

# HEADTEACHER BULLETIN

Friday 19.7.24

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Dear Parents/Carers,

What a year it has been at KSS! It has been 38 weeks of learning, personal development and progress from all of our students and we look back at the last nine months with great pride at what the students have achieved.

This has been a record breaking year for so many reasons. but the most exciting development is the fact that we have a record number of Year 7 students joining us in September. We cannot wait to welcome our new intake and immerse them into our collective KSS family.

The end of term is tinged with sadness but also gratitude as we say goodbye to valued KSS staff.

Mrs Beardmore is retiring as our exams officer and operations lead after many years of dutiful service to the school, she will be greatly missed by all of us. Mrs McDermott is also retiring as teacher of Maths after two years of dedicated work in helping to transform the Maths department, she has made a terrific impact on the students she has taught. Mrs Evans leaves us after seven years to join another school as a teacher of music and she will be a great loss to our KSS family. Mr Baldwin also leaves us having been a key member of the English department over the last two years. He has been a key Year 11 form tutor and has also offered his own time to inspire our students to play chess, of which we now have a group of chess experts. Finally, we say goodbye to Mrs Hume who many of you will know has supported a number of families and students in her role as attendance officer and as deputy safeguarding lead, she leaves us for a promotion working across a trust in the north west of England.

In light of these staffing changes, over the last few months, the school has been busily committed to recruiting exceptional staff to join our staff team. I am delighted to share that we have a number of colleagues joining us in September.

We have Ms Wagstaff joining us as teacher of Performing Arts from a Cheshire school, Mrs Price as teacher of Maths from a school in Stoke-on-Trent and Mrs Hawthorne who has joined as Associate Assistant Headteacher of Maths from her previous role as a national Maths leader. We also have Ms Weston joining the team as teacher of English with KSS being her first teaching post. Mrs Longmore is joining the inclusion support team as a Teaching Assistant, Ms Tipping-Brown has been appointed as our new technology technician and Ms Johnson is joining us as our new Receptionist.

These new appointments are in conjunction with a few internal staffing changes. Mrs Frost has stepped down as the Maths subject lead after two years of exceptional leadership but will remain with us as teacher of Maths. Mr Old has been successful in becoming our new Associate Assistant Headteacher for English, where he will be leading all things literacy related. Mr Till has become our new Senior Assistant Headteacher, leading behaviour and attendance from September which sees Mrs Postlethwaite become our new Quality of Education lead. In light of Mr Till's promotion, Miss Hambleton will take up the post of SENCO in September. We are also delighted to share that Ms Potts has been promoted for her exceptional work over the last two years to become our new Attendance Officer and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Although there are lots of changes, what remains is the amazing culture and relationships that we have as a school community and we cannot wait for the new academic year to begin. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you as parents/carers for your continued support over the year.

On behalf of all of the staff at KSS, we wish you all a relaxing summer and we will see you all in September.



## Upcoming Events

**Tuesday 3.9.24 - Year 7 Students Only**  
**Wednesday 4.9.24 - All Students Return**  
**Sunday 8.9.24 - Munich Trip Departs**  
**Wednesday 11.9.24 - Munich Trip Returns**

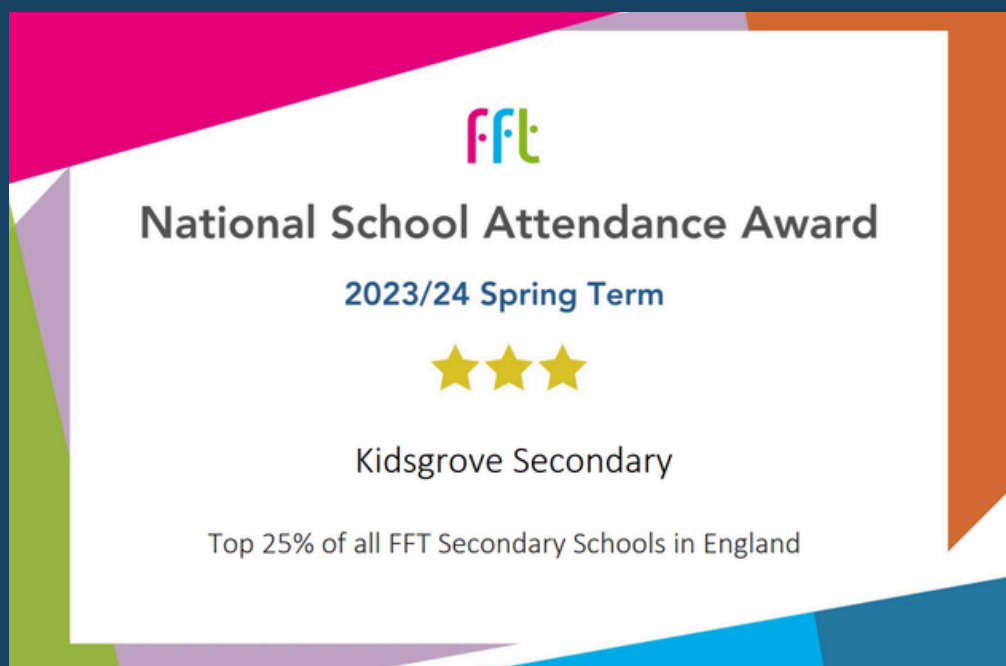
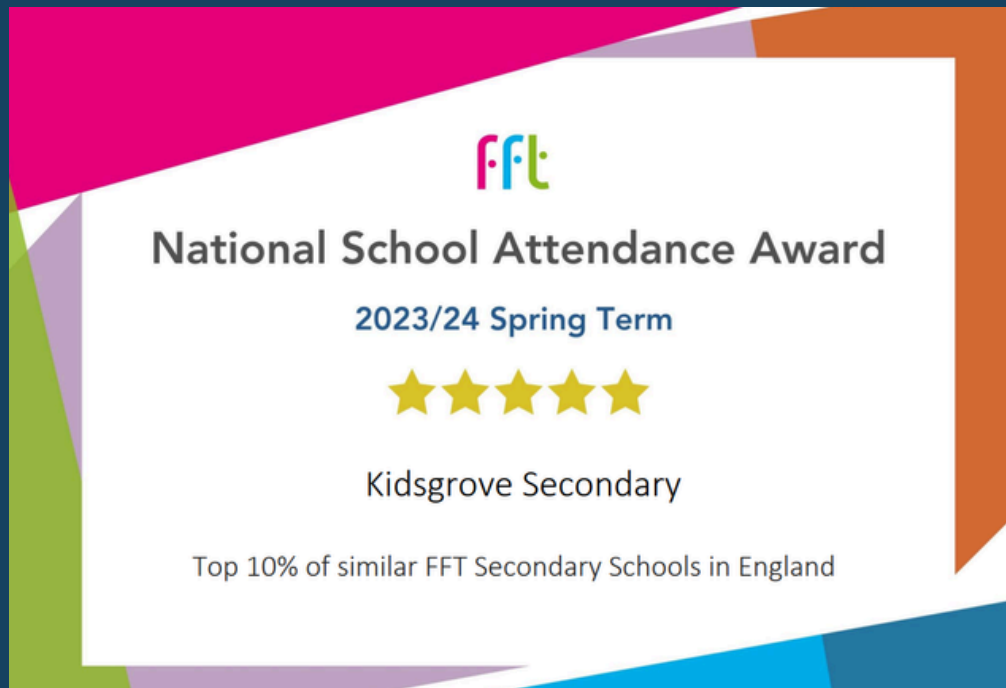
Yours faithfully,  
Mr S Frost

# Attendance



We are delighted to announce that the school has won two attendance awards for the Spring Term as recognised by a national body.

