

ISSUE

ENGLISH
BBC School Report Team


Kingsmeadow
Inspiring minds

Newsletter

SPRING 2018

CREATIVE ARTS, MORE ABLE, OUTDOOR ACTIVITY CENTRE, L4L, SPANISH...and much more

SPANISH
MFL Students Visit Newcastle

HEADTEACHER'S INTRODUCTION



I am very pleased to welcome you to the 60th edition of the Kingsmeadow Newsletter. In this edition you will find articles highlighting not only the many educational successes and challenges that have taken place over the last few months, but also the challenges that are coming up for our students as we move through to the end of the academic year. These various activities are testament to Kingsmeadow's concerted efforts to bring about the best for all our community. Through these activities, students have been engaged in challenging and enriching programmes that develop the 21st century skills in areas of creative & critical thinking, information & communication, literacy, global awareness & cross-cultural skills. In nurturing students to enjoy learning and to fulfil their potential, the school offers opportunities for students to pursue their passion and interest in all areas including technology, sports and the Arts. The REAL curriculum continues to drive in depth understanding and underpins our philosophy as a school. Its expansion into Year 9 will see a broadening of student experience next year.



As we move in to the exam season many students in Year 11 and Year 13 will be focusing on their future plans. The recent L4L day on 22nd March provided all Year 11 students with key information about their next steps from September, and Year 13 students have been supported all year with decisions about whether further education or the world of work is their next step after Kingsmeadow. Last year's exam outcomes were confirmed as the best ever in the new measure of Progress 8, showing Kingsmeadow has climbed into the top 5 schools in the area, and well above the national average. This is the challenge we have set ourselves to improve upon in this coming year. Our resolve has been picked up by the community, because we are also, for the first time in the last few years, fully subscribed in our new Year 7 from September 2018. This is a testament to all the hard work of our staff and community.

I am coming to the end of my first year as Headteacher of Kingsmeadow and I would like to thank you all for the support and challenge that has meant we have achieved so much in this year. I am looking forward to seeing the school grow from strength to strength over the coming years.

Domenic Volpe, *Headteacher*

HEADTEACHERS CHINA GATESHEAD LINK

MARCH 2018

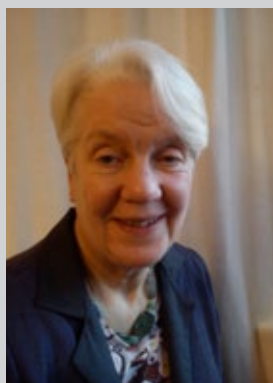
There has been a link between schools in Shanghai, China and Gateshead for the last 10 years. Earlier this month I was invited to take part in a Headteacher's delegation visit to review how schools in Shanghai and Gateshead could learn from each other. The delegation of Headteachers and Senior Staff spent seven days visiting schools in Shanghai and were warmly greeted in every school. The opportunities for shared development are huge but the logistics are challenging. While the cultures are very different the aspiration for young people to do well and contribute to the betterment of their communities was common in all the schools visited, and is at the heart of our ethos at Kingsmeadow.

The structure of education in Chinese schools is very different to the UK but in essence the same basic subjects are covered with a real focus on Maths, Science, English, Art and Chinese Culture. There are many areas that can be explored as joint development projects and the focus of the visit was to look at these potential areas for development. Exciting times are ahead and I look forward to keeping you informed of any developments over the coming years.



CHAIR OF GOVERNORS UPDATE

This term governors have again been busy alongside senior leaders, driving school improvements and celebrating successes, aiming to make sure that Kingsmeadow continues to be a school of excitement, enterprise and excellence. The head and deputy head, **Mr Volpe** and **Mr Barrett**, continue to bring much to the school from their experience and expertise. We receive regular reports from them and other senior leaders and know how much is going on to benefit students throughout the school.



The school prides itself on its inclusive ethos, valuing all students and providing support to those who need it. The government provides extra funding, called **Pupil Premium**, for students who are from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Governors are accountable for how this funding is used and must show what the impact has been on student achievement. This term we have had a review of Pupil Premium arrangements at Kingsmeadow, carried out by an external consultant. We received a presentation of her findings at our meeting in March and were very pleased to hear her very positive assessment of how the school manages the funding and what the students are achieving. The school's **Pupil Premium Strategy** is on the school's website.

This term our committees have looked to the future: the budget for 2018-19 and beyond, and the curriculum for next year. Although the budget is still tight, Gateshead schools have benefitted from a small increase in government education funding. A large part of the school's funding is based on the number of students, so the increasing numbers mean increasing budgets (next year's Year 7 looks to be the largest ever, reflecting the growing popularity of the school among local families). The Finance and Staffing Committee is supporting the senior leaders in getting the staffing numbers and structure right to deliver the best learning for the students.

Our Curriculum committee has looked in some detail at the changes needed next year and beyond to respond to government requirements. National requirements are becoming more and more 'academic', with less time for vocational and creative subjects. At Kingsmeadow, we pride ourselves on continuing to provide a broad and exciting curriculum while meeting government requirements and preparing students for the all-important national assessments at GCSE. This is quite a juggling act, but the school benefits from very intelligent and creative leaders who have designed a curriculum which contains as much choice as possible for the students.

