

ISSUE

SCIENCE CLUB
Making the perfect slime!


Kingsmeadow
Inspiring minds

Newsletter

WINTER 2019 CREATIVE ARTS, TECHNOLOGY, STUDENT AMBASSADORS, MATHS...and much more



CEA
Do you hear the people sing?

HEADTEACHER'S INTRODUCTION



Welcome to the **65th edition** of the Kingsmeadow Newsletter. As always I am amazed by what students and staff manage to achieve in a term, even though the Autumn term is traditionally the longest. What was impressive is that standards did not falter, focus did not wane and staff and students alike managed to achieve a huge amount in the time.

Kingsmeadow continues to attract attention for all the right reasons from the local community and further afield. Our reputation is growing as are our numbers, with what looks like another bumper year for September 2020 admissions into year 7.

January 2020 hails the start of not only a new term, but also a new decade. The coming term will be busy and will be a crucial time for our year 11 students in particular, who are preparing for their GCSE exams in the summer and making decisions about what they are going on to do with their hard earned qualifications. We continue to work hard with our students but in particular year 11 and 13 who are preparing for their next steps. Many of our year 11 will be choosing to stay with us to move into their next phase of education and our year 13 will be planning their move into the world of work or higher study. In all cases we will be working closely with them and their families to offer open and fair advice. You will see our commitment to this within this newsletter as part of the CIAG action plan.

I continue to be impressed by the resilience and strength of the students and community at Kingsmeadow. This is a thriving and exciting school. All that we do centres around our community and students. We will always aim to do all that we can to support our learners both in and out of school so that all can develop to be the best that they can possibly be. In this edition you will find lots to celebrate and excite both in and out of the classroom.

I look forward to seeing you all at the numerous events and evenings coming up over the course of the year.

Domenic Volpe, *Headteacher*

CHAIR OF GOVERNORS UPDATE

It may be the middle of winter, but the sun is shining in Kingsmeadow School, where there are lots of developments and successes to be proud of, as you can see in the pages of this newsletter.



Students who joined year 7 last September have now become familiar with the challenges and rewards of a secondary school. They have settled in well and are maintaining the high standards of behaviour which enable them to achieve well in their lessons. The school's values help them to do this and instil in them important concepts for learning and for their future lives. Meanwhile year 11 students are already gearing up for their GCSE exams in the summer and planning what they want to do in future years. In this they are well supported by subject teachers and guidance staff.

We believe that a broad and balanced curriculum which has room for creative subjects and sport is very important in all year groups. This newsletter contains reports of sporting, music and art activities and achievements and we are keen that these opportunities are open to all in the face of pressure on timetables from the 'core' subjects. We are also keen that all students study a modern foreign language and Spanish is now taught to all students in all year groups. Students' personal development, as well as their learning, is being supported even more through the introduction of a new 'character curriculum', extending and embedding the character traits that are already part of REAL in years 7 and 8 to the whole school.

Governors could see some of the results of the hard work put in by students and their teachers when we attended the annual awards evening in December. This celebrated success not just in academic terms but also in terms of the effort put in over time by students. We could see students being very supportive of one another. The choice of the winner of the Headteacher's Award was clearly a very popular one with staff as well as with her fellow students!

Not surprisingly, the reputation of the school continues to grow. We have record numbers of primary school children making Kingsmeadow their first choice for secondary education. We are delighted to see this, even if it makes the school corridors a little crowded!

Sarah Diggle *Chair of Governors*

KEY DATES NEXT TERM



TERM DATES	
Half Term	17 - 21 February (incl)
Easter Break	Monday, 6 April – Friday 17 April (incl)
Summer term starts	Monday, 20 April
May Bank Holiday	Friday, 8 May
Half Term	Monday, 25 May - Friday 29 May (incl)
School closes for summer holiday	Friday, 17 July
PARENT/CARERS' EVENINGS	
Year 8 Options Evening	Tuesday, 25 February - 5.00-7.00pm
Year 7, 8 and 12 Student-Led Conference	Tuesday, 10 March 2.30-7.00pm
Year 10 Subject Specific Evening	Tuesday, 21 April 2.30-7.00pm
KEY ASSESSMENT 2	
Year 9 Key Assessment	13-17 January
Year 8 Key Assessment	27-31 January
Year 7, 12 and 13 Key Assessment	10-14 February
Year 11 Key Assessment Fortnight	10-14 February Week 1 24-28 February Week 2
Year 10 Key Assessment Fortnight	2-13 March
KEY ASSESSMENT 3	
Year 8 Key Assessment	1-5 June
Year 9 Key Assessment	8-12 June
Years 7, 10 and 12 Key Assessment	15-19 June
EXTERNAL EXAMS	
First written GCSE/LEV 2 Exam	11 May
Last written GCSE/ LEV 2 Exam	16 June

RESULTS DATES
Post 16 GCE Results Day
 13 August
GCSE Results Day
 20 August

ACTIVE TUESDAY

Active Tuesday was relaunched this year with some brand new activities alongside some old favourites which offer our students a fantastic opportunity to learn new and exciting skills through a varied extra-curricular programme.

The Active Tuesday programme is coordinated by our dedicated team of support staff and this year includes a range of bonus activities students can choose from, including brain dissection, rocket making and cookery, to name just a few.