These awards are testament to the great partnerships between the school and parents/carers. Attendance continues to be the most important area for improvement and to be recognised for our hard work makes us extremely proud.



# Attendance



## ATTENDANCE

# KSS

TERM 3  
WEEK 39

Whole school  
attendance  
93.26%

National Average 90.9%



TEAM BOYS 91.06%

TEAM GIRLS 90.51%

**Best year group**

**Year 7**

**Best Form**

- 7TM - 95.08%
- 8HM - 94.77%
- 10EG 94.39%

**Best House**



BRIDGEWATER

**100% Attendance**

Dakota. A, Lilly B, Jasmine C, Tyler F, Liam G, Finley H,  
Louie H, Lyla K, Callum, S and Mya.V

Special Mention to Jasmine C, Liam G and Lyla K who  
have achieved 100% attendance for the past 2 years!!



# Headteacher Reward Lunch

Fifty nine students joined me for the final Headteacher reward lunch of the year. This was an extra special reward lunch as all of the students invited have received zero negative points for the whole of the academic year.

This is a remarkable achievement and well done to all that were invited.

An extra special mention to some of the Year 10 students that have zero negative points for four years running, Incredible!



# Headteacher Reward Lunch

*Bon  
Appetit!*



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

# Head Students

Mrs Postlethwaite and I had the great pleasure of interviewing eight Year 10 students for the positions of Head Students and Senior Prefects two weeks ago. We were blown away by the letters that were written, the interviews themselves and how the students held themselves in what is a daunting formal process. We are delighted to announce that the following students have been selected:

Alfie and Lilly – Head Students

Josh, Nevaeh, Aveah – Deputy Head Students

Holly and Carmella – Senior Prefects

Emily – Head of Student Welfare

We are looking forward to working with our new leadership team in 2024-2025.



## GO TEAM!



# Year 10 - Mock Results Meeting

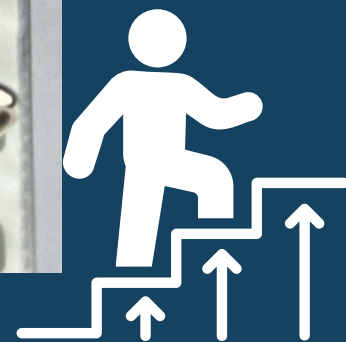
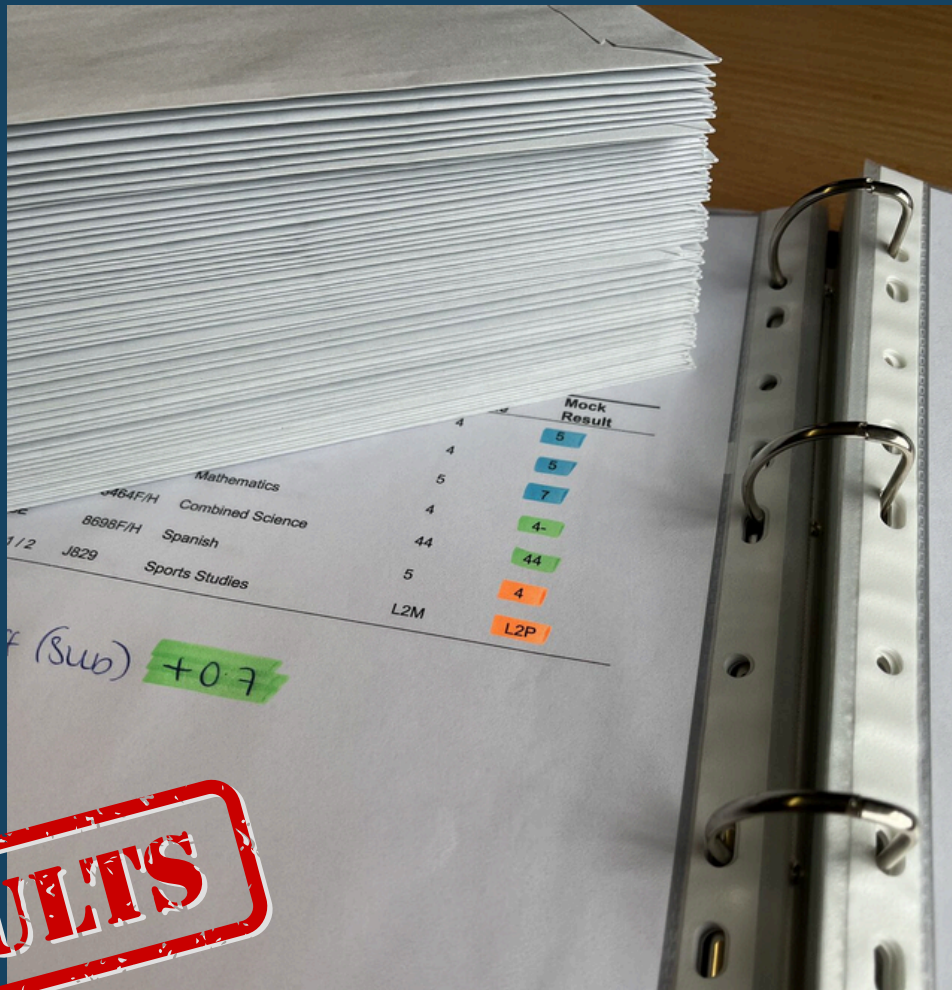
Over a course of two days this week, Mr Frost and Mrs Postlethwaite have held meetings with every member of Year 10 to give the students their Mock exam results and to discuss next steps.

Whilst this is very time consuming in such a busy final week, the benefits for all involved absolutely outweigh the time implications and it is something we always ensure we clear the diary for.

It has been fantastic to celebrate with students, give the much needed pep-talks, discuss barriers and shape the focus for the first few weeks back in September.

