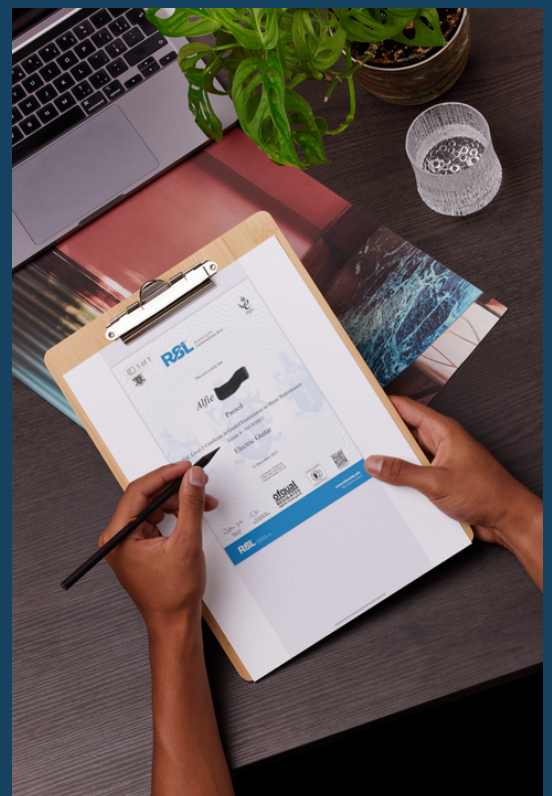
A message from Mr Till...

I can't believe our Y7s have completed a full academic term at KSS. The year group continue to embrace our core values, developing both their personal and academic skills. We look forward to supporting our students achieve their full potential in the new year.



All of KS3 have engaged in their performance assessments this half-term, demonstrating maturity and demonstrating one of our core values, organisation. These assessments are a stepping stone to preparing the students for their future GCSEs, with the results helping to shape their next steps.

Congratulations to Alfie (Y8) for passing his Grade 4 in electric guitar. This outstanding achievement is the equivalent of a GCSE. Even more impressive is that Alfie completed this grade in less than a year!



KS3 UPDATE



A message from Mr Till...

KS3 Futsal

I had the pleasure of taking 14 of our Y7 & Y8 boys to Keele University to represent KSS in the Newcastle School's Futsal Tournament. The teams performed admirably and were a credit to the school. Special mentions go to Brandon (Y7) and Alfie (Y8) in their debuts as captain's for their respective teams. The 11-a-side football league for both year groups will begin in the new year.



'KSS HAS GOT TALENT'

We held our first ever 'Kidsgrove's Got Talent' event this week, with twelve brilliant acts taking to the stage.

Every student voted for their favourite acts using their iPads as a part of the whole school voting process.

The event was brilliant from start to finish and what a great way to showcase the amazing talents of our students.

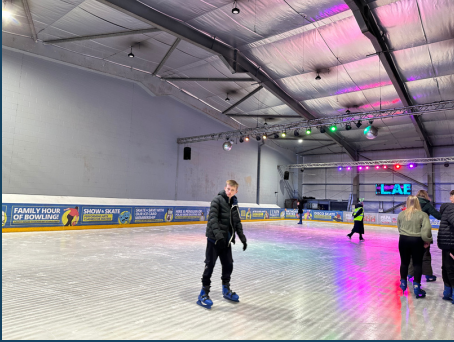


CHRISTMAS REWARD TRIP

What a reward trip!

228 students attended Cinebowl in Uttoxeter for a day of bowling, ice skating and watching the new 'Wonka' film.

The students had a great time and as always were a credit to the school.



CELEBRATION ASSEMBLIES

The end of the term is always an opportunity to reflect on the progress that students have made.

We gave out hundreds of certificates on Wednesday and also 10 laptops as the final prize for the 12 days of Christmas attendance challenge.

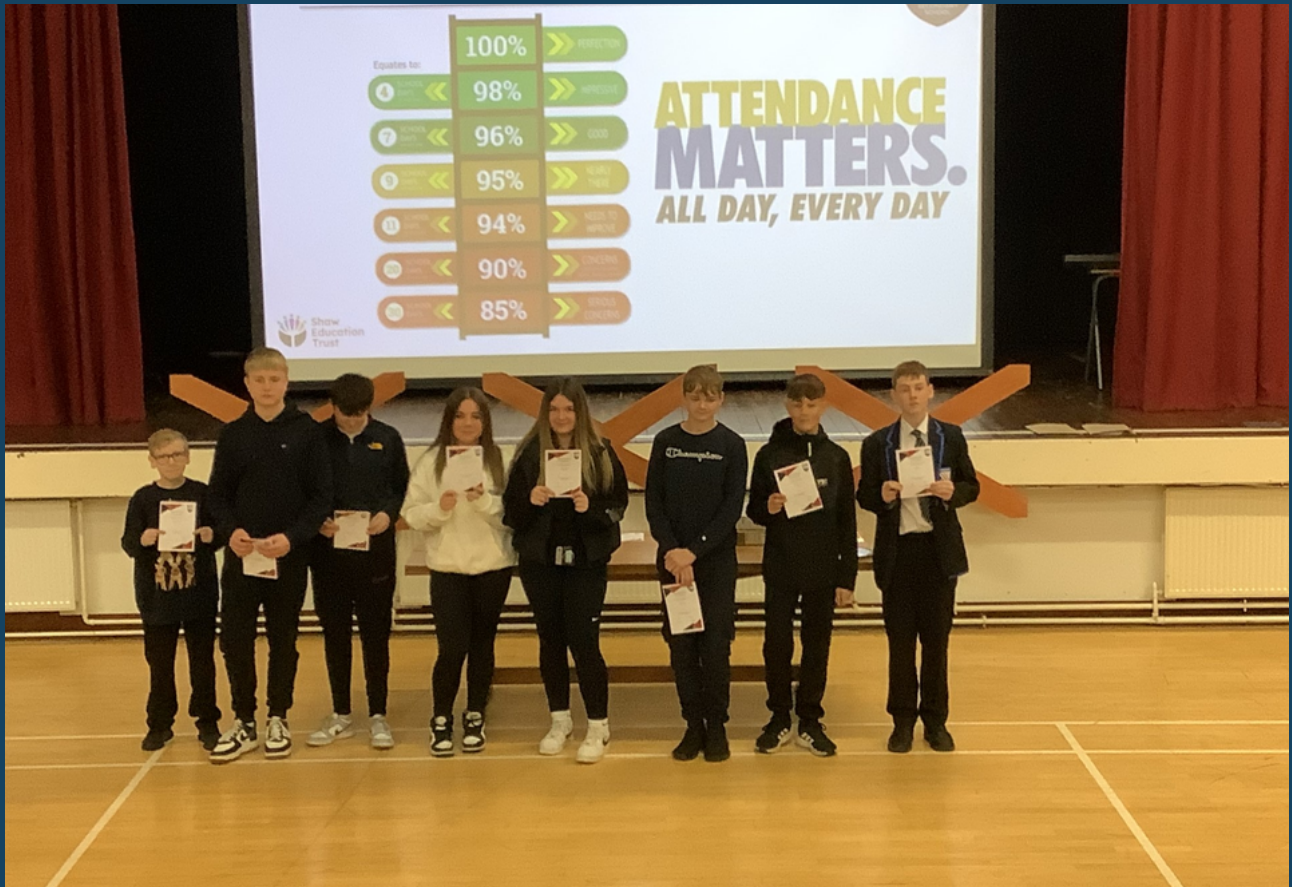
Well done to every single student that was recognised for their amazing efforts.