We carried out a governors' 'learning walk' at the beginning of February, talking to students and staff and visiting classrooms. As always we were very impressed by the quality of all that we saw, from a group of articulate and enthusiastic students, a group of committed, knowledgeable staff and in classes. We talked to staff about providing challenge for more able students and about the benefits of the **REAL** project-based learning in Years 7 and 8. Students all told us they feel safe in school and all knew what to do if they had any concerns about safety or wellbeing.

The GCSE and A-level exams will soon be starting and we know that students are working very hard. On behalf of the governors, I wish them all great success.

Sarah Diggle *Chair of Governors*

KEY DATES

DATE	EVENT/HOLIDAY
1 May	Primary Writing Celebration
7 May	May Day
15 May	External Exams Begin
16 May	Learning for Life Day 5
W/C 21 May	Year 8 Key Assessments
28 May – 1 June	May Week
4 June	2nd half of Summer Term begins
WC 11 June	Y7. 9 and 12 KA3
13 June	Creative Arts and Sports Awards
W/C 18 June	Year 10 Key Assessments
W/C 18 June	Year 12 Work Experience
18-21 June	Primary Performing Arts Week - Performance to Parents 21 June
19 June	Last External Exam
27 June	Learning for Life Day 6
28 June	Year 11 Leavers' Prom
11 July	Summer Concert Performance
12 July	Year 6 induction day and evening
13 July	Kingsmeadow Games including year 6 induction day 2
18 July	Year 8 REAL Exhibition
20 July	Last day of term





THE CROWN AWARD

FIVE STUDENTS EARN BRONZE AWARD

We celebrated our first ever students achieving certification in the Kingsmeadow Crown Award just before Easter.

Connor Morton, Tilly Caisley, Erin Reynolds, Jessica Liddle and Olivia Kindred all achieved Bronze Award - an impressive feat after just two terms!

In order to achieve Bronze in The Crown Award, students must complete twelve tasks across the three different headings of Opening Hearts, Inspiring Minds and Transforming Lives. These tasks include a mixture of in-class activities, extra-curricular activities, positive representation of the school and out of school activities and accomplishments. They are not easy and the students have to work incredibly hard over a prolonged period of time to achieve them.

We are very proud of our five students, and of all of the year 7s who are working hard towards their Crown Award. We now look forward to more of our year 7 students achieving the Bronze Award, whilst Connor, Tilly, Erin, Jessica and Olivia will no doubt start working towards their Silver award straight away.

ACTIVE TUESDAY

Culture Club Visit - Hatton Gallery, Newcastle

During Active Tuesday, members of 'Culture Club' visited the Hatton Gallery in Newcastle to view Kurt Schwitters' exhibition, Collage and Assemblage. Schwitter used discarded everyday materials to create works of art. The students thoroughly enjoyed exploring the exhibition and were extremely impressed with the famous Merz Barn Wall which is on permanent display at the Hatton Gallery.

The students closely examined the artwork and were inspired to create their own collages, from a range of materials, based on Kurt Schwitters' Merz Barn Wall. The aim of the visit was to encourage students to broaden their cultural experiences and they agreed that they would like to return to view future exhibitions.



BUSINESS & IT

It has been a busy term for Business and IT with a real drive for successful academic achievement. Our year 11 Business students are working hard to complete their final unit of coursework with a focus on retail businesses, this will certainly help our students when looking for part time work when they turn sixteen.

Year 10 students have now completed their first unit of coursework in IT where students created their own websites based on a fictional music festival based in Dunston, with the purpose of the festival to raise money and awareness around local charity FACT.

Our year 10 Business students were focusing on the examination element of the course which has a focus on Business Finance. Students learn about business costs, planning tools to predict profit, cash flow and the financial tools used to measure success such as balance sheets. I am pleased to say that the results of these exams are now back with the school and overall the achievement was very strong. Congratulations go to Shay Dawson, Loraine Papong and Beth Slater who were the top 3 highest scoring students but also Daniel Archer, Toni Ash and Luke Jobling who achieved well above their individual target.

CAREERS INFORMATION ADVICE AND GUIDANCE



Students in each year group continue to spend at least one hour during each L4L day learning about careers. Year 8 and 10 have taken part in a careers fair in which they were able to discuss their careers aspirations with employers and local education employers. Both the delegates and students commented on how positive the experience was and we look forward to working with the employers, colleges and universities in the future.

Year 11 students have been working with '**NERAP**' the **North East Raising Aspiration Partnership** which consists of the 5 main Universities in the North East. Students have worked with current University students to find out more about what University life is like and the benefits of attending University.

We have also continued with our work to promote apprenticeships through the 'ASK apprenticeship' service who are committed to helping young people understand apprenticeships and advising students how to apply.