Year 10 students have brought their results home to share with parents.

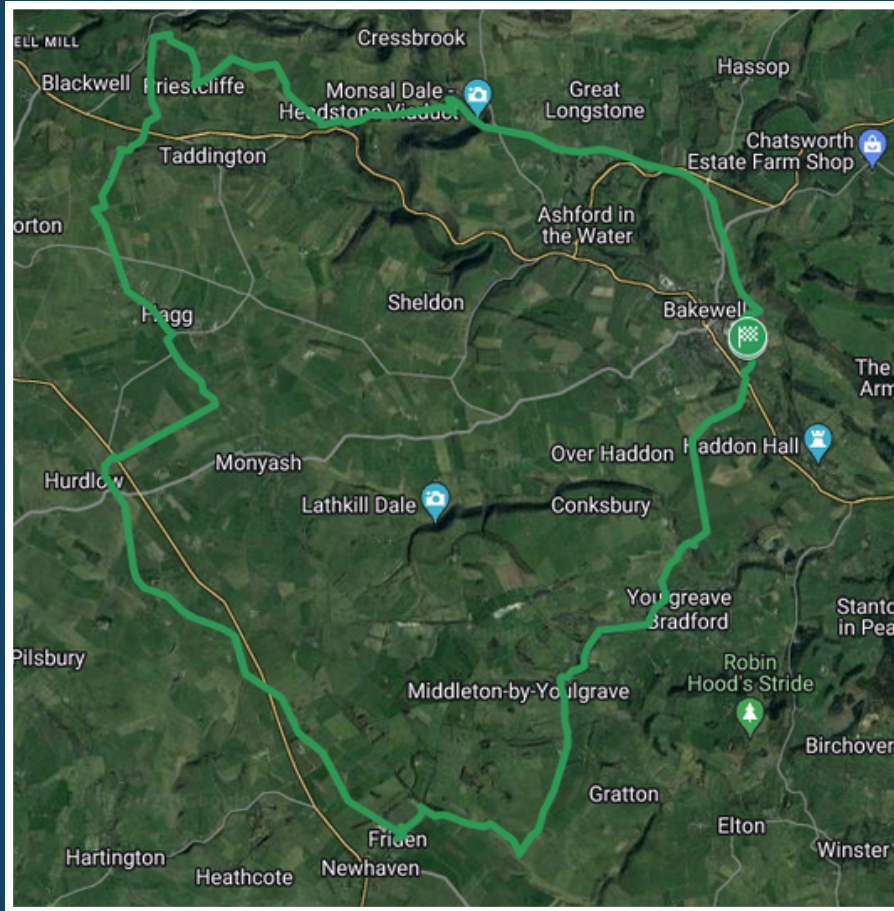
If you would like a meeting Early in September to discuss these further, please contact [Emma.Postlethwaite@kss.set.org](mailto:Emma.Postlethwaite@kss.set.org)



# Fundraising

This Saturday, Mrs Postlethwaite is taking part in a Marathon walk in the Peak District to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer support. Macmillan is close to many of our hearts here at KSS and we have put the donations for our two recent non-uniform days towards this charity.

Together, we have raised an amazing **£365.31** for Macmillan which will be donated on behalf of all of us here at KSS.



**Peak District  
Mighty Hike**

Distance:  
**26.7** miles

Approximate elevation gain:  
**2,329** feet

**MIGHTY  
HIKES**

**MACMILLAN  
CANCER SUPPORT**





# Summer Reward Trip

The July summer reward trip was a great success.

Over one hundred students qualified for the trip to 'Crocky Trail' and lets just say it was a muddy one. The students had a great time on the trail and on the white knuckle rides.

Well done to all students that qualified!



# Summer Reward Trip



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

 **PROUD TO BE KSS**   


# Summer Reward Trip



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

**KIDSGROVE**  
  
SECONDARY SCHOOL

**PROUD TO  
BE  
KSS**

**KIDSGROVE**  
  
SECONDARY SCHOOL

  
Shaw Education Trust

# Summer Reward Trip



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**PROUD TO  
BE  
KSS**



# Summer Reward Trip



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 **PROUD TO BE KSS**   


# Prefects 2024-2025

What a brilliant afternoon of interviews...

Nineteen students from Years 8, 9 and 10 were interviewed by Mr Frost and the three of our Year 11 head students to be selected as our new team of prefects.

The students did themselves proud and answered the questions brilliantly to secure their posts.

Well done to everyone that applied and to all of the students that were successful.

The student leadership at KSS is definitely thriving.



# TEAM





# Munich 2024



The countdown is on for the trip of a lifetime and with only 50 days to go we are all very excited for what is in store.

Thank you to all of the parents/carers that attend the parents information evening a few weeks back. It was great to share the itinerary and the travel details ready for our trip.

When we return we will need all of the students passports handing in to Ms Potts and we will share the final details before our departure.



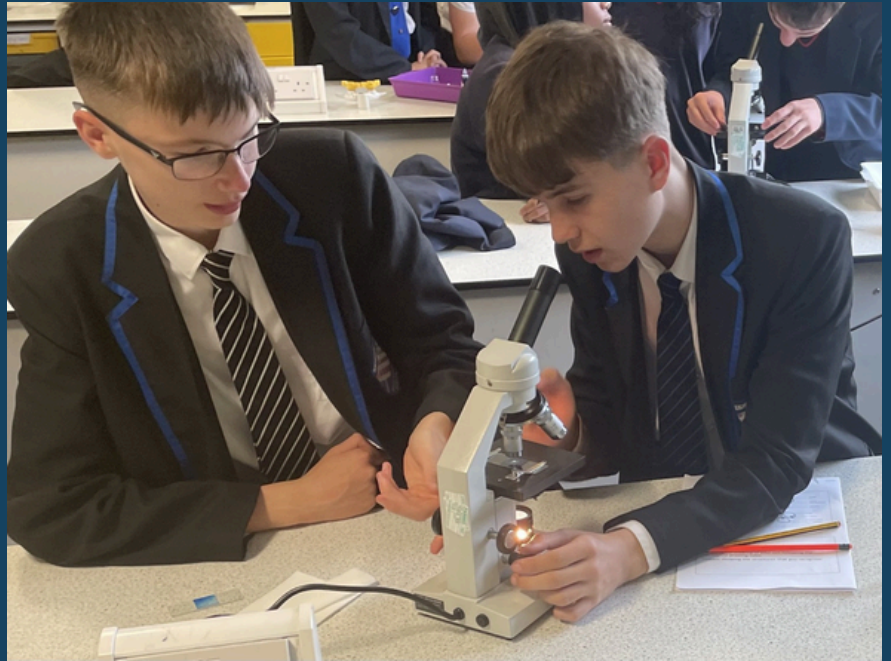
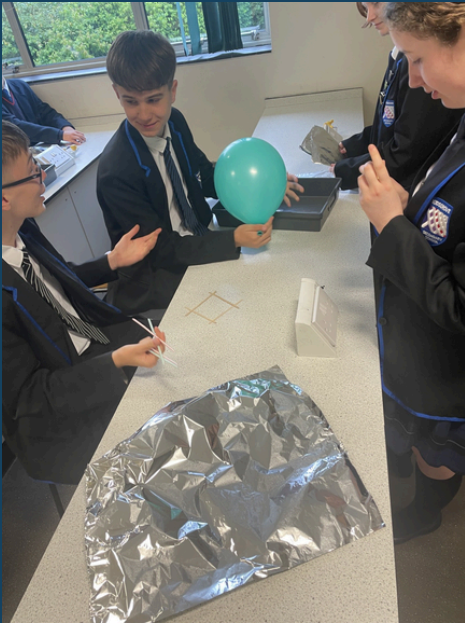
# STEM Challenge