Students now choose their activity via a Google Form meaning choices can be collated and students can be informed of their activity within minutes. Students are also able to change their activities each half-term, meaning they can take part in at least six different activities over the year.

Active Tuesdays is compulsory for all students in year 7. **Scholars' buses will be available from 2:45pm to take these students home as usual.**



ANNUAL ACADEMIC AWARDS EVENING

On 5th December we celebrated our students' effort, resilience and achievement (see lists opposite) over the last academic year, at our **Annual Academic Awards Evening**. We were there to acknowledge the diversity of excellence that has been displayed by our students. The night was just reward for the hard work and dedication of the invited students.

We were entertained by two fantastic singers, **Olivia Kindred** and **Erin Reynolds**, as well as treated to personal and informative speeches by two of our student ambassadors, **Trinity Ikuero John** and **Alexander Dickson**. Former student and now PHD-studying astrobiologist **Scott Steele** also gave an inspirational talk to our students, parents and visitors.

Loraine Papong deservedly won the night's highest accolade, The Headteacher's Award.



KS3 Effort and Resilience	KS4 Effort and Resilience	KS4 Effort and Achievement	KS3 Reading Award
Naomi Grey	Denisa Ursica	Shay Dawson	Ellie Henderson-Arkless
Connor Morton	Bontu Qocha	Loraine Papong	
Libby Donnelly	Aaron Bradford	Jasmine Wilson	Year 12 Effort and Resilience
Dina Ramin	Kieron Alexander	Cameron Potts	Kaitlyn Guest
Gbolahan Agbaje	Olivia Richardson	Ebony Lacey	Thomas Robinson
Ling Gao	Luis Johnson	Rachel Taylor	
Elif Celikay	Esra Erkasap	Jasmine Wilson	Year 13 Effort and Achievement
Nathan Atkinson	Alice Snee	Rachel Taylor	Jade Vickers
Joe Barnett	Brooke Roden	Amie Scott	Kieron Peacock
Nathan Alexander	Charlie Conwell	Sisa Makanza	
Molly Wear	Kieron Alexander	Katie Bambrough	Headteacher's Award
Brad-Lee Joicey	Magdalena Patrascu	Molly Goodbarn	Loraine Papong
James Muir	Chantelle Pownceby	Luke Jobling	
	Christopher Ingham	Sophie Stephenson	
	Shauna Earl	Molly Goodbarn	
	Lewis Sewell	Morgan Harwood	
	Paria Darouni	Liam Stobbart	



AND

CREATIVE EXPRESSIVE ARTS

College Music Workshop

Music students from **Gateshead College** delivered music production and performance workshops in school this term, in the workshops they demonstrated how to set up for a live performance as well as performing songs that they had written on the subject of equality.

The students delivered every aspect of their workshop including talking about their chosen instrument or famous practitioners in their field.

Kingsmeadow students from year 9 and 10 BTEC music classes attended the workshops and also got to ask questions about college life and how to audition and apply for the college music courses.



Do You Hear the People Sing?

Music, Drama and Singing students could not pass up a rare and fantastic opportunity to see **Les Miserables** when it came to Newcastle Theatre Royal in September as part of its nationwide tour.

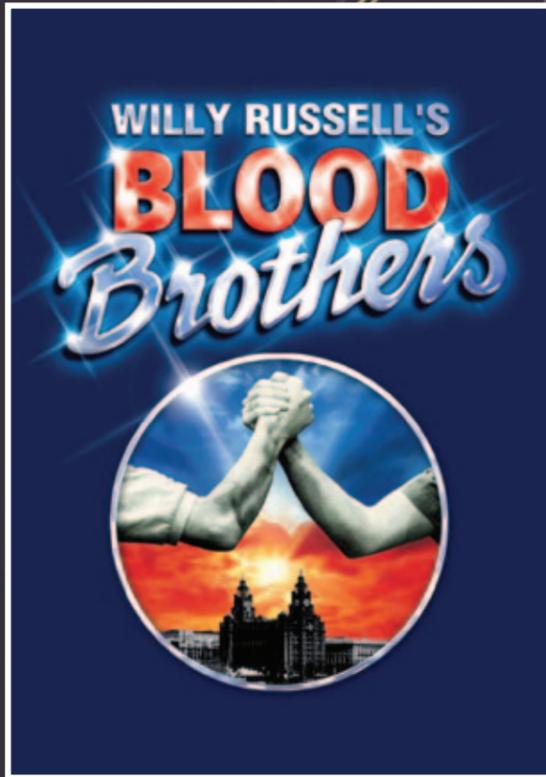
The musical, now in its 35th year of being performed professionally in London night after night, was on its first professional tour around the country and landed in Newcastle for 8 weeks.

Our students grasped the opportunity with both hands to see this extremely famous and very popular musical, which features songs such as 'On My Own', 'Do You Hear the People Sing', 'One Day More', 'Castle on a Cloud' and many many more.

As it is Miss Tindall's favourite musical of all-time she was keen to secure us front-row seats so not only did we get a fantastic view of the show, but we also kept a keen eye on the orchestra and conductor!

Students were very much moved by the performance and came back full of vigour to start tackling some of the songs in their singing lessons with Mr Watson.

The musical was attended by BTEC music and drama students and Mr Watson's singing students.