If you would like any further information about careers please see the careers section of our website or contact Mr Dunlop gdunlop@kingsmeadow.org.uk

AND

CREATIVE EXPRESSIVE ARTS

Student Performers Hit The High Note At Christmas Concert 2017

The first **Christmas Concert** of its kind here at Kingsmeadow was held on a cold December night, but inside the atmosphere was electric as we saw a great showcase of talent from the Music Department.

The concert featured groups such as Kingsmeadow Youth Theatre, Rock School, the Steel Pan Band, the Choir and Djembe Group, most of which just started up in September.

There were also solo performers who had been working hard in their instrumental and singing lessons to prepare for the evening.

Some of the group pieces included:

Good Morning Baltimore from 'Hairspray' and What is this Feeling from 'Wicked' performed by the Youth Theatre Group, Tear in My Heart and Last Christmas performed by Rock School, Gaudete and Yours performed by Choir and many more.

Some of the solo pieces included:

Jingle Bell Rock performed by Caitlyn Hughes on saxophone, Burn from 'Hamilton' performed by Brooke Cutter on voice, Maiden Voyage performed by Aaron Brooksbank on drum kit, Clowns performed by Ling Gao on piano and many more! We also heard from the 'Band of Teachers' which was the Music staff performing I Wish It Could be Christmas Every Day.

We are looking forward to the Summer Concert on Wednesday 11th July 2018 at Kingsmeadow and hope you will join us for even more from the Music Department including scenes from 'Annie' and 'Little Shop of Horrors' as well as something new from all of the groups and soloists!



Instrumental Opportunity

At Kingsmeadow we have a whole host of instrumental lessons available. We have specialist teachers in the following: saxophone; singing; piano; drum kit; guitar; bass guitar; flute; clarinet.

The lessons cost **£40 per term** which is a contribution to the actual cost, the rest is paid for by the school.

Students studying these lessons make good progress and improve their overall musicianship, especially with regular practice and good attendance. They also have the opportunity to perform at our high-profile **Christmas** and **Summer Concerts** at Kingsmeadow as well as additional community performances.

Meanwhile, the **BTEC Music** students are preparing two solo performances, aiming to strengthen their abilities and to push them. They are learning a mix of genres: one a modern pop/rock song, and the other a genre out of the comfort zone.

If you are interested in learning an instrument or would like to join us for any of our other exciting projects, please contact Miss Tindall, Head of Creative Arts.



Steel Pan Festival

The **Kingsmeadow Steel Pan Band** have been asked to play at the Northern Steel Band Festival, so will be appearing at the Linskill Centre at the festival in June alongside other steel bands.

It will be a great opportunity to showcase our band, hear other bands perform as well as perform a piece all together!

Rock School In Full Swing

At **Kingsmeadow Rock School** we rehearse on Thursday nights to study songs and how to play and sing them. We have covered a wide variety of music on vocals, guitar, bass, keyboard and drums from artists like 21 Pilots to Ed Sheeran, Nirvana to Imagine Dragons.

The students often come up with ideas for songs themselves and we go about working together as a band to perform them with a chance to put on concerts during the year.



CEA

CEAARTS

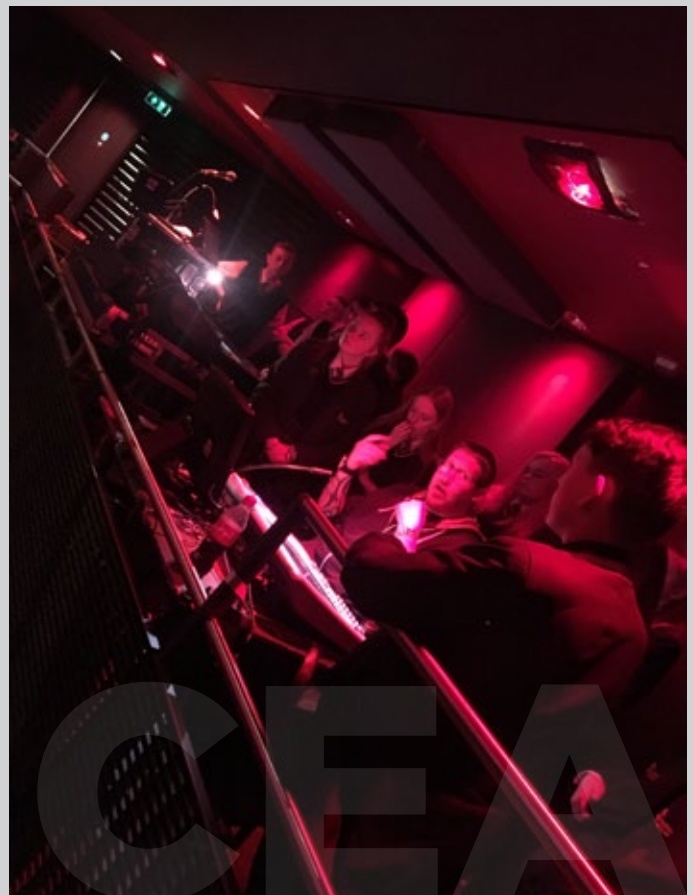
Secrets of the Sage

Year 9 and 10 Music students got a taste of the creative industries in a recent visit to the Sage in Gateshead.