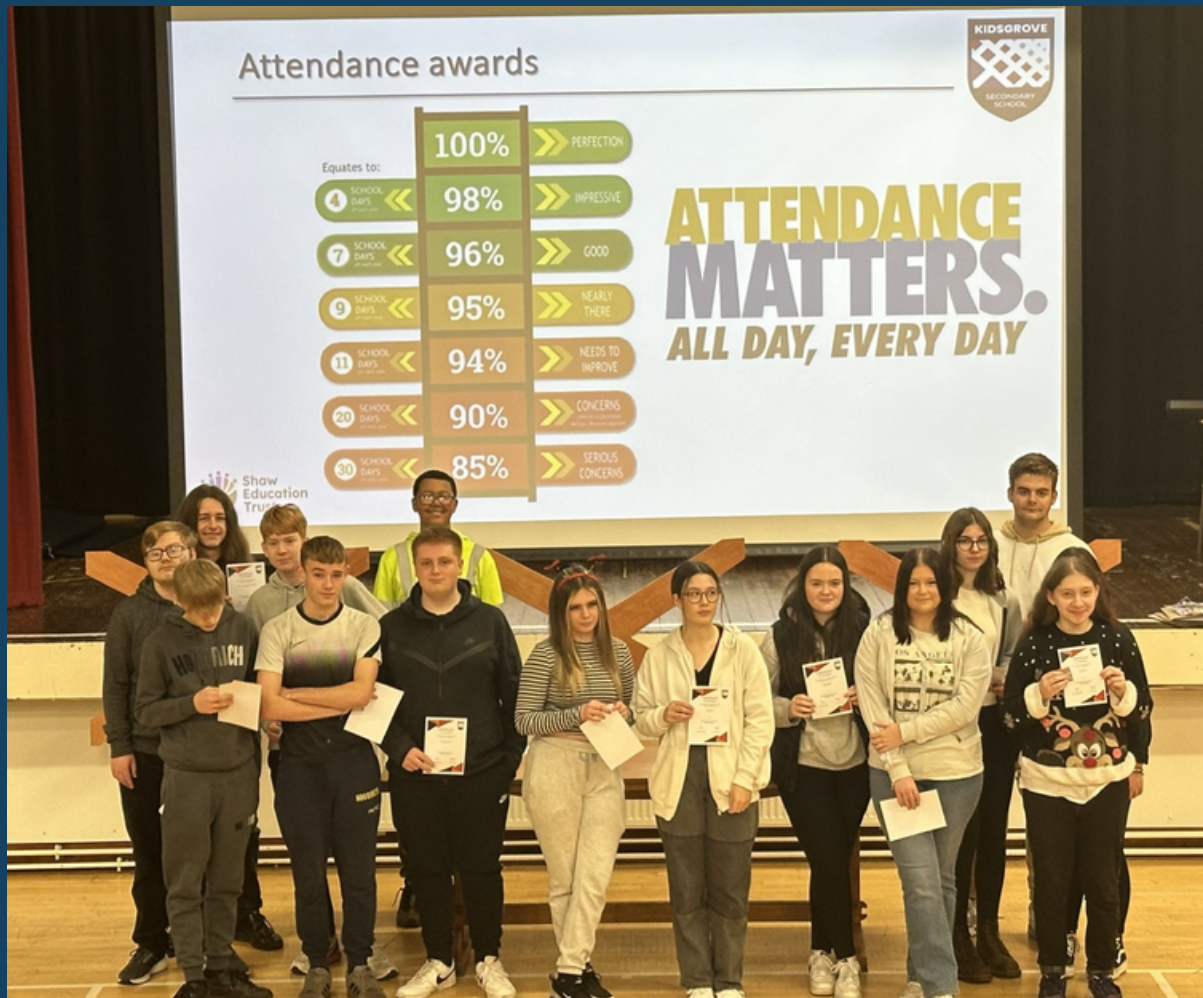
CELEBRATION ASSEMBLIES



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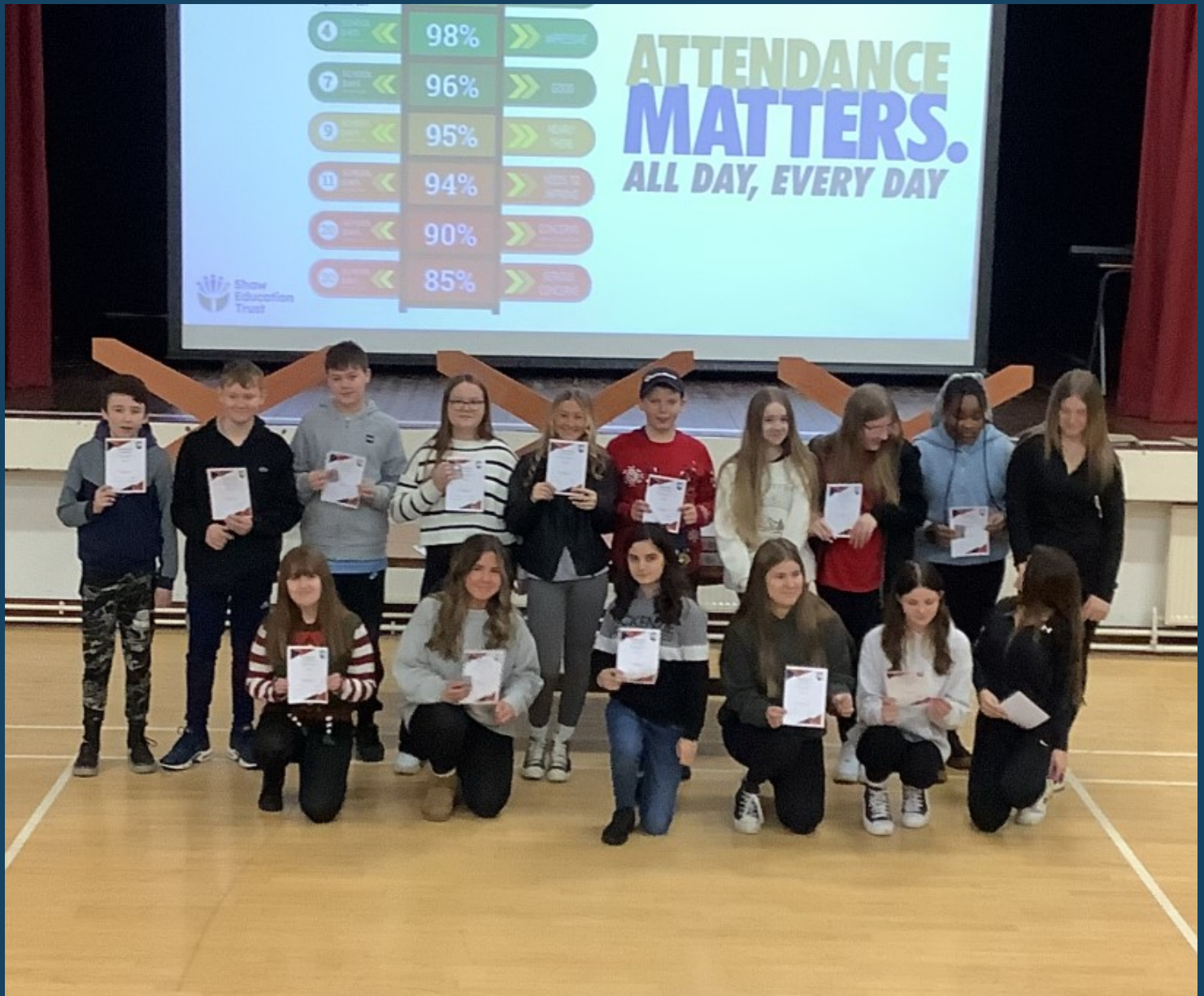
CELEBRATION ASSEMBLIES



CELEBRATION ASSEMBLIES



CELEBRATION ASSEMBLIES



Congratulations!



SURVEY FEEDBACK

Thank you so much for each and everyone of you that completed the recent parent/carer survey.

We are exceptionally proud of the results:

96% of parents/carers say that their child is happy at school

98% of parents/carers say that their child is safe

92% of parents/carers say that their child is making good progress

98% of parents/carers say that their child is well looked after

93% of parents/carers say that their child is taught well

91% of parents/carers say that the school makes sure that students are well behaved

93% of parents/carers say that the school is well led and managed

97% of parents/carers say that they would recommend this school to another parent/carer

Of course, there are still areas of the school that we would like to improve, and we have listened to parents/carers that have fed back where they feel we could do even better. Watch this space for updates about these recommendations via our Facebook page.



**PROUD TO
BE
KSS**



PROJECT LEARNING

A message from Ms Morrell...

Year 7, 8 and 9 have been using the brand new Lego sets with great enthusiasm! Year 7 and Year 8 have been engaged in STEAM learning (science, technology, engineering, art and maths) as they experiment with forces, motion and interactions in the context of sports. The hands-on learning experiences has sparked those “aha” moments, as students have set their LEGO bricks in motion without the need for technology. Year 9 have programmed sensors and motors, created robotic models that react to their programs. They have used the ‘LEGO SPIKE’ app to code their robots, learning integral skills for 21st Century living including complex problem solving and decomposition, debugging, programming, engineering, designing, building and communication.

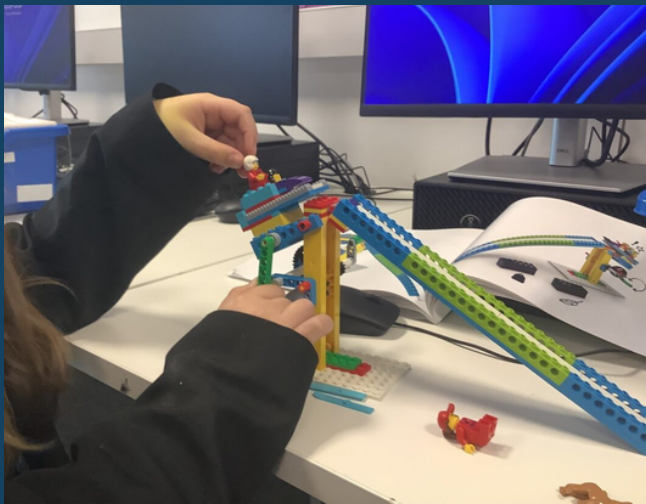
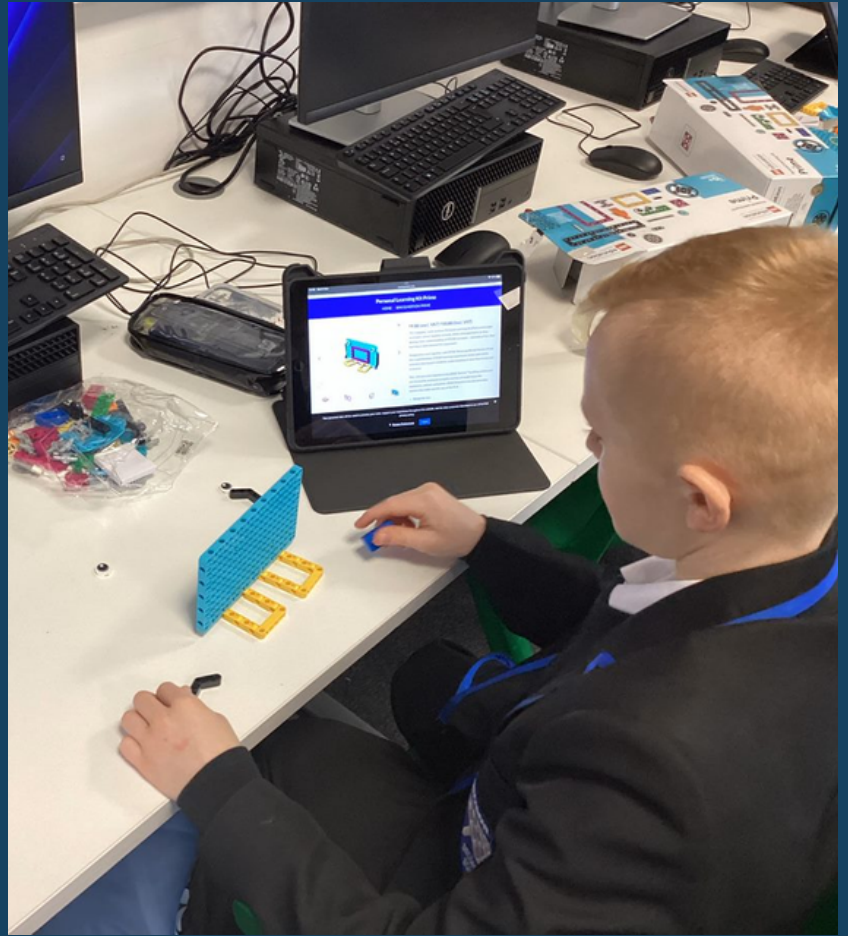
Reasons the students have loved their project based learning this term:

- They have worked collaboratively and had fun .
- They have learnt to think like an engineer - creating, problem solving, debugging.
- They have designed, used and evaluated computational abstractions that model the state and behaviour of real-world problems and physical systems.
- They have undertaken creative projects that involve selecting, using, and combining multiple applications.
- They have built on their programming skills language, and developed life skills for the application of technology in the real world
-

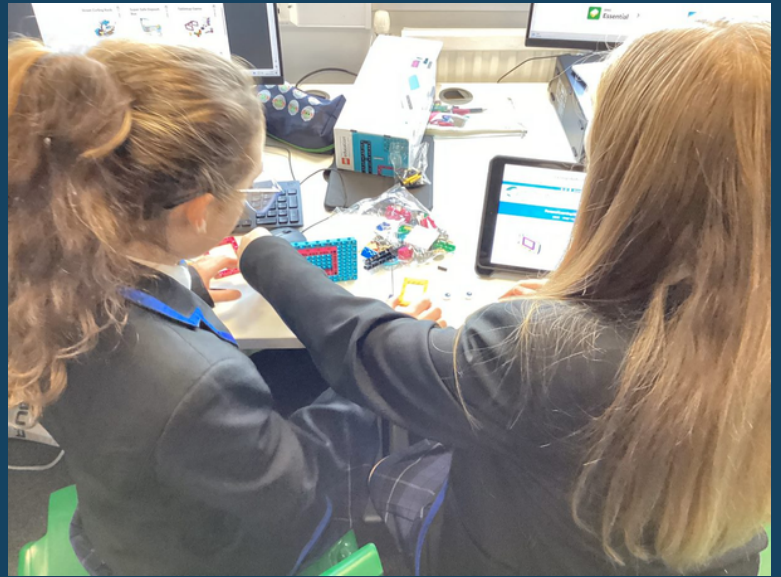
Keep it up Y7, 8 and Y9!