On Tuesday 9 July 2024, Miss Wood and eight Year 10 students visited St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy to represent Science at Kidsgrove Secondary School in a STEM Challenge Day.

The day involved a Physics Challenge to build and float a boat using a few supplies of materials, a Chemistry Challenge to identify the strongest and weakest acids from a selection of unlabelled chemicals, a Maths Challenge which involved completing a relay race using answers to mathematical questions and a Biology Challenge to extract human cheek cells and then draw the cells accurately. Our students, in two teams of four, worked effectively to tight deadlines throughout the day against Year 10 students from The Hayward Academy, St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy and Excel Academy.

Well done to Lilly, Fox, Ryan, Alfie (Team K) and Maisie, Macy, Mason, Josh (Team S) who behaved impeccably throughout the day, demonstrated fantastic STEM and teamwork skills, looked incredibly smart and embraced a very exciting day.

At the end of the afternoon, the points from both teams were added together to reveal that Kidsgrove Secondary had narrowly missed out on the winning position by two points, achieved by Hayward Academy!



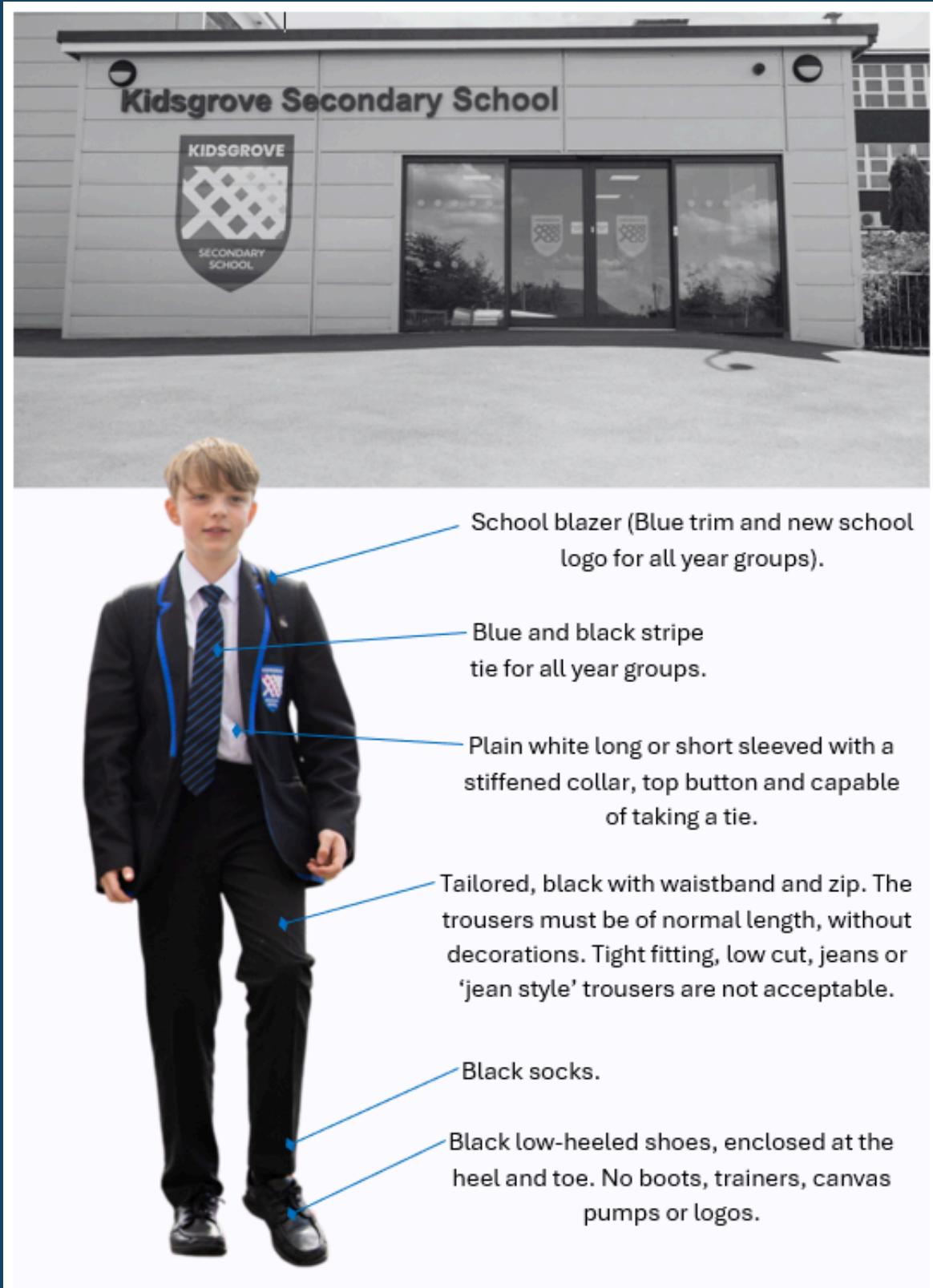


# Uniform Expectations

As we end one academic year, we also have one eye on 2024-2025.

We are extremely proud of our high expectations around uniform and

Mr Till wrote to all parents/carers this week about the equipment and uniform guidelines that are in place from September. Below is a visual reminder of the uniform expectations:



# Uniform Expectations



School blazer (Blue trim and new school logo for all year groups).

Blue and black stripe tie for all year groups.

Black V-neck school jumper (optional).

Tartan skirt (alternative to trousers) - on the knee or slightly below allowing for 2 cm growth. Worn without belt.

Black socks or black or neutral-coloured tights. Socks are not to be worn above the knee.

Black low-heeled shoes, enclosed at the heel and toe. No boots, trainers, canvas pumps or logos.