The day of events was organised by the Sage and Gateshead College and students took part in taster sessions to do with sound and lighting, stage management, carnival costumes and percussion.

They got to see the types of careers open to them in the creative industries, which is timely as there has just been information released on the creative industries being the biggest growth sector in the UK!

Government statistics from the **Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)** show that employment within the creative industries, which include advertising, architecture, arts and culture, craft, design, fashion, games, music, publishing, technology and TV and film, is growing at four times the rate of the UK workforce as a whole.



Sing Out!

Last term, **Kingsmeadow Choir** were kept busy preparing for our seasonal events, which included the school's first ever Christmas concert, and the service for the lighting of the Christmas tree at St Nicholas' Church. As well as the usual Christmas carols and songs, the choir learned an ancient carol - Gaudete - which they performed from memory, and sang in Latin! All performances were well-received, and the choir were excellent ambassadors for the school in the wider community.

Choir also provided entertainment for the senior citizens' Christmas meal in school, an event organised by our sixth form students. Choir students sang a selection of pieces they had been working on, including Christmas songs, carols, and some solo numbers. One of the best performances was of Yours by Ella Henderson, which has become something of a party-piece for the choir!

Our choir works hard to represent the school at as many musical and community events as possible, and we are recruiting! If you enjoy singing and would like to be part of the concerts and events we do, you are welcome to come along to rehearsals on a Friday afternoon - from 2:45-3:30. Talk to Miss Tindall or Mr Watson in the Music Department to find out more.



TUNE IN!

KINGSMEADOW



Kingsmeadow FM is a weekly broadcast of school information to staff, students and members of the public.

Hosts Miss Patterson and Miss Tindall collect together information from across the school to broadcast to the Kingsmeadow community. This might include house competitions, music performances, sporting successes, trips, after-school club information, charity events and more.

Guest speakers also pop-in sometimes to give us more information about their areas of interest. The weekly broadcast is available every Friday during term-time from 11.00am.



YOU CAN LISTEN TO KINGSMEADOW FM VIA THE SCHOOL WEBSITE www.kingsmeadow.org.uk

D&T DEPT

Year 10 Child Development

During last term the **Year 10 Child Development** classes were fortunate to have a visit from Senior Midwife, Joanne Templeton. Joanne came to talk to them about her job role as a midwife, the support that is provided to women during pregnancy, labour and birth.

She was able to give them first-hand knowledge on the topics we have been covering within lessons. The classes were particularly interested in seeing and hearing about the specialist equipment she brought in such as an example of a forceps, ventouse.

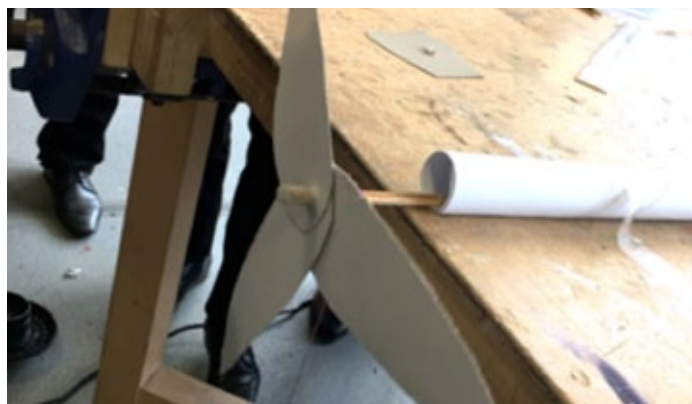
The feedback from the students was very positive saying they found it very informative and that it was useful to see the equipment first hand.

An Engineering Challenge

This term our Year 9 engineers have been investigating renewable energy. They have worked in teams to problem solve, sharing out the work to design, build and test a wind turbine design. They will then follow this up with a test question worth eight marks before developing their wind turbine design further, ready for final testing later this year.

In order to be successful teams have had to consider air flow, friction on rotating parts, weight distribution and different shapes and sizes of blades.

A number are looking to take part in other events outside of school to develop their engineering knowledge and skills working with Students from other schools. More to follow!



Year 9 Textiles

The students from the **Year 9 Textiles** class have been working hard on developing their skills and techniques in manufacturing their first garment of clothing. They have successfully made a top for a 3 year old child, from scratch. Developing skills from pattern cutting through to stitch-in-the-ditch and top stitching.

In creating the top they have used cross curricular skills, in the form of numeracy, when measuring out their paper pattern. This has been a real test of the girls' patience and perseverance, but with great success they have completed their tops, developing skills that will support them with further projects. Alongside the development of the top, they have been developing their fashion drawing skills based on the top project.