Creative Arts Theatre Trip Sunderland Empire

This was another fantastic opportunity for our BTEC Performing Arts students to visit Sunderland Empire Theatre in November to see the ever popular show **Blood Brothers**.

Students enjoyed an afternoon of musical theatre in the fabulous theatre. Most students had never seen or read the play before. As you can imagine they were really moved by the story and let me tell you, not a dry eye in the house!

Students will be working on **Blood Brothers** within class so this really supports their learning.

CEA

Music Exam Success!

The autumn term saw a number of singing and piano students achieve personal bests as they took external exams in their chosen discipline.

Leah Wiggins and Bobbie Binks, both in year 10, achieved a Merit each in their Grade 1 Rock School vocal exam. The exam took place at **Base HQ Recording Studio** in Newcastle and the girls individually demonstrated technical exercises, performed their chosen pieces, had to answer musicianship questions as well as carrying out sight reading and improvisation tests.

Ling Gao in year 9 achieved a Pass in her Grade 5 Piano exam through the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music. To the best of our knowledge this is the highest level music qualification seen at Kingsmeadow so far. In this exam Ling had to play a range of scales and arpeggios, the set pieces, and complete aural and sight reading tests.

Erin Reynolds in year 9 achieved a Distinction in her Grade 2 Singing for Musical Theatre exam through the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music. In this exam Erin performed technical exercises, set pieces from musical theatre works as well as completing a range of aural and sight-singing exercises. Both Ling and Erin's exams took place at the Literary and Philosophical Society in Newcastle.

Congratulations to all four students, as well as their teacher, Mr Watson, with whom they attend weekly lessons in school.

CREATIVE AND EXPRESSIVE CEA ARTS



Music Showcase Week

The end of term saw a celebration of all things musical in the form of a series of **four Music Showcases**.

The idea behind the Music Showcases is to have every child who learns an instrument to demonstrate one of the pieces they have been learning that term.

There was a whole range of instruments and pieces being demonstrated and highlights over the four showcases included Dane Treglown (year 10) performing 'Dora and Bootsy' on the drum kit, Olivia Kindred singing 'Pulled' from The Addams Family, Ling Gao performing 'Minuetto' on the piano, Erin Reynolds singing 'On My Own' from Les Miserables, Tommy Atkinson and Jack Clay (year 9) performing 'Run to You' on the guitar, Bradley Green performing 'Billie Jean' on bass guitar and Brogen Baxter (year 9) and Rebecca Pearce (year 7) performing 'Bedford Square Blues' on the piano. There were many other excellent solo performances!

The showcases also allowed the BTEC Music bands to perform, highlights included Year 9 BTEC Music performing 'Paranoid' and Year 10 BTEC Music performing their own swing version of 'Umbrella'.



CHARACTER LEARNING

Students have been involved in a number of activities this term:

Over the last half term in particular:

- Year 9 students were involved in a morning workshop which focussed on important issues such as emotions, feelings and empathy. External providers were once again working with our students discussing topics such as "Healthy and Unhealthy relationships" and how to spot signs of unhealthy relationships.
- Year 11 were involved in a morning workshop centred around dealing with stress, mindfulness and their own personal mental wellbeing. These topics are so important at this time for our year 11 students as they begin to start feeling the pressure of exams.
- Year 10 and 8 students were involved in finance workshops where they looked at really important financial topics such as; different types of bank accounts, loans, mortgages and credit/debit cards. We covered work related finance, such as, What is Tax and NI and why do I pay it? What is the difference between a wage and salary? We also looked at budgeting and levels of income for different job roles. We feel that these issues are vitally important for our students and any discussions that could take place at home to re-enforce this learning would be extremely beneficial.

Big news for year 10 students

Next year, year 10 will begin to study the new **GCSE in Citizenship**. As we explained to the year 10 students, this will only be of benefit to them in the future.

It has been proven that students who study **GCSE Citizenship** gain various life skills and essential knowledge such as:

- Debating.
- Dealing with conflict and controversy knowledgeably and with tolerance.
- Understanding the consequences of your actions and how they affect others.
- Evaluate arguments, weigh evidence and look for alternative viewpoints.
- Becoming conscious of social and moral duties as a citizen, locally and nationally.
- Understand the political world we live in.

Topics they will cover are:

- Rights and Responsibilities
- Crime and Punishment
- The Law
- Human Rights
- The Environment
- National and Global issues
- Government & Politics
- Democracy
- Your Community

We are very excited to start this course and hope year 10 feel the same.



Is your child interested in an apprenticeship?

If so please download the '**Amazing Apprentice Parent Pack December 2019**' via the following web page: <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/resource/parents-pack-december-2019/>

It is full of useful information and guidance about apprenticeships such as 'key facts' and '5 key questions to help your child think about apprenticeships'.

CAREERS INFORMATION ADVICE AND GUIDANCE CIAG

Do you know what Careers Information, Advice and Guidance Kingsmeadow deliver to our students?

We publish our **CIAG** so that students, parents & carers, teachers and everybody else can see what our students do each half term for each year group and how that fits into our overall program.

Please visit the following webpage from our website to access our 2019/20 plan:

www.kingsmeadow.org.uk/employability

Click the text '**Careers Plan 2019/20**' to download.