PROJECT LEARNING



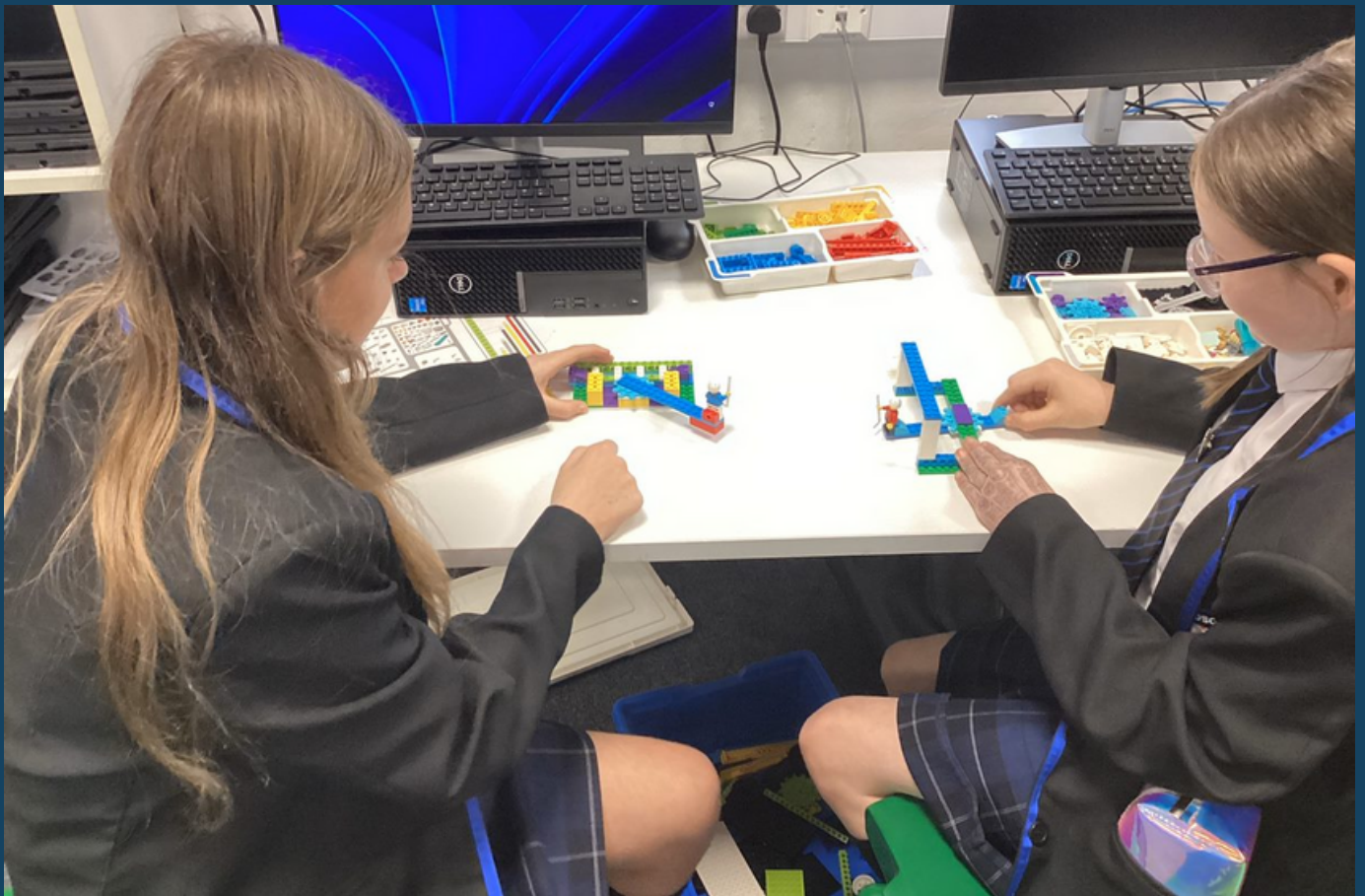
PROJECT LEARNING



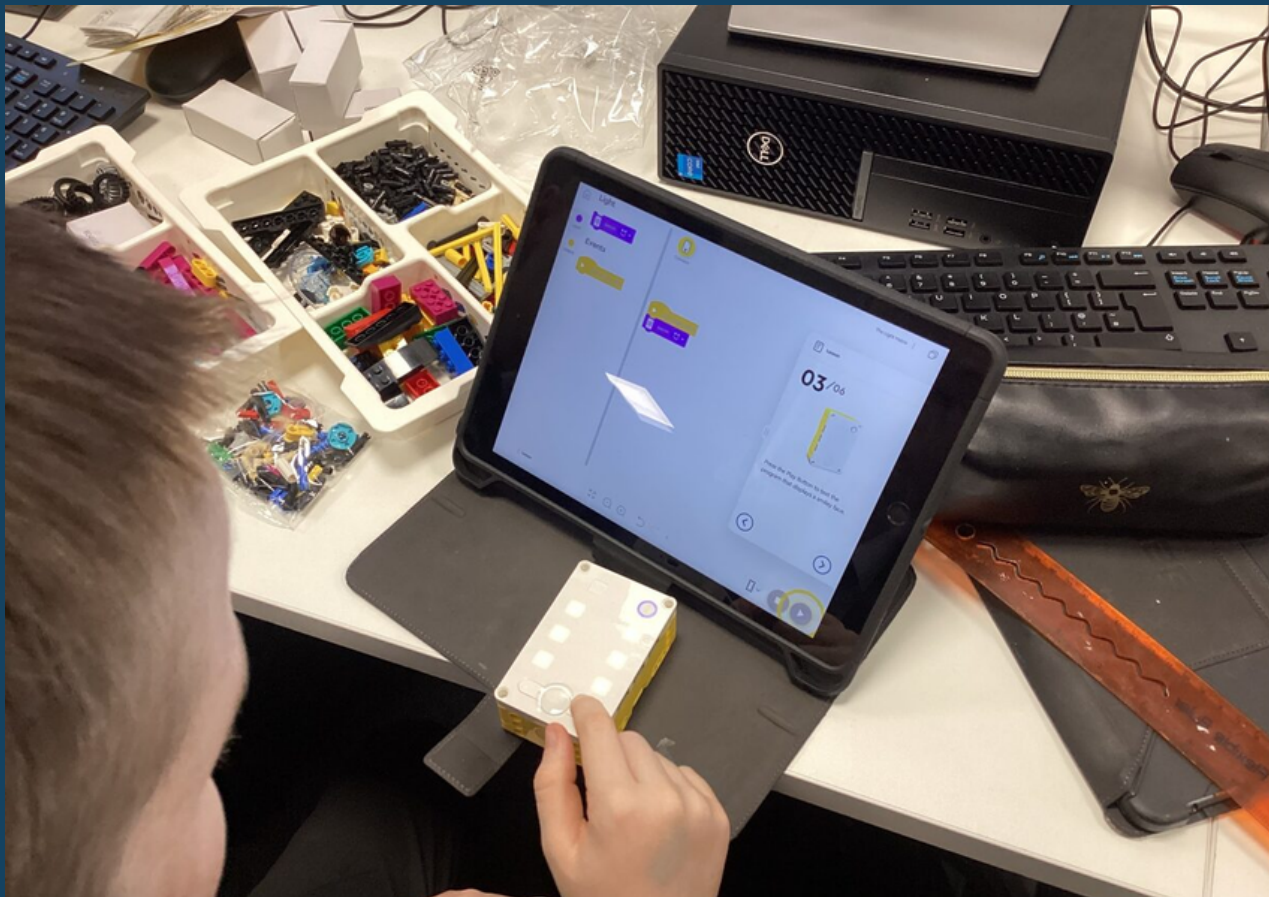
**PROUD TO
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PROJECT LEARNING