ENGLISH

Since the turn of the year Kingsmeadow has joined up with the **BBC** to create a **BBC School Report team** made up of year 7 and 8 students. Our team are making great progress and are working on writing more interesting articles for you to read. Our articles could cover anything from the latest sports news to the top ten apps to use. We will also concentrate on events that have had an impact on Kingsmeadow, or students in the UK. These articles will be posted on the Kingmeadow website, so make sure to check them out! Every Monday at tutor time we all come together to talk about new ideas for articles as well as learning tips to help us produce better writing.

Furthermore, 10 school reporters travelled to Salford for a tour of the BBC studios. The trip, which took place on the 15th of March was a great opportunity for us to enhance our English skills and get an inside look at what working for the BBC is really like. We were able to work closely with BBC journalists and were also able to create our own journalism!



Going forward some of our reports may even be featured on the BBC website as part of the BBC Pitch which is designed to gather stories which are important to people our age across the country.

We are constantly looking for stories which Kingsmeadow can react to. If anyone has any ideas on a topic we could report on, they should speak to Mr Lennox, or any of the School Reporters involved!

We hope you enjoy our reports and will continue to read them.

By Elif Celikay, Year 7

Creative Writing at The Live Theatre

This half term a group of Year 7 students have been lucky enough to visit the Live Theatre in Newcastle and take part in creative writing workshops. Students embraced this opportunity to think creatively, bringing scenes and characters to life. The aims of workshops were to spark ideas and build excitement and confidence regarding literacy, and it certainly achieved that.



ENGLISH

HISTORY



HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR TOMI KOMOLY

VISITS KNGSMEADOW

Recently we were privileged to host a talk by Tomi Komoly, a Holocaust survivor who spoke about his experiences as a child in Hungary during World War 2. Born in 1936, Tomi lived most of his childhood under the Nazi occupation of Budapest and spoke of his struggle to survive until the Russian liberation of 1945.

Our History students from year 9, 10 and 11 who are studying the subject as part of their GCSE options were captivated by Tomi's talk and afforded him a hushed silence as he spoke for nearly an hour and a half.

Tomi's first-hand experience of the atrocities suffered by millions of Jewish people gave the students a rare insight into this subject, which complemented what they are already learning about in History lessons.

Tomi's visit was also covered by the Newcastle Chronicle and a link to that story can be found on their website at chroniclelive.co.uk.





KINGSMEADOW FOOTBALL ACADEMY

Nike Live Day

KFA held a special promotional day linked with our kit providers NIKE and Kitlocker. The day gave all of the KFA players the opportunity to trial the newest NIKE footwear during a training session held by the KFA coaches and a NIKE coach. It was a fun experience for all involved and we will be holding this event again in the near future.



Manchester City Coaching

Last month also seen 3 of the KFA players, Owen Mitchell, Dominic Pegram and Morgan Waggott win the opportunity to represent the KFA at a coaching day held by our kit sponsors and travel providers Inspiresport and the Manchester City Football Schools Coaches.

The players earned this opportunity through displaying their desire to develop throughout this season so far in the Academy. Each player was provided with kit and were taken through a series of game related exercises throughout the day.

The presentation held at the end of the day seen Morgan Waggott win the **Skill Challenge** and Dominic Pegram win **Player of the Day**, this was out of 44 players (13 - 16 years olds) taking part in the day.

All 3 players conducted themselves in an extremely professional manner and represented not only the Football Academy but Kingsmeadow School to the highest standard.





KM RAG WEEK

Year 13 students have gone the extra mile to organise Kingsmeadow Raising and Giving Week which was aimed to raise money for the local charity, FACT Cancer Support.

They successfully organised five days of fundraising before school, at break time, lunchtime, and after school.

They were very imaginative with their events, such as:

- **Guess How Many Sweets in the Jar**
- **Car Wash**
- **Bake Sale**
- **Name the Bear**
- **Chocolate Tombola,**
- **Mystery Bottle Table**
- **Diary Competition**
- **Cycle Competition!**
- **Sixth form students v teachers netball**
- **and even buy a Pick and Mix!**

Not forgetting the students' favourite . . . 'Soak the Teacher' which took place on Friday lunchtime. Mr Dunlop, Mrs Richardson, Mrs Brickle, and Mr Brand all agreed to brave the water and have many wet sponges and a few buckets of water thrown at them!

Thanks to their hard work and the ability to extract money from staff and students they managed to raise an astonishing **£1,114.87** for FACT Cancer Support, which I think you will agree is a fantastic achievement.

This money will make a difference to everyone at FACT Cancer Support and enable them to support even more people and continue the amazing work that they carry out in our local community. **Well done to all of our year 13 students.**



MATHS

North East Collaborative Outreach Programme (NECOP)

As part of our continued partnership with the North East Collaborative Outreach Programme (NECOP) a small group of year 10 and 11 students have been taking part in one to one Maths tutoring with current University students. Students work on a variety of skills and lessons on the secure online platform '**Peerz Academy**' in order to progress in areas that they may be struggling with. Students are able to communicate with the University students via their online headsets and through a chat box.

The aim of this activity is to provide an extra boost for students when revising towards their GCSE examinations and also to get students thinking about their own potential to attend University.