# Uniform Expectations



Long sleeved school hoodie  
(for PE only).



Short sleeved school PE polo shirt.

Black shorts/training trousers or plain  
black sports leggings.

Sports trainers with non-marking soles  
&  
Football boots (bladed studs are not  
permitted).

\*Please note additional compulsory sport specific equipment:

- Shin pads (Football and Hockey)
- Gum shield (Hockey and Rugby)
- Hair bobble (Tie long hair back – all PE lessons)



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KSS



# Science

Well done to Liv, Reece, Beth and Leighton for growing the largest crystals in our annual Copper Sulfate Crystallisation competition! ❖

In year 9 chemistry, we learn about how to make salts from reactions with acids and insoluble bases. This team correctly selected to react copper oxide and sulfuric acid to produce their copper sulfate and then filtered and crystallised their aqueous product resulting in these beautiful blue crystals! 🧑🏫🧑🏻



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



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KSS**



# Maths

The maths department would like to take the opportunity to say a fond farewell to Mrs McDermott. She joined the school alongside myself in September 2022 and was crucial in shaping the department to be the one we have today, one in which we are all very proud. Mrs McDermott has worked tirelessly to support all students, not just the ones she teaches or that are part of her form. I know that she will be missed by 8HM. I wish her the very best for the future and I know that she has more than earned her retirement after such dedication to the education sector.

You will be missed!



Happy Retirement

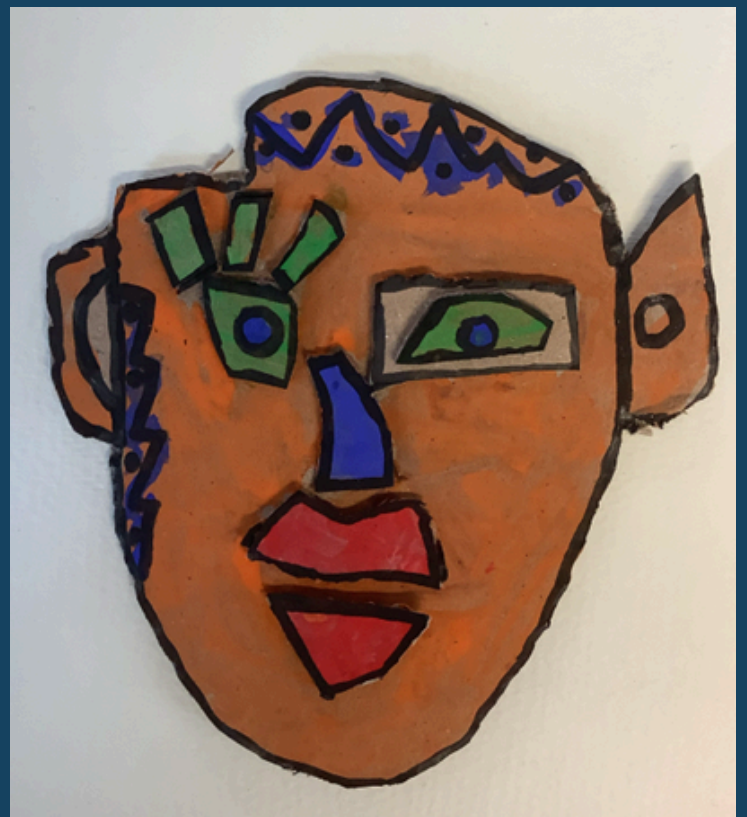


# Art

Year 7 have completed their African culture project creating two amazing outcomes. Exploring a range of drawing techniques they have explored Line, Shape, Tone and Pattern through their 2D drawings.

We have also looked at the work of artist Kimmy Cantrell to create 3D cardboard masks discussing the differences between symmetry and asymmetry.

Well done Year 7!



  
"If you do enough small things right,  
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# Art

Year 8 have finished the year completing their own graffiti boards.

We explored the work of Lady Pink and other graffiti artists to inspire their own unique style.

The students have developed their drawing skills whilst exploring colour theory to inform their design choices.

Amazing work Year 8!



# 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





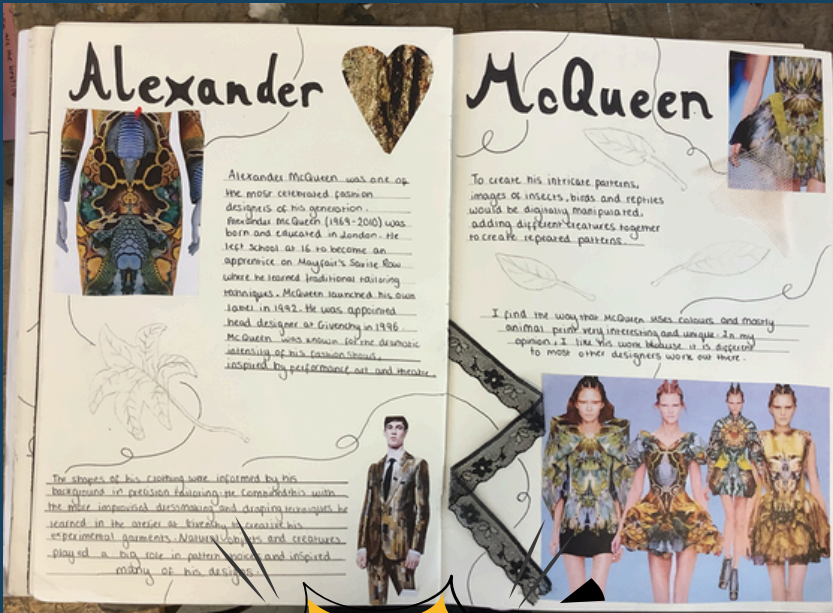
# Art

Year 9 have been exploring textiles and fashion design through natural patterns and the work of Alexander McQueen.

They have been creating artist pages to research his practise and develop their presentation skills in preparation for GCSE.

Students have then created their own garments using collage techniques.

Great work Year 9!