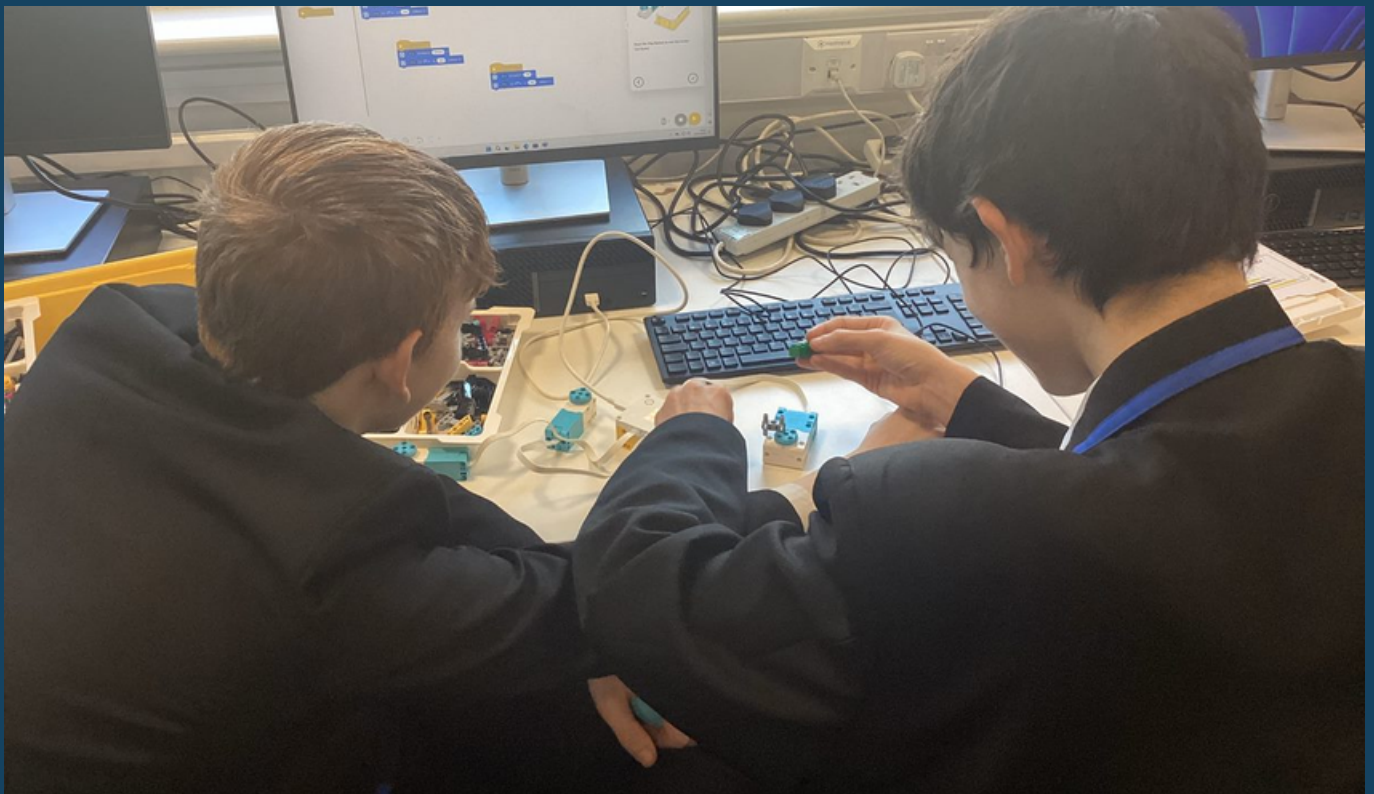
PROJECT LEARNING



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PROJECT LEARNING



YEAR 11 MOCK RESULTS

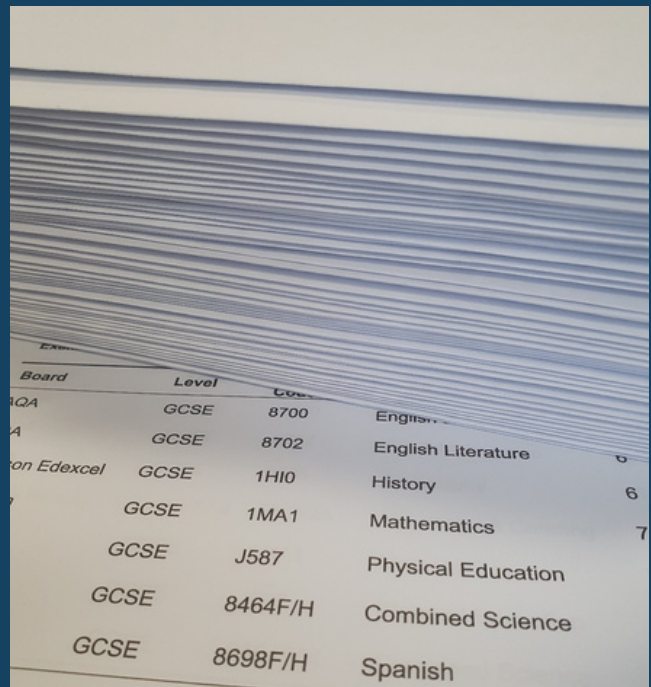
A message from Mrs Postlethwaite...

On Monday, Mr Frost and I had the pleasure of holding personalised meetings with every member of Year 11 where they were able to open their Y11 mock exam results and discuss their progress.

We were able to celebrate with the students who had made improvements on their Y10 mock results, and were able to discuss any barriers to learning with students who didn't do as well as they hoped.

With only **73 school days** until the start of the Summer exams, it was excellent to see students being reflective of their own performance. Some students were very honest and admitted that they didn't do much revision for these mocks and could see that they needed to up the effort after Christmas as this was reflected in some results. Some other students articulated that they still hadn't found a good revision method that worked for them and we will aim to support these students via our mentoring programme. We also enjoyed celebrating the successes where students had received results that reflected the effort put in.

We have advised all Year 11 students to enjoy the Christmas break and use the time to relax and rejuvenate before coming back in January for the 'home stretch.'



TECHNOLOGY

A message from Mrs Bryan...

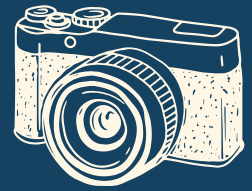
A huge well done to McKenzie and Aaron from Year 10 who have been coming to Young Engineers enrichment every Wednesday evening. This week they have been learning about the cyclone power of a Dyson Hoover. They have disassembled the hoover to see how the eight cyclones work and reconstructed one of the tool attachments.

They are both really dedicated and display all our LORIC values.

Well done to both students.

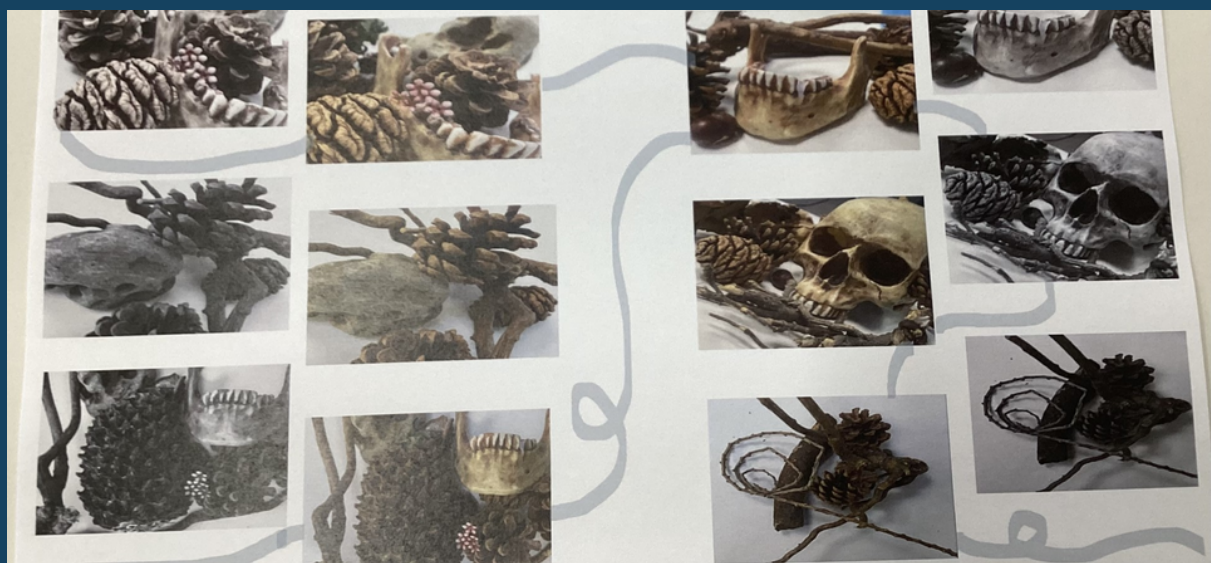
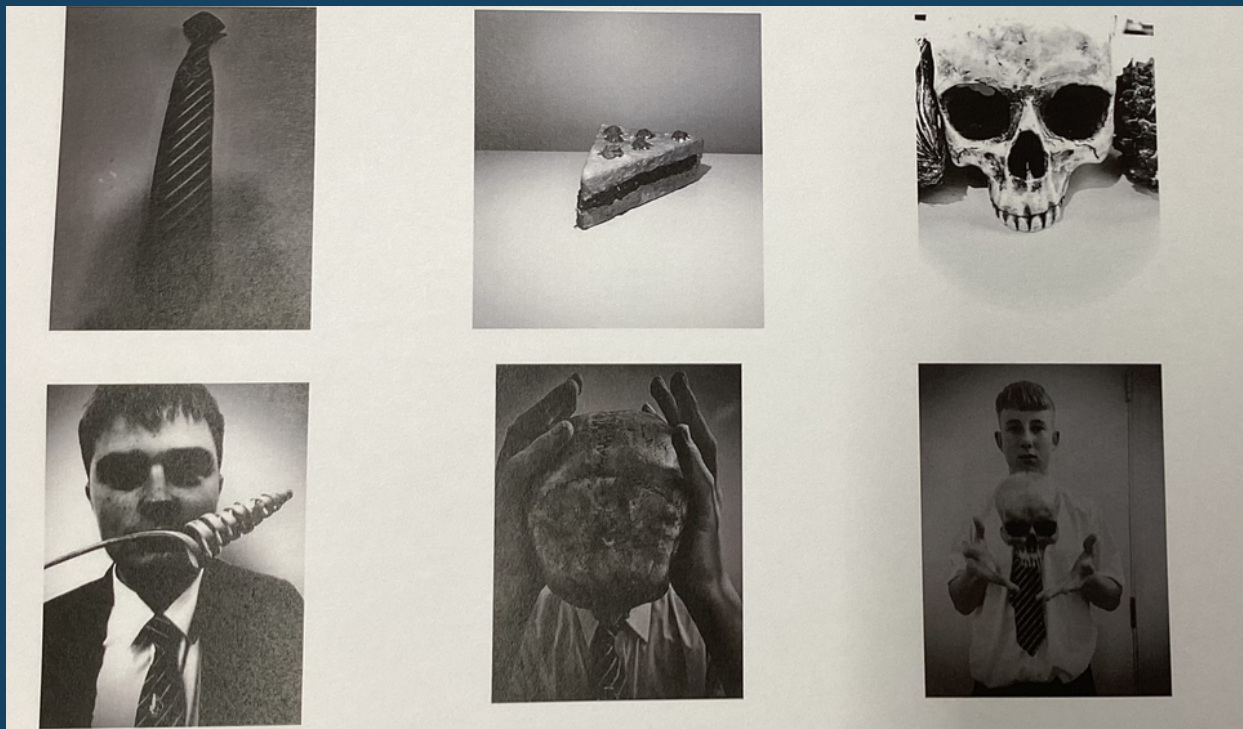


PHOTOGRAPHY



A message from Mrs Bryan...

Students in Technology lessons have been researching famous artists such as Irving Penn, Lucy Shires and Anne Belmont and recreating their work taking their own images and editing them. The students take all the photo's themselves using just their iPad and edit them using Photopoea or Canva. Some of the photos are stunning. Well done all of our brilliant photography students.