NECOP have also visited school to discuss the benefits of University with students during L4L days throughout this academic year.



UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge

A number of our high achieving Year 9 and 10 students took part in the **UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge** which is aimed at students in Year 11 and below. Students apply their problem solving skills and knowledge to a number of mathematical challenges. Congratulations to Loraine Papong, Laniya Ali and Eleanor Robson for achieving a silver qualification and Tamsin Mitchell and Cameron Mason for achieving a bronze qualification.



Pi Day

On March 14th we celebrated **Pi Day(3.14)** by taking part in Pi based activities across the school. The Maths department led an investigation for Year 7 and 8 into the value of Pi. This involved them measuring a variety of circular and cylindrical objects to identify any links between the two measurements. From this and some class discussion the students were able to identify the link between the ratio of the circumference and the diameter.

In Technology, Mrs Burford's 8Y3 class made some wonderful individual apple pies, Miss Knight's Year 8 science class completed a pie puzzle as a connect activity and the English department used the digits of pi to inspire a piece of writing.

The staff also got involved and raised just over **£32 for Cash for Kids** to enjoy a delicious lunch of sweet and savoury pies.



Extra-Curricular Clubs

Early morning sports clubs continue to be successful and very well attended. Students have the opportunity to attend clubs each day from 7.45 till 8.30am.

Netball

Our very talented year 7 girls' Netball team have had 2 friendly fixtures so far this year winning both of them:

- 11-0 v Joseph Swan
- 9-0 v Thorp Academy

Netball Club now runs on a Monday and Wednesday after school and a Thursday lunchtime.

Dance Club

The Gateshead Schools Dance Festival took place on Tuesday 20th March at the Sage. It was a fantastic venue and the girls were very excited to be performing. Girls from years 7, 8 and 9 had been practicing hard in the weeks leading up to the festival making sure they were ready for the big night. The theme of the festival was musicals so we choose to do a mash up of Grease songs with a modern twist and added some Katy Perry so the girls could include their favourite move 'swishing' or 'flossing'.

It was fun night and the girls were fantastic!

Basketball

Many year 7, 8 and 9 students attend Basketball Club on a Monday night in preparation for Gateshead Schools Central Venue League.

Lunch time Badminton Club

During lunchtime students have the opportunity to attend Badminton club. This is extremely popular especially amongst KS3 students.

Trampolining

KS3 girls are currently following a programme of work on trampolining in curriculum time which has proved to be extremely popular. Due to popular demand every lunchtime there is a trampoline club on in the sports hall.

Girls' Rugby

Recently a Rugby club for girls has been formed which is proving to be a great success.

PE UPDATE



Boys' Rugby

Rugby continues to grow this year especially within year 7, 8 and 9. Year 7 entered a three team competition with Lord Lawson and Thorp Academy and won both games without conceding a try. They came third in the Gateshead Schools competition. Year 8 students have also entered the Gateshead School competition finishing runners up.

Boys' Football

Teams outside the football academy in year 9, 10 and 11 have all shown great spirit this year. Year 9 continue to show excellent spirit and character. Year 10 are in with a good chance of winning the league providing their commitment levels remain high. Year 11 played their first game in 3 years but unfortunately lost out to Joseph Swan in the quarterfinals of the Gateshead Schools Cup. The year 7 boys' futsal squad again made the finals of the U12 futsal tournament this year.

Cross County

We had some great performances from year 7, 8 and 9 students at Gateshead Schools Cross Country Championships in November. Congratulations to Elif Celikay in year 7 who finished 7th and qualified to represent Gateshead in the County Championships. She finished 22nd in a field of 120 students from across the county. A fantastic achievement.

Gateshead Schools Rowing Championships

Students demonstrated some great performances when competing in the Gateshead Schools Rowing Championships in January. Congratulations to Jodie Clarke, year 7 who won Gold in her race and Amy Morris - year 8 finishing second. Esra Erkasap in year 8 finished 4th. All three students qualified to represent Gateshead in the County Championships.

The year 8 girls team won their competition with year 7's finishing 3rd overall.

Sportshall Athletics

We entered full teams of students in the Gateshead Schools Sports Hall Athletics Championships at Gateshead Leisure Centre in November. Our year 10 boys' team were runners up and qualified for the Tyne and Wear finals.

Two of our KS3 students: Elif Celikay and Esra Erkasap were selected as individuals to compete in the Tyne and Wear finals as part of the Gateshead team, taking the club root competition due to their overall individual performances across a number of events.

Leadership Summit

Twenty year 7 and 8 students attended the Gateshead Leadership Summit at Gateshead Leisure Centre in November. All students were a credit to the school as they further developed their roles as young leaders enabling them to assist in the running of cluster events with our primary students.

Primary Cluster PE Events

On 22nd January we held a Mini Basketball Tournament, Dunston Hill, Brighton Avenue, Lobley Hill and Caedmon attended. Dunston Hill won and went on to represent our cluster at the Gateshead finals.



A Real Fundraising Event!