For more information about Kingsmeadow's **CIAG programme** contact:

Graeme Dunlop
E. gdunlop@kingsmeadow.org.uk

Could you help to inspire the future workforce from Kingsmeadow?

We are always looking for volunteers in order to support our careers information, advice and guidance programme. On January 22nd we will be holding our Annual Careers Fair. Could you or someone that you know come in to represent the company that you work for? If so, please contact Mr Dunlop via email to find out more information about this and any future events.

ENGLISH

New Writing North National Poetry Competition

Students in years 7 and 8 have been given the opportunity to showcase their poetic talents by entering the national poetry competition entitled 'In My Country'.

If successful, students will be awarded up to **£100 in book tokens** in addition to gaining the recognition of a panel of published poets and authors.

Poet and lecturer **Malika Booker** visited English classes before Christmas to inspire students by sharing her own poetry and explaining the methods she uses.

Each student produced a narrative poem based on a memory of a place in their childhood. The work tied in with some of the creative tasks recently undertaken in Key Stage 3 and the students enjoyed the freedom of creating something personal to them.

BBC Young Reporter Trip

More able students from year 8 visited the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Arts in Gateshead last term to take part in a range of BBC workshops for budding reporters.

Kingsmeadow students lucky enough to attend the workshops were prepared for the competition by BBC staff and journalists as they were guided through seminars and workshops on everything from the dangers of media misinformation to finding the best sources and information.

Our students were also involved in producing their own short stories and podcast material, and they should be very proud of the resilience and creativity they showed during these particular tasks. The **high quality of their output** was commented on by BBC staff.

The trip provided a head start for those in attendance as students across Key Stage 3 will be writing articles in competition with their peers at Kingsmeadow, but also local primary schools, throughout the academic year, as part of the **BBC's Young Reporter programme**.

BIMA Digital Day for IT Students

This half term, year 9 iMedia students were selected to work with Digital company <epam>.

Epam is a global technology company, combining **award winning consultancy and creative design experiences** for many well-known organisations across the globe.

The BIMA Digital Day helps raise awareness about an industry young people know next to nothing about. Despite the fact that most young people are leading their lives inseparable from digital technology/social media, they rarely consider a future career in this area.

The BIMA digital day is designed to help young people find out about career opportunities they never knew they had within the digital industry.

Students were challenged to come up with a campaign that would get others their age inspired. They also had to think about how they would get that message out to people outside the room... thinking caps were well and truly on!

Throughout the day, students were actively engaged in discussions, worked effectively in groups and presented their ideas to the class.



Kingsmeadow students brainstorming ideas for how digital careers can be promoted to others their age



KINGSMEADOW FOOTBALL ACADEMY

September - December 2019

We have had a very positive start to the academic year in the Football Academy.

We have been delighted with how well the year 7 group have settled in to school and the football programme.

The year 7 group are in the county cup quarter finals, the last 64 of the nationals and they have started the league campaign unbeaten.

The year 8 group are on course to win back to back leagues with only needing one more win. They are also in the county cup quarter finals and league cup semi-finals.

The year 9 group are currently unbeaten in the league and in the quarter finals of the league cup.

Our girls' team have continued to flourish and have reached the semi-final of the county cup, hopefully they will progress to the final for a consecutive year after last year's triumph. They are also in the last 32 of the Sister n Sport National Cup.

We are delighted with the progress all 70 players on the programme have made and we are firm believers that hard work and good attitudes will continue to see progress in their development.

We look forward to 2020



MATHS

Sunderland University

Sunderland University was a great experience. Not only was the building so large, modern and magnificent but full of fun activities, essential knowledge and delicious meals.

Part of my day at this institute consisted of presentations in a hall, public speakers and activities. They all in their own way related to careers, university and maths. One speaker I specifically remember is a man who taught us math tricks and completed fun activities through magic. My classmates and I learned how to figure the square root of any number quickly and skills when it comes to probability. However, there were also many public speakers that opened students' minds on businesses, mathematical skills and careers in maths. It was truly an educational day and full of fun.



Some activities my friends and I took part in were a dice game that taught probability and a craft which was purely fun and exciting.

When it comes round to lunch, the staff were incredibly kind and welcoming, the process was easy and quick and it is safe to say the food was amazing.

Overall, the experience was great and full of knowledge. I learned loads of information and new skills. I'm sincerely thankful that my class was given this opportunity.

Megan-Jo Hannon - 10I



PE UPDATE

Basketball Club

Basketball Club continues to run on a Monday night. This year we have had a large influx of girls joining the club. We are busy preparing for **Gateshead Schools Central Venue League**.

Cross Country

Year 7 and 9 boys and girls competed in the Gateshead Cross Country Championships. It was a very wet and muddy day and a difficult course. All students tried very hard with a great performance from Charlotte Pegram in year 7.

Football Teams

Training for non-academy football teams (year 10, 9 and 8) takes place on a Wednesday evening.

Gateshead Schools

31 of our **KS3 students** recently competed in a Sportshall Athletics Competition at Gateshead Leisure Centre. Two separate competitions were held across the day where the boys competed in the morning and the girls in the afternoon. All students had a positive attitude, put maximum effort into the competition and were a credit to the school. Our year 8 boys finished 3rd, receiving a bronze medal, closely followed by our year 8 girls who fell short of a medal, finishing 4th.