**PROUD TO
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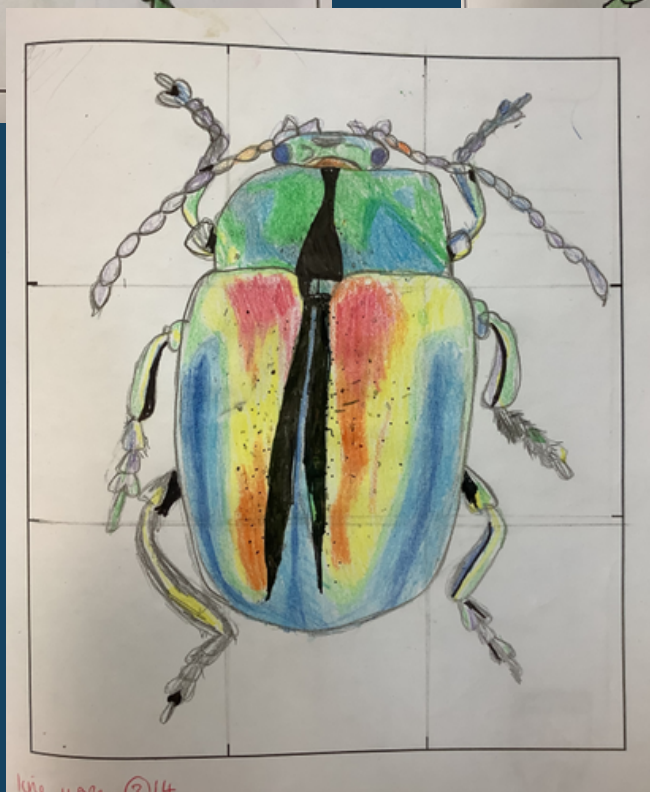
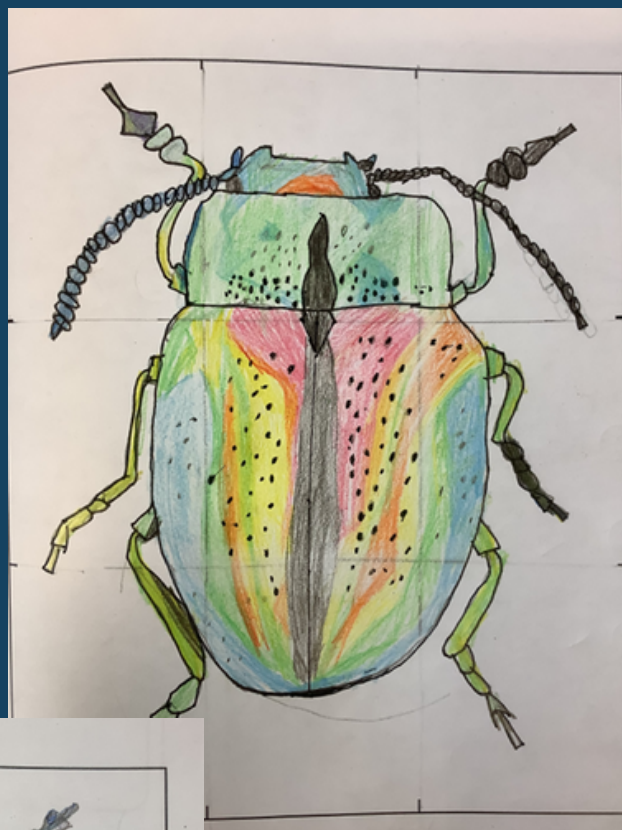
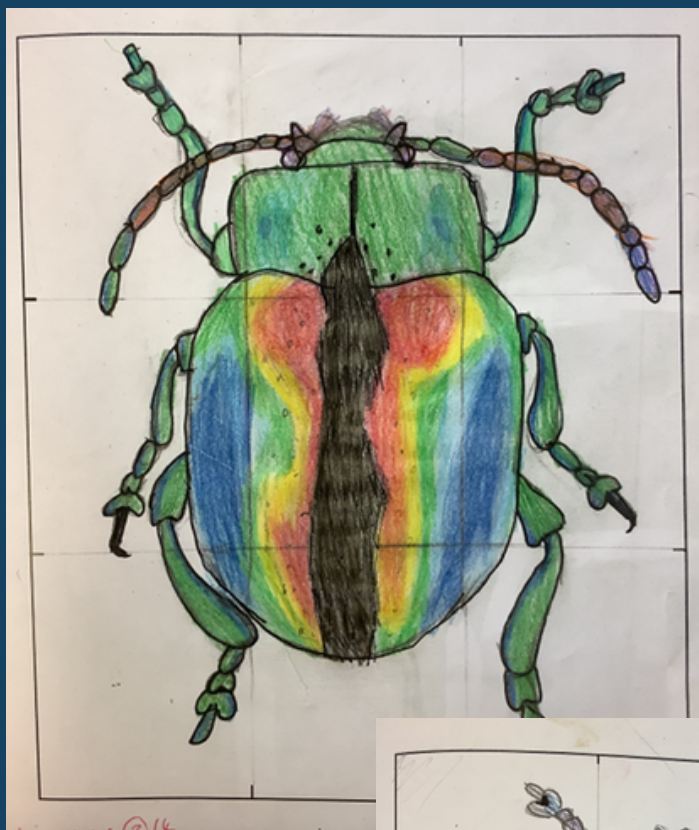


ART



A message from Mrs Mason...

Year 7 have completed their assessments pulling their new skills of observational drawing, mark making and colour to produce detailed beetle drawings. I am sure that you will agree, the beetles look incredible.



**PROUD TO
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KSS**

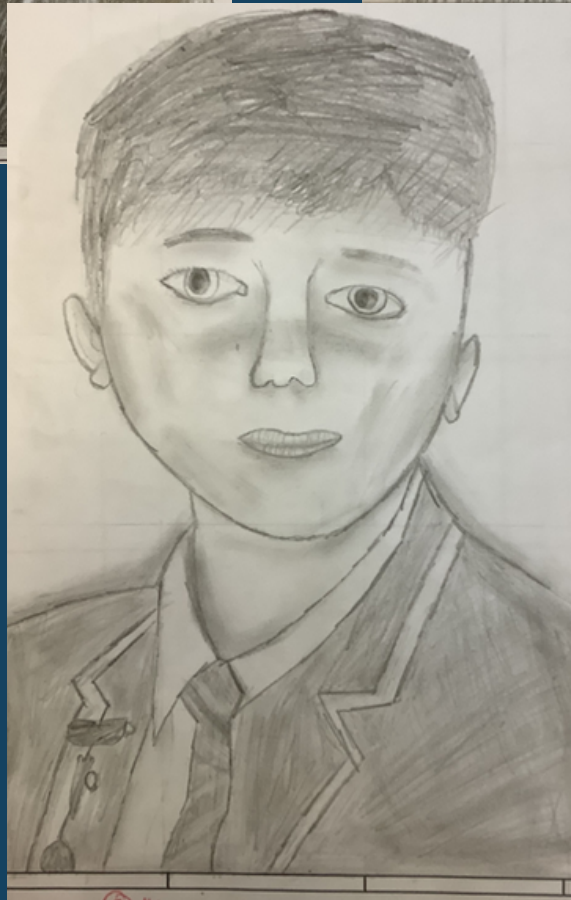
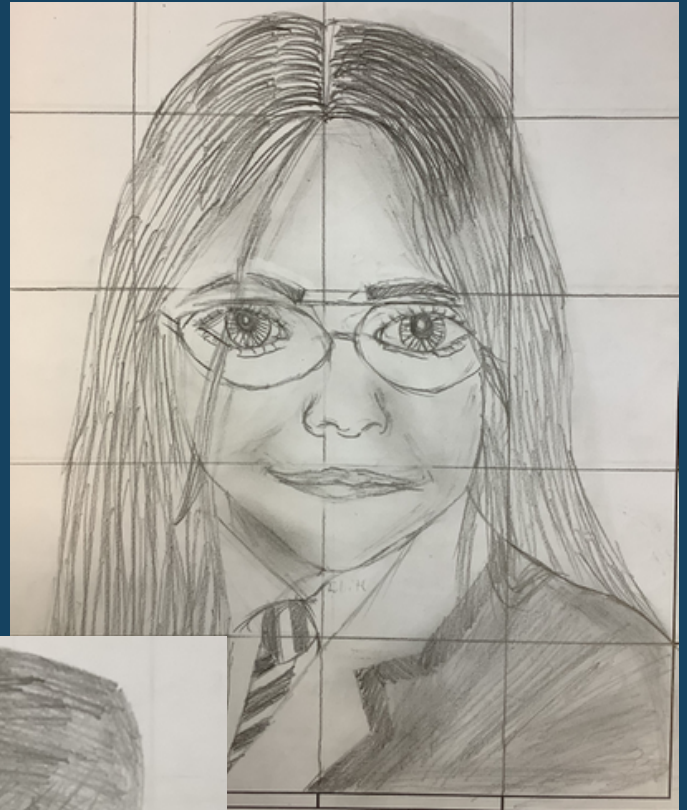
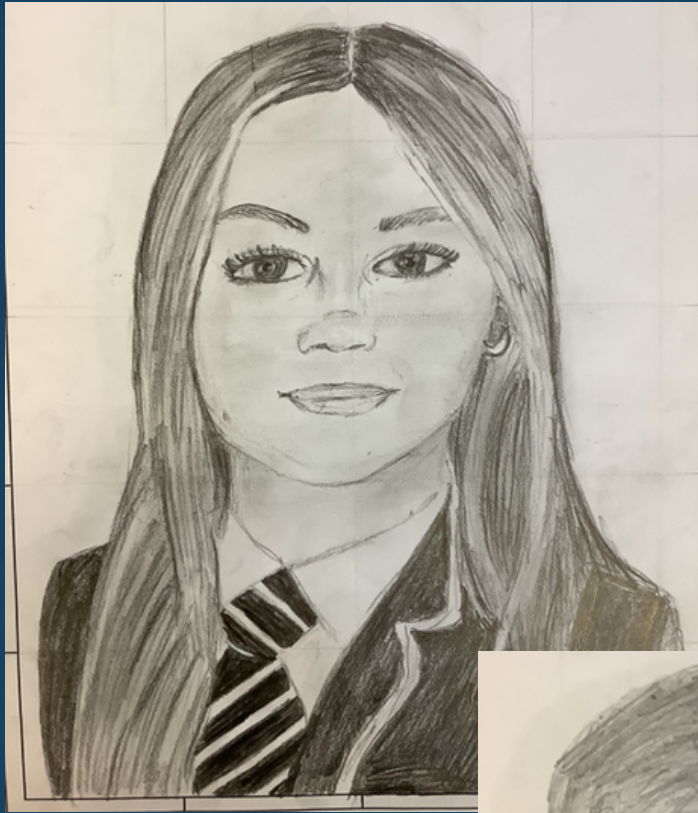


ART

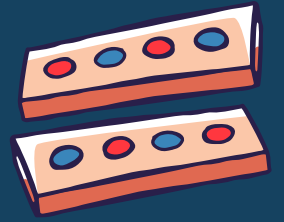


A message from Mrs Mason...

Year 8 have been implementing all of their portraiture knowledge into creating their own self-portraits. We have some very talented students at KSS.



ART



A message from Mrs Mason...

Year 9 have been responding to their topic of Wayne Thiebaud, Pop Art and 3D drawing skills to create an oil pastel outcome. These examples are incredible.