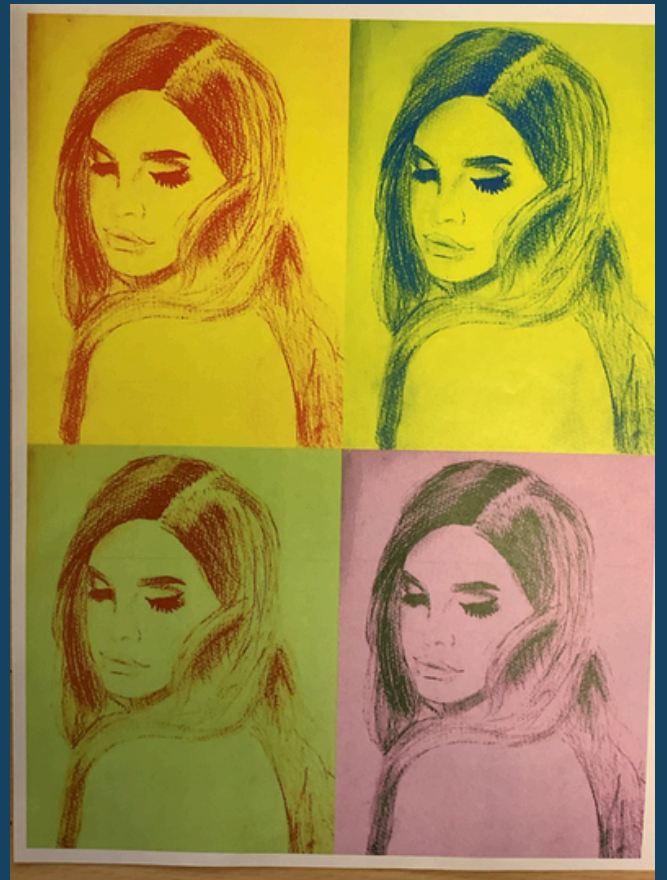
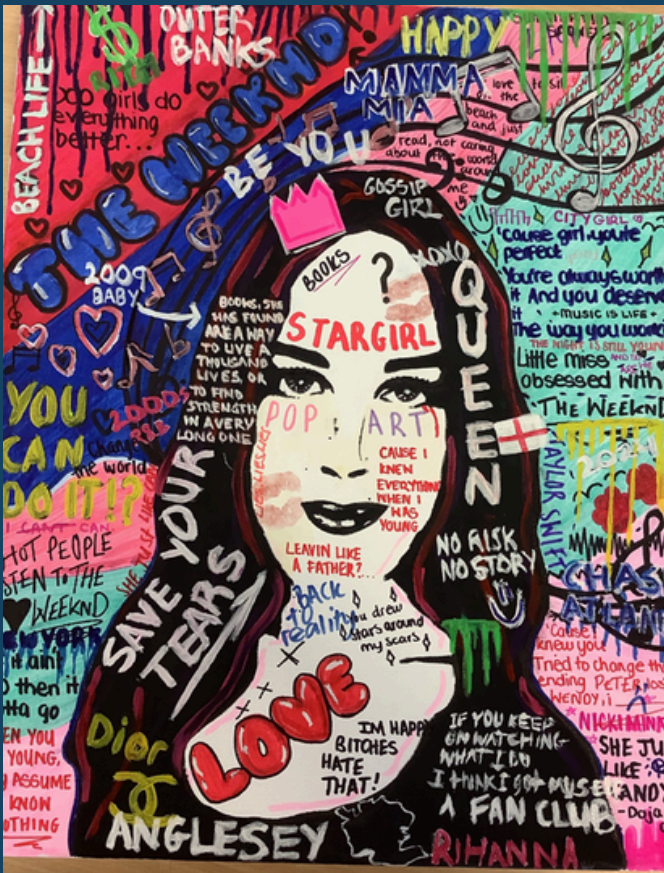
**WOW!**



# Art

The Year 10s have begun their major project with already some exciting outcomes and developments. I can't wait to see where their projects take them, please below some excellent examples of work.

you are  
**INCREDIBLE**



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



# KIDSGROVE SECONDARY SCHOOL



## OPEN EVENING THURSDAY 3RD OCTOBER

5.00pm-7.30pm

Presentation in the  
main hall at 5.30pm  
and 6.30pm



01782 948250  
communications@kss.set.org



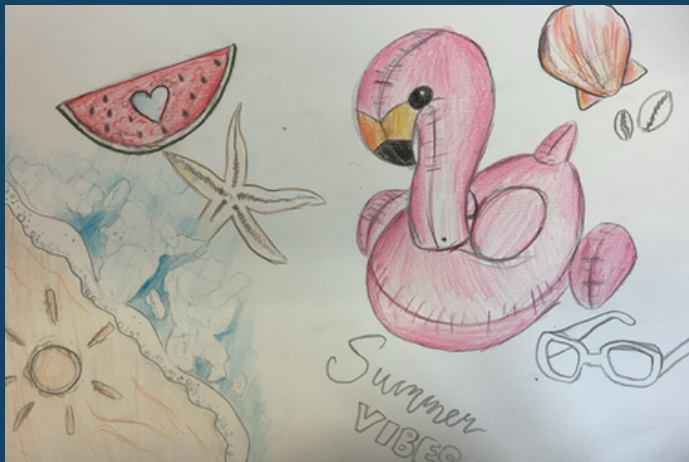
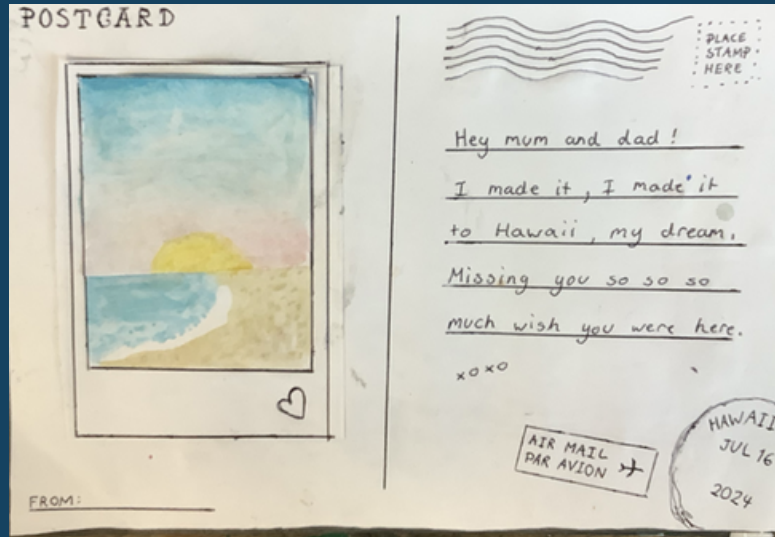
# Art



# Art

## Summer Art Challenge

We have also been running a Summer Art Challenge to design a Postcard from the students' favourite summer destination or to create an uplifting summer inspired art piece. Here are some entries with Reese from Year 8 taking the win for his incredible hard work. Well done Reece!



# Year 10 Work Experience

At the beginning of July, our Year 10 students enjoyed a week completing work experience at various placements.

Mrs Postlethwaite and Mrs Weaver have had the pleasure of visiting students to see them in the workplace and were really impressed at how well students fitted in and demonstrated our Core Values in unfamiliar settings.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who supported by offering a placement to our students. Experiencing the world of work is such an important part of starting to understand what industry and role young people might start to move towards and we can't thank you enough for supporting them by opening your doors!