Gym Skills Circuit

Last term over 100 cluster year 1 and 2 students visited Kingsmeadow to take part in gymnastics skills. The year 9 leaders were fantastic and the students went back to their Primary Schools being able to forward roll, balance and jump on a trampoline!

Gymnastics Festival

The following year 9 girls recently took part in the **Annual Gateshead Gym Festival**; Tillie Purvis, Abbie Tron, Skye Forster, Tanvitha Gowda, Manya Singh, Katie Harbertson, Ella Harbertson, Kerry Ashton and Talia Ridley. They showed commitment and resilience in training and during the Festival.

They were amazing!

Netball Club

Netball Club continues to run on a Thursday after school. **KS3 and KS4 students** show excellent commitment and enthusiasm for the sport which in turn allows us to continue to participate in the Gateshead School fixtures. All of the girls have a positive attitude and have made excellent progress.



PE Cluster Update

Year 5 Leadership

Our Football Academy students took the lead on this training, to help year 5 students become sports leaders on 6th November, 2019. They took them through the STEP process as well as some fun games to try in the playground back at their school.

Year 5/6 Sportshall Athletics

On 12th November our Primary cluster schools competed to win the Kingsmeadow Sportshall athletics with events such as 1 lap race, 4 lap race, speed bounce, vertical jump, long jump and javelin.

Dunston Hill won our competition and went on to the Gateshead Finals to represent Kingsmeadow Cluster and won that too. They will now represent Gateshead at the regional competition, a big well done from us and good luck in the next round.





At the beginning of December, Mrs Ross, Head of REAL and EPRE, carried out assemblies to ensure our students were aware of the importance of Christmas to Christians across the world. It is important that our students understand that, although for many families Christmas is more of a tradition, for Christians Christmas, and the lead up to it, 'Advent', is an extremely important time. Mrs Ross then set all of our year groups a different Advent challenge for their tutor groups to volunteer to take part in.



REAL UPDATE

2019
2019 - A Real Giving Advent

Year 7 were challenged to donate goods that would go into shoeboxes that would be distributed by the St Vincent de Paul, Christian charity, to families living in extreme deprivation and struggling in the Newcastle area. The response was fantastic and 10, very full and beautifully presented, shoeboxes were handed over to make some families and children smile this Christmas.

Year 8 were challenged to work together in classes to raise money for the St Vincent de Paul, Christian charity to buy 'Vinnie Packs' (a pack with cold weather items for rough sleepers and it includes toiletries, hat, gloves, socks and a thermal blanket priced at around £4.00 each) so that homeless people across our region could have something to look forward to and could spend the Christmas period in relative warmth and comfort knowing that they have been thought of and that people care. The response was phenomenal with bake sales, selling pick n mix packs and acts of kindness at home carried out by the students themselves in order to raise vital funds. The cheque that was handed over to the SVP charity was for £100.00 meaning 25 rough sleepers will benefit from receiving one of these packs.

The Metro Radio Cash 4 Kids Mission Christmas appeal was the challenge set for our year 9 students. This appeal's target is to ensure that 45,000 children across the northeast region, who are struggling and living in poverty, will get a gift this Christmas. Our students' response was definitely one to be proud of. Some carried out bake sales and some sold sweets whilst others donated money of their own in order to raise money for this worthwhile but heart wrenching cause. As a result, we have been able to make a donation the Mission Christmas appeal for a fabulous £157.00.

Our year 10 and 11 students were challenged to create a 'Reverse Advent Calendar' where they 'gave' rather than received. The idea was that each tutor group collected festive chocolate packs during the first 2 weeks of December that would be donated to the Gateshead foodbank. Once again our students rose to the challenge and Gateshead foodbank arrived to pick up a huge box containing an array of festive treats that would be distributed to families in need during the week leading up to Christmas.

We are extremely proud of our students for their response to their Advent challenges and are delighted that we were able to see the 'giving' in Christmas and the need to demonstrate compassion for those less fortunate than ourselves.

A Real Showcase to be Proud of

On Tuesday 17th December this year's first 'REAL' Exhibition took place. The showcase was an exciting opportunity for parents, carers and their families to see the learning their children have been working on this term in REAL. The exhibition was a showcase and featured performances by all of our year 7 REAL classes and was an evidence based answer to this project's driving question '**Do You Have Pride of Place?**'

Our students certainly did themselves and their teachers proud as they wowed their audience with some REAL quality renditions. The showcase was a production which contained a medley of assorted performances and included tales of disaster in the Victorian mining industry in the region through poetry, song, persuasive speeches, and drama to commemorate the iconic **Jarrow March**, songs and poems that taught us about, and honoured the shipbuilding heritage of the northeast. A wonderful excerpt from the stage show 'Billy Elliot' to honour the miners' strike in the 80s as well as performance poetry written by our students themselves to demonstrate how a community came together to support one another in times of real hardship and difficulty. There was poetry and songs to celebrate the tradition of football in the area and, indeed, the famous Black and White stripes of Newcastle United and as well as some wonderful singing of a much loved Geordie anthem '**Coming Home Newcastle**'. The whole showcase finished with a 'flash mob' style finale where all 170 students came together to sing '**The Blaydon Races**' in a tribute to our local hero '**Sir Bobby Robson**' who all of our students agree clearly demonstrated '**Pride of Place**' as well as being a true gentleman and perfect ambassador for our region.