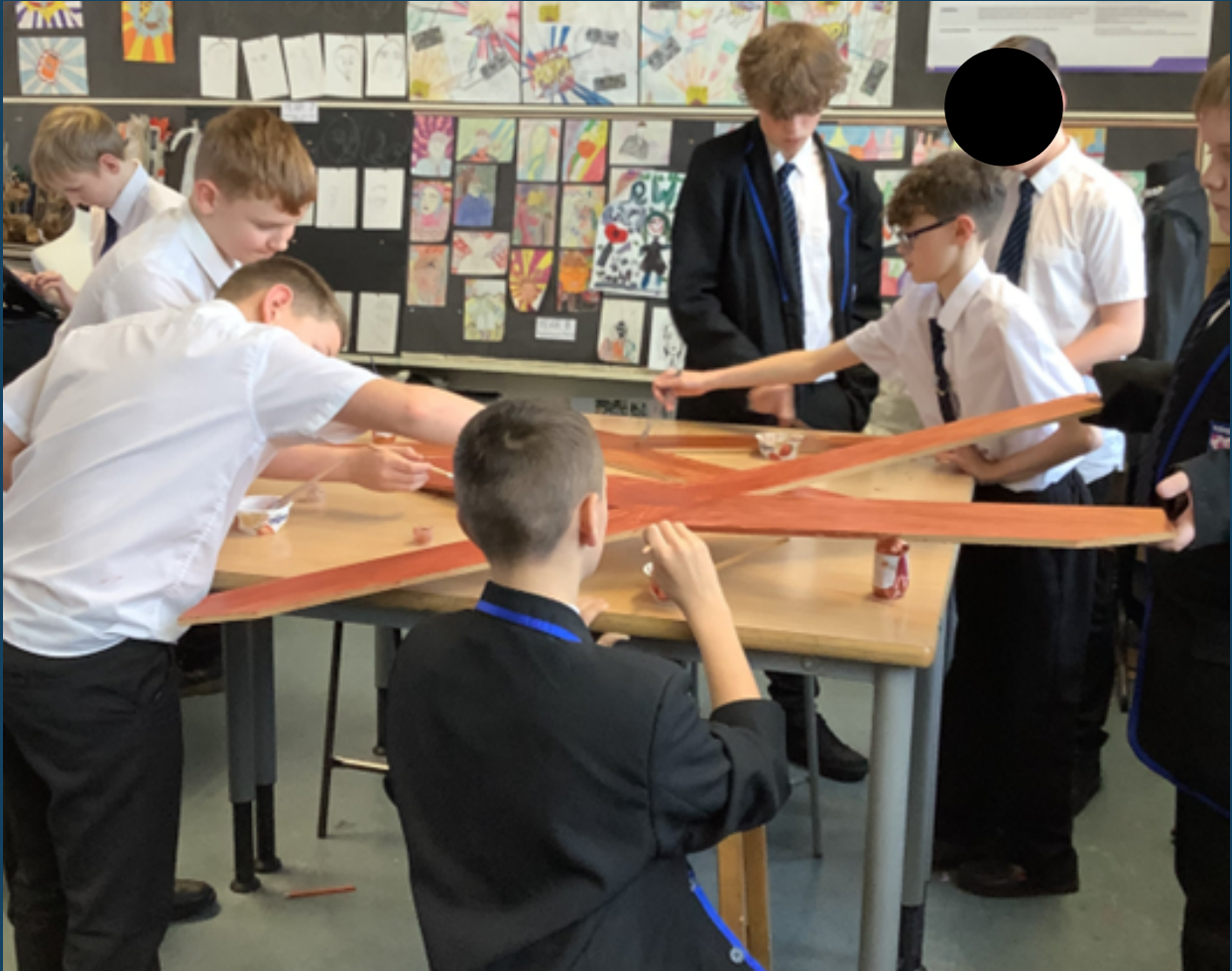
PROJECT LEARNING

A message from Mrs Mason...

Year 8 and 9 have been working together in project learning lessons to create festive backdrops and giant X's for our up and coming 'Kidsgrove Got Talent' Christmas show.



PROJECT LEARNING

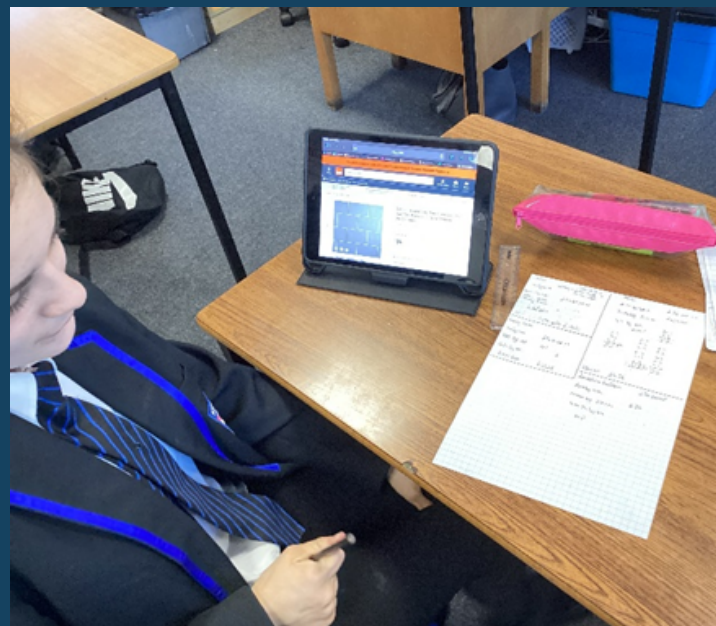
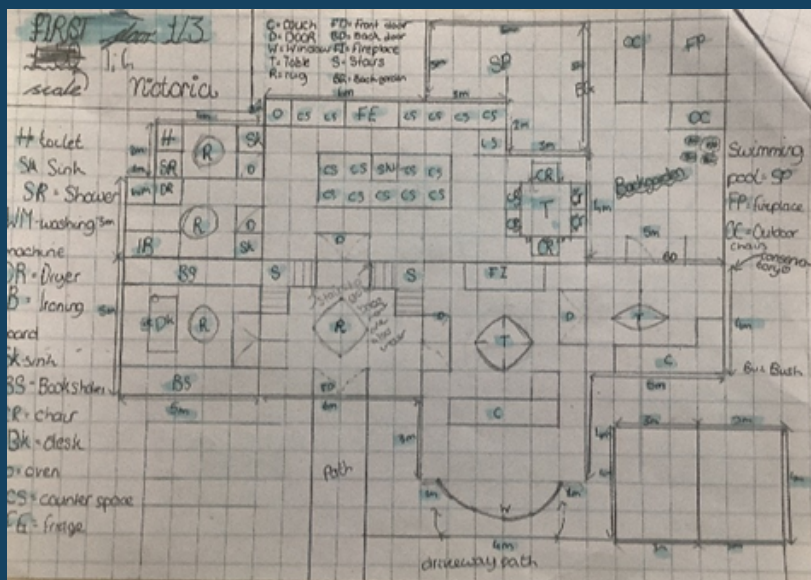
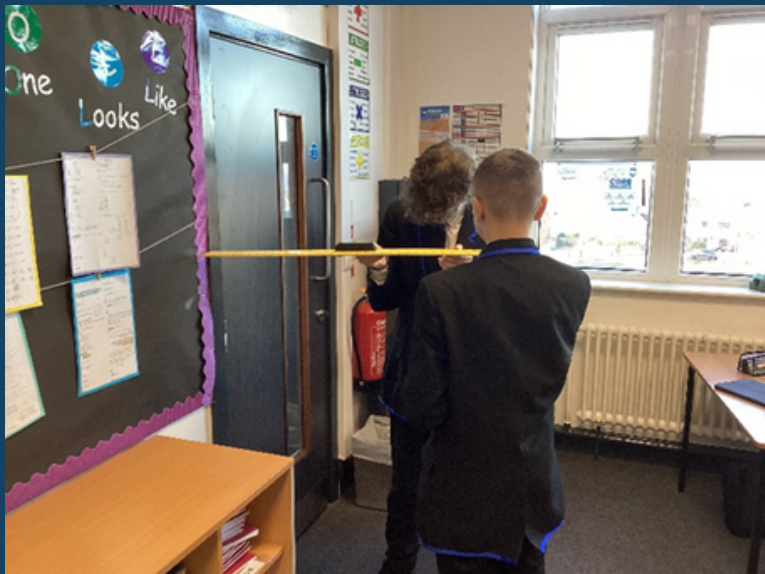


MATHS

A message from Ms Ayres...

Our students have been as busy as elves at Christmas recently, here's just a snapshot of what we've been up to!

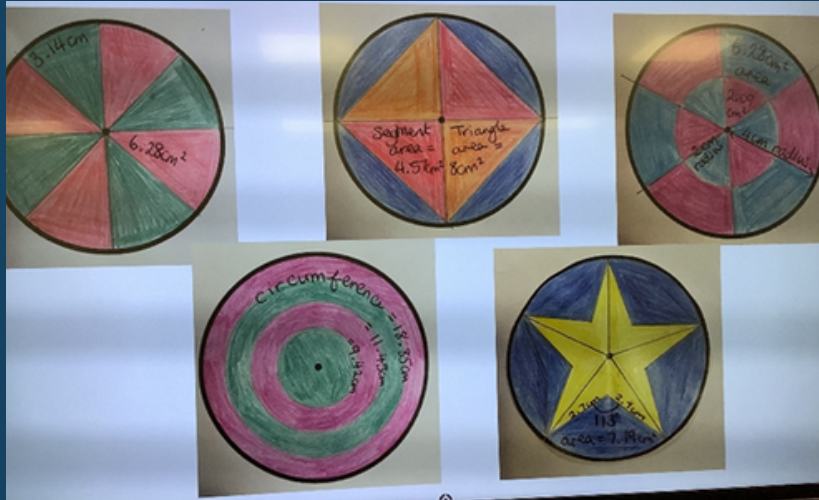
8K worked on a scale diagram project where they designed and drew floorplans for their ideal home. They went on to research the cost of adding flooring wallpaper and furnishings for their designed homes.



MATHS

A message from Ms Ayres...

Mrs McDermott's class have been getting into the ChristMATHS spirit by making some beautiful baubles decorated with circle facts.



MATHS

Now we want to challenge you to a maths Christmas riddle!

Nick has a box of ornaments that he uses to decorate his tree each year. All of them are blue, except for six. All of them are green, except for six. All of them are red, except for six. How many of each colored ornament does Nick have?



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

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**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.

The collage includes the school crest, a string of colorful lights, a photo of students in a hallway, and a photo of Mr Frost talking to a student.