If you, or anyone you know would like to offer a placement for the first week in July next year, please let Mrs Weaver know at [Larissa.Weaver@kss.set.org](mailto:Larissa.Weaver@kss.set.org)



# Year 10 Work Experience



  
"If you do enough small things right,  
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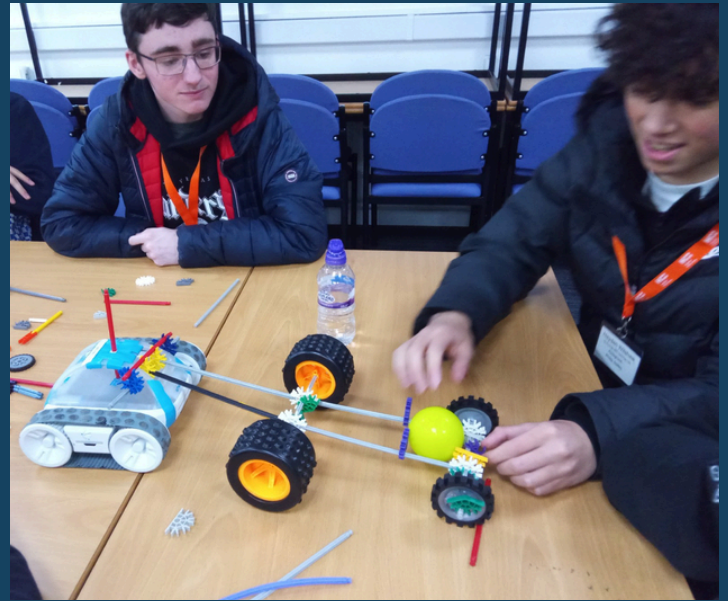
 **PROUD TO BE KSS** 



# Keele Residential

We took six students on a two day residential to Keel University to get a taster of university life. As well as attending lectures on engineering, higher education and the world of business, our students were also able to sample a disco at the student union, dinner on campus and life in halls of residence. They were also involved in workshops testing their skills in building and engineering!

Well done to the boys who attended: Aaron, Hayden, Dante, Connor, Josh R and Tyler.





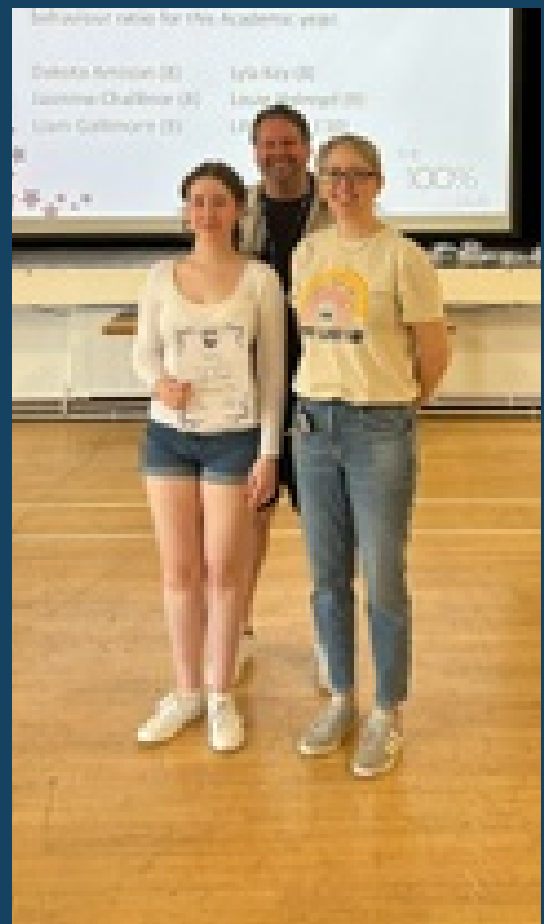
# Celebration Assemblies

It is always our favourite way to end the term.

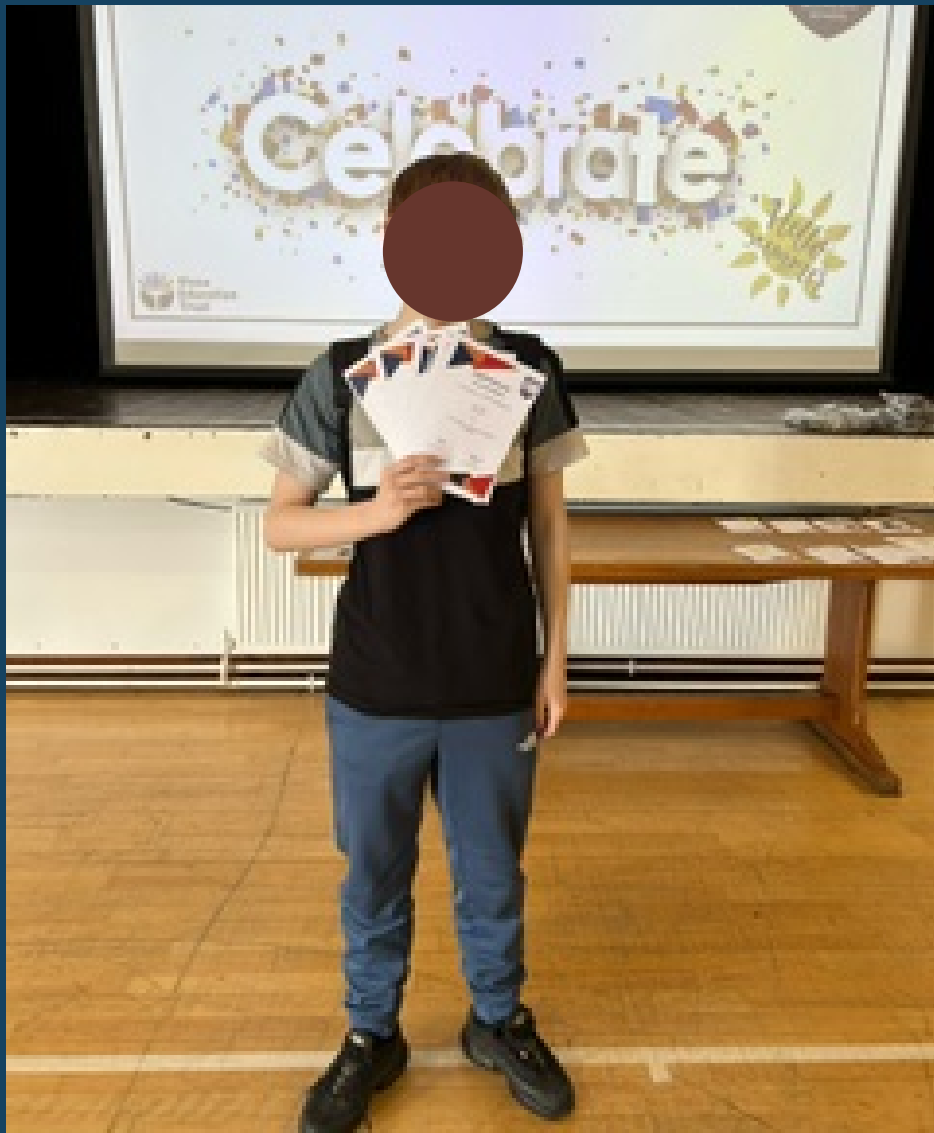
This morning we held celebration assemblies to bring the year to an end. There were hundreds of certificates presented and a few badges given out as well.