At the end of each performance there was a raffle to win a Christmas hamper, donated by Simon Musgrave from the local success story that is Ringtons Tea Merchants, which raised **£127.00 for 'The Sir Bobby Robson Foundation'** which funds projects within the Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust that directly benefit cancer patients from across northeast England and Cumbria – and which also contribute significantly to international research into the disease.

Mrs Ross and The REAL Team are extremely proud of our youngest students who demonstrated courage and Pride to produce a showcase that was a 'quality' end product for their first REAL project here at Kingsmeadow.

SCIENCE

Science Club

Science Club has been running again this term, giving the year 7's the chance to explore science beyond the curriculum! The club hopes to promote curiosity, academic skills and a love for science in our students. The students have completed a variety of challenging tasks so far, from investigating static electricity to creating their own snow globes!

The students have been discovering the art of fire writing, investigating the thermal decomposition of nitrates - but it's way more fun than it sounds. The students composed their secret messages in invisible "ink". However, once set alight, the fire rapidly burned along their letters, revealing the hidden message!

For halloween the students partook in a **spooky science craft project** - learning how to make the perfect slime and fake blood for special effects, which of course, they trialled on themselves! Similarly, for bonfire night, students created their own sparklers. First, they had to investigate which colour different metal powders burned within a flame. Then, they designed their own sparkler, ensuring they included all of the correct metals for the colours they desired, before creating the end product and seeing it in action!

We also took science club outside, creating our very own bottle rockets to launch whilst investigating the effects of pressure. Points were awarded for the best design, in which the students gave a sales pitch to convince the judge that their rocket design should win. Points were also awarded for the rocket which flew the highest, with one rocket going higher than the school building taking gold!



SIXTH FORM UPDATE

Our new sixth form students started the year with a trip to **Gibside National Trust** site as part of their induction programme. The team building activities organised by the Gibside staff gave them the opportunity to display their leadership skills, resilience, lateral thinking and communication skills.

Those who had taken part in the **National Citizen Service programme** over the summer holidays had gained so much from the experience and their increased confidence really shone through. The NCS team were invited back into school recently to offer the same opportunity to the other year 12s during the October break.

A mid-September visit to the careers fair at Utilita Arena gave year 13 students the chance to meet with employers, universities and apprenticeship providers in order to help them make important decisions about their future pathways. This was followed up with one to one interviews with an independent careers advisor in October.

To complement the careers programme in school, we have been working with Globalbridge, a user-friendly platform which enables students to showcase their talents and connect with the FE/HE and employer community. The accounts that students created at the start of term will allow them to engage with future opportunities and receive notifications of pathways relevant to their skill sets, qualifications and aspirations.

We continue to work closely with local higher education establishments and have invited ambassadors from the Universities of Sunderland and Northumbria to talk to post 16 students about their **First Choice** and **NU entry schemes**. These schemes, along with the **Social Mobility Foundation**, offer students support with their university applications, the opportunity for campus visits and, for many degree courses, the chance to earn UCAS tariff points.

Engineering students attended an **'Under the Waves'** event at Northumbria University where they were provided with knowledge, tips and tricks that will enable them to apply for a place at a university or for an apprenticeship within an engineering or STEM discipline.



Active Tuesday

Science ran their own **"Active Tuesday"** session for the year 7's. With a desire to foster scientific curiosity in our students, we decided to arrange for the students to carry out brain dissections. The students spent time learning about the different segments of the brain, both their function and appearance, before investigating the real thing. They were able to identify the key areas within a real brain by carefully dissecting the brain provided, with every student being completely engaged by the task at hand.



STUDENT AMBASSADORS

Once again this year students at Kingsmeadow took part in a process to elect new student ambassadors who would represent all of our students in school.

Students were then given the opportunity to run for the position of student ambassador, with one student ambassador to be elected per house, per year group, so each of the houses (**Angel, Baltic, Sage and Tyne**) would be represented in each year. Students then exercised their democratic right to vote and voted for the person they wanted to represent their house.

This year we piloted a new electronic voting system, making it easier for students to vote and mirroring the new technological voting systems being used in countries across the world.

Student ambassadors now begin the process of discussing school matters and implementing change in areas of the school such as classroom learning, extra-curricular activities and break and lunch times. They will also meet with our board of governors at their **Annual General Meeting** in January to discuss their plans.



The elected student ambassadors for 2019/20 are:

Year 7
Angel - Charlotte Welsh
Baltic - Lexi Campbell
Sage - Lexi Johnson
Tyne - Tillie Purvis
Year 8
Angel - Charlie Scott
Baltic - Fynn Brown
Sage - Brooke Phillips
Tyne - Aaron Wishart-Yeomans
Year 9
Angel - Trinity Ikuero John
Baltic - VACANT
Sage - Evan Elliott
Tyne - Channelle Brown
Year 10
Angel - Jesse Barnes
Baltic - Ricky McKay
Sage - Elisha Manning
Tyne - Alexander Dickson



Year 9 Engineering trip to the Nissan Sunderland Plant

On Monday 11th of November 2019, year 9 engineering classes visited the Nissan factory in Sunderland. The trip was to improve our knowledge on engineering but was also to show us some job opportunities for the future. During classes, we have been looking into the different engineering sectors and so we visited the factory to get a better understanding of mechanical engineering. The production lines helped us to see how many people need to work together and how much time it takes for a single car to be made. Many parts of each car were delivered to each station for it to be fitted onto the cars with a lot of these being delivered by conveyor above everyone.