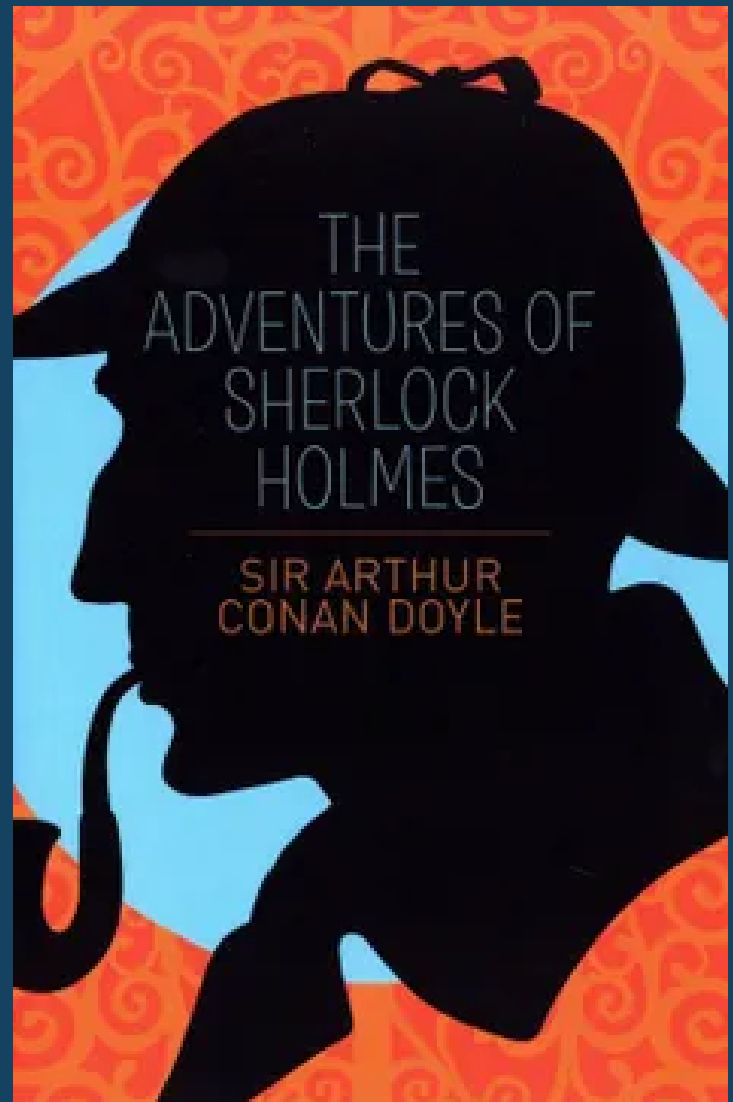
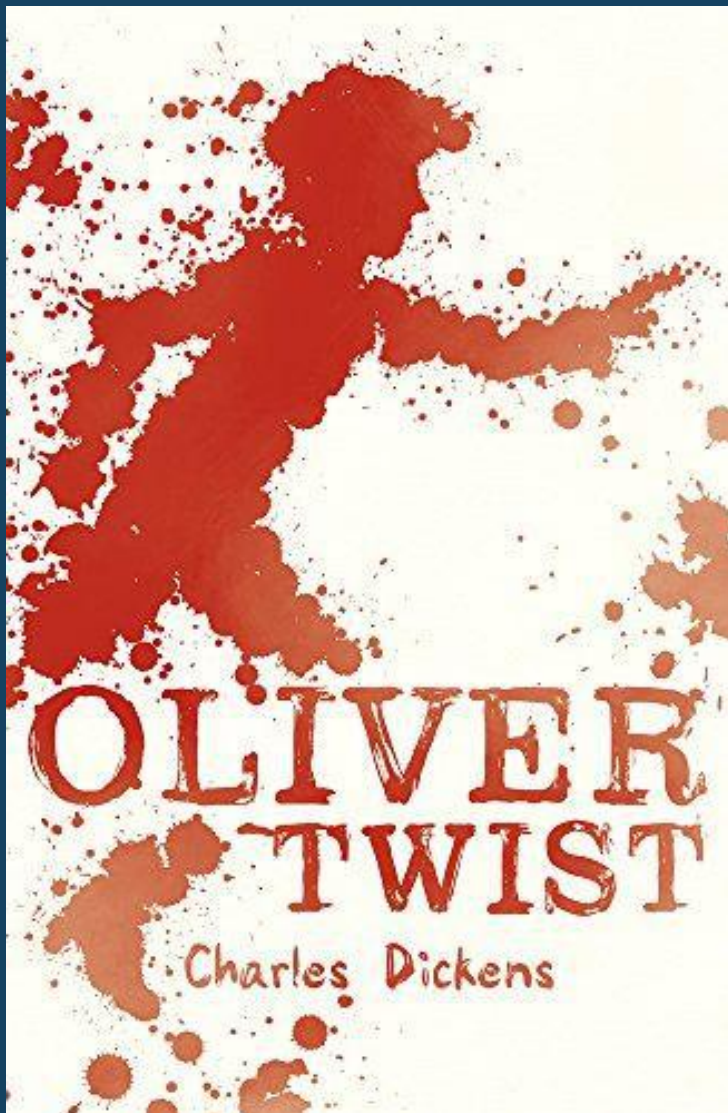


ENGLISH



A message from Mr Old...

Autumn term was Victorian term for years 7-10! All students in these years have read a Victorian text. From Oliver Twist in year 7 and Sherlock Holmes in year 8, through to A Christmas Carol at GCSE, the students engaged well with the characters and ideas from these novels and are learning how the ideas from the 19th century have shaped the world we live in today. Well done for their excellent efforts across the recent performance assessments.



HISTORY

A message from Mr Hilditch...

Year 7 History students have been learning all about how the Normans gained control of England after their iconic victory at the Battle of Hastings. This has involved the study of castles, the 'harrying of the north', the feudal system and the Domesday Book. Pupils have been using evaluation skills to form an opinion on how effective these methods were in controlling the Anglo-Saxon population.

In Year 8 History pupils have been investigating the breakdown of relations between King Charles I and his Parliament leading to the English Civil War. Along with the complex causes of the conflict pupils have been analysing how people chose a side in the war. They have also been learning about how early propaganda was used as a weapon during the conflict.

Year 9 students have been engaged in historical research about life during World War One. This has involved an investigation of trench warfare and a case study of the Battle of the Somme through the analysis of primary historical sources. They then switched focus to how the global conflict impacted on the home front in Britain.

As part of their Warfare GCSE module Year 10 students have been analysing the changes in warfare from the early modern period to the end of the 19th century. This has involved case studies of the Battle of Waterloo and the Crimean War. Students have been evaluating changes in weapons, recruitment, leadership, training and societal factors, which all form a vital part of the content they will need for their examinations.

Year 11 History students have been completing their GCSE module about Weimar and Nazi Germany. They have been studying how the Nazi dictatorship controlled the church and youth groups, and used indoctrination to manipulate the German public. They have also been studying some of the economic reasons behind success of the Nazi government in the 1930s. In January students will turn their attention to the Cold War.



HISTORY

Friday 17th October

Charles I

King Charles I was born in the year 1600 in Fife, Scotland. His birthdate is 19th November and was the second son of James VI of Scotland. He had become heir to the throne on the death of his brother, Prince Henry, in 1612. His character was a good linguist and a sensitive man of refined tastes. He was a quiet person and was just over 5 feet tall. He also had a stammer.

Family

King Charles had a family:

- Queen Henrietta Maria of France (his wife) died (1609-1669).
- Princess Mary (1-5 children) died (1631-1661).
- James Duke of York (2-5 children) died (1633-1701).
- Prince Charles (3-5 children) died (1630-1685).
- Princess Elizabeth (4-5 children) died (1635-1650).
- Princess Anne (5-5 children) died (1637-1640).

Religion

King Charles I was considered deeply religious. He preferred to be at church services to be grand and full of ritual colour. Charles I was a devout Roman Catholic viewed with mistrust by many English protestants, pressing his subjects to practice a Christianity highly influenced by the Roman Catholic sacraments, rituals and beliefs.

King Charles I wife that he had married was in fact a French Catholic. Charles was too sympathetic towards Catholics.

Oliver Cromwell

Who was Oliver Cromwell?

Oliver Cromwell was a Lieutenant-General during the British Civil Wars and then later became Lord Protector. Oliver was born on the 25th April 1599. He was born in Huntingdon a small town near Cambridge. Oliver had 9 children (5 boys & 4 girls):

Robert Cromwell (1621-1634)
 Oliver Cromwell (1622-1644)
 Bridget Cromwell (1624-1662)
 Richard Cromwell (1626-1712)
 Henry Cromwell (1628-1674)
 Elizabeth Cromwell (1629-1658)
 James Cromwell (born & died in 1632)
 Mary Cromwell (1637-1713)
 Frances Cromwell (1638-1720)

Oliver's Main Achievements:

Oliver Cromwell's main achievement was that he played a role in the development of parliamentary supremacy. He helped establish the British army and the navy, introduced better freedom of religion than had been seen before.

DoD (Time/Date of Death)

Cromwell died on 3rd September 1658, aged 59.

Oliver Cromwell

About

Oliver Cromwell was born April 25 1599 in Huntingdon and died 3rd September 1658 Palace of Whitehall London. He had 7 children: Richard, Henry, Mary, countess of Essex, Bridget, Elizabeth (married name is Claydon, Robert and James Cromwell. He was married to Elizabeth Cromwell.

Who was he?

Oliver Cromwell, an English leader, diplomat, and soldier is considered by many to be among the most significant individuals in British Isles history. Cromwell was a devout Protestant Puritan who made important decisions in accordance with his convictions. Oliver held a parliamentary seat. In the civil wars he had led the parliamentarian force that had vanquished Charles I's Royalist army by 1648. Cromwell's religious convictions had a big impact on his politics. Being a Puritan, he held that individuals ought to read and study the Bible carefully and dedicate more time to prayer and introspection. Wearing simple black clothing, Cromwell earned reputations outlawing popular activities including bear-baiting celebrating Christmas.

What did he do?

Those in Parliament who wanted Charles to continue as King, but with less authority, came to an agreement after his first incarceration at the close of the first civil war in 1647. Following the expulsion of these MPs, Oliver Cromwell and the other surviving members established the "Pump Parliament". Charles is tried and execution was handed by this parliament. In January 1649, Cromwell was one of only 59 commissioners who signed Charles' death sentence after his trial. The "Pump Parliament" lasted until April 1653, when 40 soldiers headed by Oliver Cromwell stormed parliament and banished Members of Parliament. It was determined in December 1653 that a single person, known as a protector, would reign over England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland.