A special mention to the students that received a special certificate for joining our '100% Club' for having both 100% attendance and a 100% positive behaviour ratio this year.

Well done to all students that were celebrated.



# Celebration Assemblies



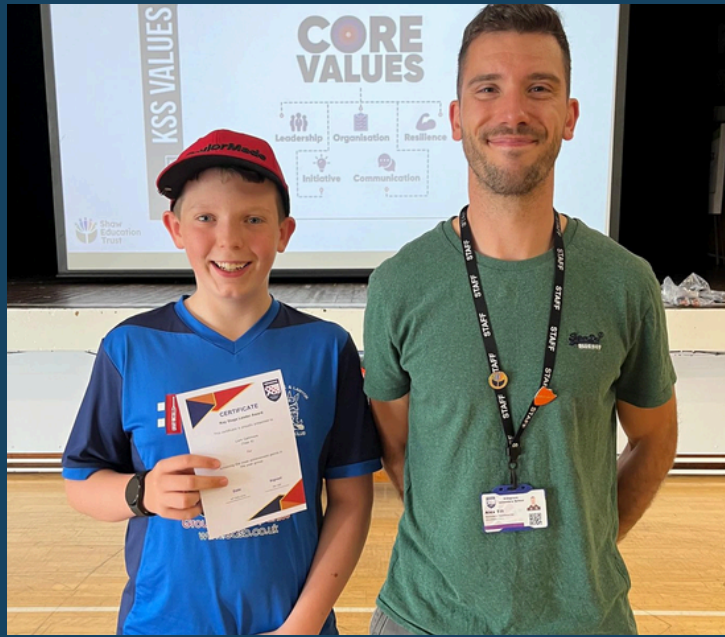
  
"If you do enough small things right,  
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# Celebration Assemblies



# Celebration Assemblies



  
"If you do enough small things right,  
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Shaw Education Trust

# Celebration Assemblies



  
"If you do enough small things right,  
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# Celebration Assemblies



  
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# House Winner

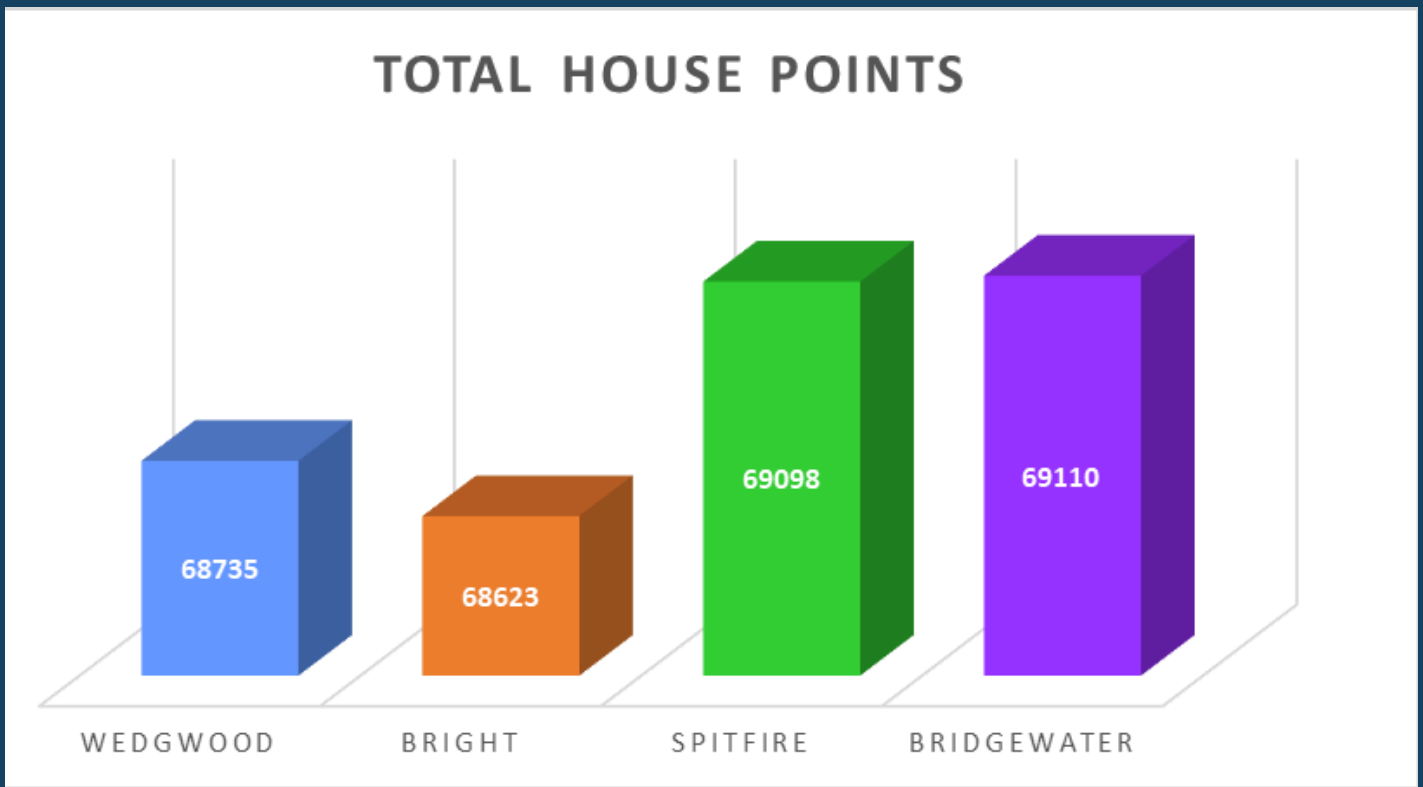


The House competition has been very dynamic this year.

Each term, students have fought fiercely to be crowned House winner!

The overall totals are below which includes all achievement points, attendance points, all house competitions in lessons and Sports Day. There is only 12 points between 1st and 2nd place!

This year the winner is...



# BRIDGEWATER



#DigitalByDesign



## CORE VALUES