The best part of the visit was understanding how each different station along the production line all came together, eventually building an entire car, this showed us how quickly hundreds of cars can be assembled each day.

Unfortunately, we only got to see around 5% of the entire factory, there was another entire production line adding to the amount they make per day. This showed me and most likely everyone who went on this visit how many different jobs are available for an engineer and there is no shortage of jobs as around 59% of students considered taking a job in engineering.

Written by Connor Morton, year 9 student



Sew lovely at lunchtime

Textiles Club launched a few weeks back and we have had a lot of fun in the first few sessions, exploring different textile techniques and using the sewing machine to make felted Christmas decorations. Choosing to make baubles, stockings and trees, students have embellished their decorations with various braids, sparkles and decorative stitching ready for hanging on their trees.

Here's what some of the group had to say:

Lexi: "You get to learn new things and make things".

Dina: "It's a fun way to express your creative side".

Lily: "It helps me calm stress".

In the New Year students will have further opportunities to experiment with fabric and textile techniques and produce a creative piece of work, developing an insight into the learning at GCSE Art Textiles.

If you are in year 7 or 8 and would like to come along, Textiles Club runs on a Tuesday lunchtime in room 9 with **Miss Barrass** and **Miss Farr**.

Primary Taster Day - Dunston Hill

As part of one of our Primary taster days with **Dunston Hill Primary school**, we explored what is meant by art textiles. We learnt about what it meant to make a piece of art using fabric by using a range of different techniques, before creating our own. We drew around our hand, designed a piece of artwork within it, before transferring the design onto fabric with fabric pens. Once complete these were then cut out and pinned onto a piece of fabric to create our own fashion garment.

Students were very pleased with their outcome and enjoyed working with new materials and techniques.



TECHNOLOGY

SPANISH

A Languages Day at Newcastle University

This day has opened our minds to learn and explore different languages and cultures. The event was called Beat the Rat Race, where we learnt about many different languages. It was co-organised by Durham County Council and Newcastle University and it was open to year 8 and 9 students from schools in Durham and Newcastle.

We went to the introduction which was lead by Brian Stobie. We had a student ambassador called Luke who helped us through the day and knew German. We started with an ice breaker activity, where we had to match different jobs in other 4 different languages, but you couldn't talk to people from your school. It was a bit daunting but once we started talking to them we became more sociable and gained confidence. Then we had a Q & A session with different people who use languages for their job. The answers we got were very interesting and it kicked off why we wanted to learn about different languages and why it's interesting.

Our main task was up next. It was a poster challenge during which every school has to design a poster about languages. It was a very tough challenge as all schools were very artistic. Although we didn't win, it still represented our school and we are very proud of it. We all enjoyed this activity and it brought us together and helped us to collaborate with each other to complete this difficult task.

After we had our lunch, we met a Bulgarian university student called Elina from Newcastle University and she told us about the Bulgarian culture and food. She also taught us how to speak Bulgarian as well as giving us a bracelet or a puppet from Bulgarian culture. We were very excited about this and Luke made a line out of the Bulgarian flags we were given.

By Philippa, Isla, Tanvitha, Keisha, Ethan, Luke, Jayden and Bethany



100%

99%

98%

97%

96%

95%

94%

93%

92%

91%

90%

Less than 90%

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Secret Student Attendance Blog

"Last year my attendance was around 70%, but so far this year I'm above 96%. To improve my attendance, I have had to be determined in my want for good GCSE grades and persist in my ability to arrive at school on time. I have been on time every day so far this year. I have had to wake up earlier to make this happen. I have done this because I want a successful future and I believe attendance is key to improving the path to my GCSEs.

Since being in school more, I have become more knowledgeable in all of my subjects which I think has impacted my teachers' attitude towards me. I'm getting on better with others in my class, have more friends and I am still learning that my attendance affects all of my life, not just in school.

If I was to tell myself one thing this time last year, I would say that I should always keep going, not just think of today as another day in school but thinking about the opportunity I have to improve my grades and opportunities." - **Secret Student**



Is your child's attendance giving them the best chance of success?

The Department for Education has stated that there is clear evidence of a link between poor attendance at school and low levels of achievement. Students and parents should be **aiming for an attendance level of 96%** and above to have the best chance of success. Each week your child's tutor will encourage them to review and record their attendance.

We use the following **traffic light system** for our attendance.

If you have any concerns about your child's attendance and the impact it may be having on their progress, please contact our attendance officer, **Mrs Oliver** who will be happy to discuss this with you.

We're proud of you!

WELL DONE.

You are giving yourself the best chance of success now and in the future.

We're worried!

YOU NEED TO IMPROVE QUICKLY.

Attendance below 96% reduces your chance of success now and in the future.

We're worried!

YOU ARE IN A SERIOUS POSITION.

If you do not improve your attendance immediately, it will not only have a serious impact on your education outcomes but will also reduce your life chances in the future.