Friday 17th November 2023

Charles I

His Family

Charles I was born 19th November 1600 in Fife Scotland, and died 30th January 1649. His older brother 'Henry' died in 1612 and this is when he was pronounced King. He married to Henrietta Maria of France who was a Catholic. His children: Charles II, James II, Mary, Henry, Henrietta, Elizabeth, Anne and Catherine Stuart.

His interest/His religion

Charles was interested in art - his paintings were quite impressive. His art also put him in a difficult financial decision. He was quite a religious person and just like his wife he was Catholic, he like grand and colour places of ritual. This was one of the reason most people in England turned to be Protestant.

His character

Charles was a reserved person and was always in the background. He grew an insecurity as he was short in height (he was only a bit over 5 foot). Since he was one of the shortest in his family in portraits his children and wife had to sit down while he stood up.

Extra information

The line of Stuart King considered themselves to be gods and were apparently appointed by him. The early years of Charles reign there were a number of errors so in order to make peace with France he married the King of France daughter Henrietta. He created a new tax called the Ship tax and this was without parliament decision so he is quite self-righteous - he was making 600,000 a year.

HISTORY

Monday 18th December 2023

What was the impact of WW1 on the Home Front?

R&R:

- Two reasons why Haig was not a butcher:
 - He wasn't trained for that warfare.
 - He tried things to defeat the Germans.
- No-Mans-Land was the land in-between the trenches.
- The Battleship built in the lead up to WW1 was called the Dreadnought.

Conscientious Objectors:

In the first World War, those who refused to fight in the conscript were known as conscientious objectors.

Because they refused to fight, they were sent to prison and treated harshly.

- British newspapers and soldiers letters were censored during WW1 because the Germans got hold of only information, it would cause a lot of trouble. They were also censored to keep peoples morale up.
- DORA - The defence of the Realm act.

DORA was a law passed in order to control communication. The nations ports and subject civilians to the role of the courts.

Thursday 9th November 2023

The media - the press & radio

- Newspapers flourished under the Nazis but what they published was censored and they were ordered to publish propaganda at times.
- Any newspapers that opposed the Nazis were closed down.
- Radio stations were censored and would broadcast Nazi propaganda.
- All German radios were designed with a short range so they couldn't pick up foreign stations.
- Radios were mass produced and everywhere and Nazi officials made frequent broadcasts.
- Sports stadiums were covered in Nazi symbols.
- Athletes (including foreign ones) had to do a Nazi salute during the national anthem.
- The Berlin Olympics 1936:
 - huge stadium with Nazi symbols
 - Germany won the most medals (a success for Nazis)
 - Events were filmed and used for propaganda.
 - The press were warned not to print anything before their report.

Rallies

- Goebbels already used mass rallies in election campaigns and now had the resources of the state at his disposal.
- Rallies got much bigger and more frequent.
- A mass rally was held every year at Nuremberg to create a sense of German strength and unity.
- Artists had to apply to be members of the Reich chamber of culture to be allowed to produce art.
- The Nazis disliked 'modernist' architecture and instead built large, traditional buildings covered in Swastikas.
- Millions of books were burnt, thousands were censored and no new ones could be published without Nazi consent.
- Films had to be approved by Goebbels and the Nazis made their own films that always had some levels of propaganda to them.

Culture and the Arts

Sport

Friday 20th November 2023

What was the impact of WW1 on the Home Front?

R&R:

- Two reasons why Haig was not a butcher:
 - He wasn't trained for that warfare.
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- The Battleship built in the lead up to WW1 was called the Dreadnought.

Conscientious Objectors:

In the first World War, those who refused to fight in the conscript were known as conscientious objectors.

Because they refused to fight, they were sent to prison and treated harshly.

- British newspapers and soldiers letters were censored during WW1 because the Germans got hold of only information, it would cause a lot of trouble. They were also censored to keep peoples morale up.
- DORA - The defence of the Realm act.

DORA was a law passed in order to control communication. The nations ports and subject civilians to the role of the courts.



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



PROUD TO BE KSS



Attendance

KSS

ATTENDANCE

THIS TERM

Whole School Attendance -
93.89%

Best Year Group - **Year 7**

Best Form - **8HM**

Best House - **Wedgwood**

100% ATTENDANCE

176 students achieved 100% Attendance for the month of December and have been in the prize draw for some amazing prizes as part of our '12 Days of Christmas' incentive.



Kidsgrove Secondary School

Attendance Matters

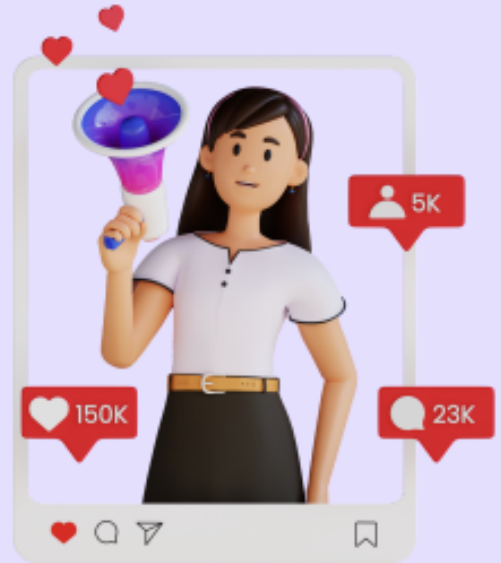
#StopTheDrop



Attendance

BRONZE AWARD

25% of students achieved the Bronze Award for Attendance this term. Well done to everyone who has managed to dodge the bugs and illnesses and being in school everyday.



#AttendanceMatters



REPORTING ABSENCE

Absence should be reported daily by 8:30am if you think your child is too unwell to attend. Please call 01782 948267. For absences of 3 days or more we may carry out home visits if medical evidence cant be provided.

#ProudToBeKSS



Kidsgrove Secondary School

Attendance Matters

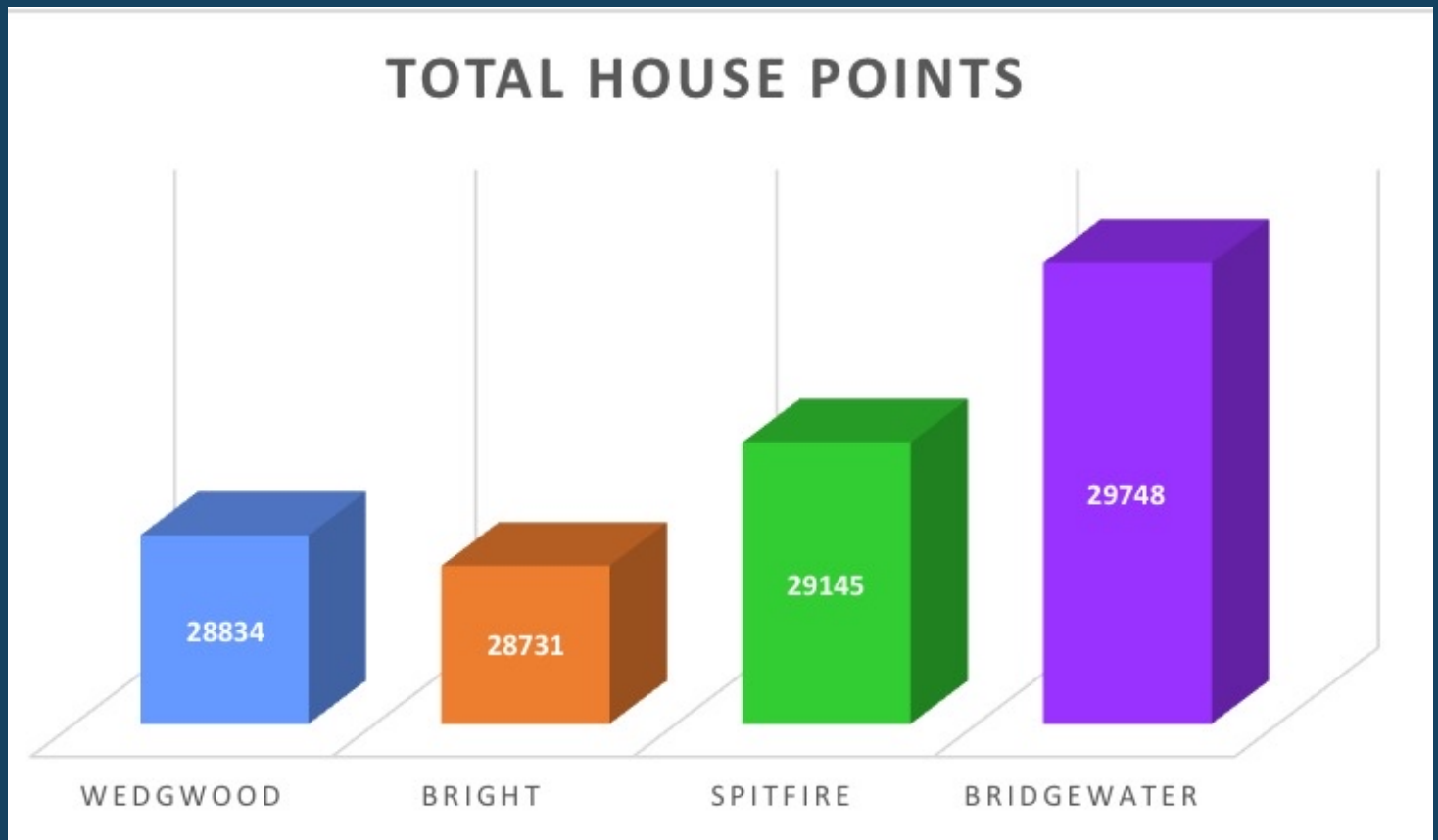
#StopTheDrop



House Update

Below are the House totals for the autumn term....

Well done to Bridgewater an amazing effort and a well deserved win. Lets reset and go again for the Spring term and lets see who is out in front come February half term.



CORE VALUES





KIDSGROVE SECONDARY SCHOOL

JAN-FEB

EXTRA CURRICULAR ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MONDAY

Lunchtime
13.30-14.00



German Club

Open to all

Room 6 – Miss Hud

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

Lunchtime
13.30-14.00



Pride Club

Open to all

Room 14 – Miss Ayers

Netball

Open to all

Changing Rooms – Mrs Castrey

After School
15.05-16.05



Football

KS3

Changing Rooms – Mr Hilditch

Fitness

KS4

Fitness Suite – Mr Till

THURSDAY

Lunchtime
13.30-14.00



Science Support

KS4

Room 23 – Dr Ma

Open Studio

Open to all

Room 10 – Mrs Mason

After School
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

Football

KS4

Changing Rooms – Mr Frost

After School
15.05-16.05



Trampolining

Open to all

Hall – Mrs Castrey



**PROUD TO
BE
KSS**



Physical Education

A message from Mrs Castrey...



PE CLUBS

Tuesday



Y7/ 8 Football

Wednesday



**Netball (all years)
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.