As the **Sir Bobby Robson Foundation** is set to celebrate 10 years of fundraising this weekend, we were delighted to receive receipt for the money our Year 7 REAL showcase event raised for this fantastic charity.

The foundation was set up by Sir Bobby himself, who was diagnosed with cancer 5 times and to date, the charity has raised twelve million pounds for vital research into the disease which affects around 2.5 million people in the UK. With the generosity of local business Ringtons Tea Merchants, who donated hampers for us to raffle, we proudly managed to raise **£200** for this very worthwhile cause.



REAL

Gurdwara Visit

Our year 7 REAL students had the opportunity to visit and have a guided tour around **Gurdwara Singh Sabha** in Newcastle last term. This was an amazing enrichment opportunity designed to motivate and inspire our pupils, enabling them to get a better understanding of the subjects they were studying.

As religion is weaved into the fabric of our society, and has been for many centuries, providing REAL opportunities for our students to experience and learn about the different religious groups within our local community can help us to enhance and engender a more tolerant society for us all.

The students and staff were treated to a kind, friendly and informative welcome from our Sikh guide, Mr Cloud Singh who took us around the Gurdwara, gave us all a drink and a biscuit in the langar hall (which he explained that the Sikh community believe that serving others is their way of serving God) and allowed our students to ask questions about the Sikh community, the role of the Gurdwara and the Sikh faith and rituals.

We are proud to be able to report that he commented on the respectful behaviour and eloquent speaking from our students and that he was delighted to be able to give them an insight into their Sikh faith. The Gurdwara was a wonderful place to see and our students benefited greatly from this 'REAL' experience.



Year 8 Real Visit To Newcastle University

As part of their project **'The Wow factor: how can I become more employable and successful in the future?'** year 8 REAL students visited Newcastle University in February.

Our students were welcomed and guided through the visit by university student ambassadors from around the country who were studying a range of degrees at the university. Throughout the day our students engaged in a range of humanities based experiences including evaluating artefacts from World War One, investigating environmental and urban issues and practising their debating skills.

In addition our students received a tour around the university campus to see first-hand what the opportunities available and to gain an understanding of what it would be like to be a students at university. Lastly our students attended a lecture which highlighted the benefits of further education and identified the vast range of both academic and vocational courses available to study.

It was an excellent learning experience and it certainly inspired our students to begin thinking about university and where it can lead them in their future lives.



UPDATE

Year 11 Revision Residential

Twenty of our year 11 students had a week of intensive revision work straight after February half-term. Each afternoon, after school, they were taken to the Premier Inn, Washington. They stayed overnight and enjoyed the facilities of the hotel and local restaurant (or Dominoes take-away on one of the nights), before rising early to a choice of continental and full English breakfast options.

But it was not a holiday. Not by any measure!

The students had to commit to attending a period 6 revision session each evening in school, before getting the bus to the hotel at 3.45pm. From arriving at the hotel the students did at least an hour of maths revision, supported by members of the maths department. After tea, they then spent around an hour completing homework and revision tasks from their other subjects.

This was a week of intensely hard work, and the students conducted themselves incredibly well. We are very proud of all of them. By the end of the week they were tired, but all agreed that the week had given them the focus and opportunity to work and revise that they may not have had before.

Very well done to all students and staff involved.



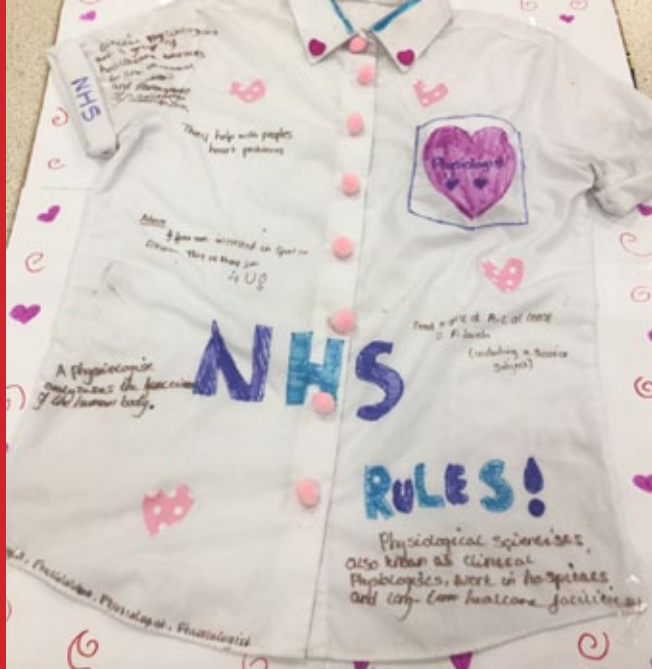
REVISION

SCIENCE

Science Take Part In NHS Competition

In science lessons this term, students in year 7 and 8 took part in a national competition about NHS careers. The students had to research one NHS job and create an informative job advert to submit to the judges. Some of the best creations included videos, websites, models and even a t-shirt design! The prizes available were an iPad for each winning group member, so let's keep our fingers crossed.