100% ATTENDERS FOR SPRING TERM 2019

YEAR 7

Ryan Betts 7I
 Thomas Boyle 7M
 Morgan Brodie 7E
 Kayleigh Coats 7I
 Joseph Corbett 7M
 Ben Corner 7E
 Harvey Dunn 7G
 Billy Ford 7I
 Elpida Gerasi 7S
 Hayley Hindmarsh 7I
 Ruby Patricia Jackson 7I
 Heidi Lague 7S
 Ryan Leung 7N
 Vanessa Maciejewska 7M
 Gracie Bruce 7G
 Ellis Byrne 7M
 Rebecca Carr 7S
 Sophie Maddison 7E
 Caitlin Mcnichol 7K
 Zane Momoh 7G
 Lexie Morris 7M
 Josh Murcott 7G
 Mya Naylor 7K
 Chloe Olsen 7G
 Rebecca Pearce 7S
 Tillie Purvis 7M
 Charlie Robson 7N
 Blake Roden 7G
 Yusuf Sahin 7M
 Cerys Simpson 7M
 Lili-Rae Snowball 7S
 Reece Stephenson 7I
 Noel Tate 7M
 Abbie Tron 7S
 Craig Walker 7M
 Reece Wardle 7S
 Euan Wood 7N

YEAR 8

Grace Adams 8K
 Matthew Bell 8E
 Emily Betts 8M
 Fynn Brown 8N
 Lily Brown 8S
 Ethan Caisley 8G
 Daniel Cockburn 8N
 Alex Corbett 8K
 Lewis Davies 8E
 Mia Elliott 8N
 Leo Fasuan 8E
 Isla Fletcher 8G
 Erin Gibbon 8E
 Alisha Grant 8G
 Francesca Grant 8S
 Charlie Graves 8G
 Caden Johnson 8N
 Lucy Johnson 8G
 Preston Leech 8S
 Saran Magassouba 8K
 Brooke Phillips 8G
 Charlotte Pringle 8S
 Dina Ramin 8E
 Katelyn Robson 8N
 Mohammad Salar 8K
 Veronika Seres 8K
 Jessica Smith 8G
 Evie Spoor 8M
 Bayley Telfer 8K
 Amy Temperley 8N
 Bethany Trotter 8M
 Josh Turnbull 8J
 Lewis Walker 8S
 Aaron Wishart-Yeomans 8K
 Sarina Zamani 8G

YEAR 9

Gbolahan Agbaje 9K
 Nathan Atkinson 9I
 Kye Banks 9I
 Daniel Brown 9G
 Sarah Carr 9N
 Charlie Carroll 9G
 Josh Chatt 9G
 Hud Collace 9E
 Katelyn Dickson 9G
 Daniel Dunn 9M
 Evan Elliott 9N
 Ling Gao 9E
 Karo Hamaraza 9E
 Phillipa Harm 9K
 Ruth Hart 9S
 Hannah Hunter 9E
 Alfie Keane 9M
 Jessica Liddle 9G
 Jack Mackereth 9N
 Amelia Rose Mcnichol 9K
 Abbie Pattinson 9M
 Emily Potts 9E
 Amelia Richardson 9M
 Joshua Rowell 9M
 Aneta Slomska 9I
 Caitlin Spence 9N
 Grace Sutton 9E
 Scott Wales 9E

YEAR 10

Sinead Allinson 10S
 Jesse Barnes 10G
 Robert Birdsall 10N
 Daniel Clarke 10K
 Mayci Cook 10M
 Esra Erkasap 10I
 Zhalian Faraj 10G
 Skye Forster 10G
 Christopher Ingham 10K
 Mama Magassouba 10S
 Elisha Manning 10K
 Nathan Maughan 10G
 Ricky Mckay 10G
 Chantelle Pownceby 10S
 Lewis Richardson 10I
 Dane Treglown 10S
 Joe Wright 10N

YEAR 11

Kieron Alexander 11N
 Jack Bowman 11K
 Ryan Boyle 11I
 Charlie Conwell 11I
 Paria Darouni 11K
 Shauna Earl 11N
 Paris Eastland 11M
 Rebecca Ellis 11K
 Mason Ford 11S
 Max Glister 11S
 Grant Hardcastle 11K
 George Hodgson 11M
 Thomas Hunnam 11N
 Gemma Jones 11G
 Billy Lawrence 11N
 Ethan Mccullough 11S
 Michelle Mcnichol 11N
 Nattalia Moore 11M
 Magdalena Patrascu 11M
 Eleanor Robson 11K
 Matthew Rocks 11N
 Brooke Roden 11M
 Beyza Sahin 11K
 Lewis Sewell 11S
 Jay Shepherdson 11K
 Alice Snee 11S
 Charlotte Stephenson 11S
 Hollie Webster 11N



First Day Absence

Kingsmeadow School recognises that there is a strong link between achievement in school and good attendance; because of this we operate a first day response to absence.

If your child needs to be absent, could you please contact school on the first morning of the absence and explain the reason for absence. When reporting school absences please contact Kingsmeadow School on telephone number 0191 4606004 and press option 2 (to report an absence).

If your child is going to be absent for more than one day it is important that you keep daily contact with the school and when your child returns to school, please ensure that you sign their diary or send in a signed and dated note giving a reason for their absence.

If school do not hear from you then you will be contacted either by telephone or text message during the school day or by letter. If you have recently changed your contact details it is important that you inform school of any changes in cases of an emergency.