Science week is coming up in March so keep a look out for some exciting lessons with a theme on forensics!



SPANISH

MFL Students Visit Newcastle

10 year 8 students visited Newcastle University to attend a Modern Foreign Languages event alongside 7 other schools from across the North East.

Students learned about the different careers languages can offer and even had the opportunity to question a number of professionals who currently use languages in their work. There was even an opportunity for students to have a language taster session in Italian, which all students successfully embraced.

Our students were a credit to the school and showed many of our character traits. Well done all!

Spanish Club

Did you know Kingsmeadow now has its very own Spanish club?

In Spanish club you do and learn lots of exciting things including Spanish culture, festivals, songs, food and so much more! If you think Spanish club is just a normal lesson, then you're in for a shock. Spanish club brings Spanish to life!

Come along and give it a go, whether you're by yourself or want to bring some school friends, everyone is welcome. The club is held on a **Monday at 2:45pm until 3:30pm**. 45 minutes of Spanish extravaganza with Mrs Urwin and Mr Ridley.





BIM Inspiration Day

On Tuesday **27th February**, 12 year 10 students attended the 'BIM inspiration day' engineering event at the Boiler Shop in Newcastle.

The students started the day designing their own house using the same software architects use in building developments. After an exciting start, the students then spent the rest of the day learning about the different areas of engineering, from the uses of VR to the fascinating developments of AI, where they could try out experiments and engineering tasks themselves.

The students took the opportunity to talk to many different people who work for companies in the north east to find out about the potential routes into a career in engineering, ranging from apprenticeships to graduate programmes.

All the students left the event with more knowledge about the vast possibilities a career in engineering can offer and were all discussing what they would like to do in the future.



STEM

(Science, Technology,
Engineering And Mathematics)



RAF Visit Kingsmeadow

On Wednesday **21st February** our year 8 and 9 students spent an hour with members of the RAF learning about what they do and what career choices are available.

The students were amazed to find out that there are thousands of different options within the RAF, more than just flying planes. After discussing all the skills and qualifications different positions within the RAF required, the students were shown the different ways technology is used to help the RAF defend the country.

The session ended with a very loud demonstration of a real jet engine which was a very unique experience for all students and staff involved.

STUDENT VOICE

The student voice team have been working hard this year, meeting once a fortnight during their lunchtime, to voice the changes they want to see in the school. They have currently been discussing different ways to raise money for charity and finding solutions to the overcrowding at lunch time.

The student voice group is open to any student who wants to help make a change within the school, so if you are interested in joining please speak to Miss Slater. Alternatively, you can speak to your tutor group representatives and ask them to pass on an idea.



SUMMER TRIP

To Derwent Hill

After a successful trip to Derwent Hill Outdoor Activity Centre last year, we have decided to go again this year.

It takes place in Keswick in the Lake District during the final week of the summer term. Whilst there you will have the opportunity to take part in some fantastic activities such as kayaking, gorge walking, cliff jumping . . . and much more

Are you interested? If so there are a few spaces left, please see Miss Slater (room 31) for a letter.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS



7M

Attendance Incentive

CONGRATULATIONS TO

- 7M Mr Bland
- 8K Mr Brand
- 9I Miss Harris
- 10M Miss Skirrey and
- 11K Mr Stringer

on winning this term's Attendance Incentive.
Each student was awarded with an Easter Egg.



8K



11K



10M



9I



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS WHO HAVE ACHIEVED 100% ATTENDANCE FROM SEPTEMBER

YEAR 7		YEAR 8		YEAR 9		YEAR 10		YEAR 11	
Joicey, Brad-Lee	7K	Faraj, Zhalian	8G	Snee, Alice	9S	Wilson, Jasmine	10K	Duggan, Dylan	11I
Gordon, Tyler	7M	Qocha, Bontu	8M	Starling, Madison	9M	Clark, Ellie	10M	Swinney, James	11K
Atkinson, Nathan	7I	Joicey, Martin	8N	Morris, Liam	9M	Bastos, Christina	10N	Robinson, Thomas	11K
Debesai, Samrawit	7E	Temple, Lauren	8G	James, Daisy	9M	Coulthard, Adam	10S	Breen, Kaytie	11K
Da Silva, Ruben	7M	Casson, Matthew	8G	Stephenson, Charlotte	9S	Johnson, Jessica	10M	Guest, Kaitlyn	11K
Frost, Taylor	7N	Cook, Mayci	8M	Hudspith, Tom	9I	Papong, Loraine	10I	Marshall, Leah	11K
Cummings, Nathan	7S	Dickson, Alexander	8G	Sewell, Lewis	9S	Pharoah, Ryan	10N	Graham, Leia	11I
Gao, Ling	7E	Thompson, Poppy	8K	Hedley, Alice	9G	Potts, Cameron	10M	Graham, Jazzmin	11N
Franco, Perla	7G	Chatto, Lacey	8S	Hughes, Caitlyn	9S	Brooksbank, Aaron	10K	Davison, Shannon	11G
Dunn, Daniel	7M	Malone, Ewan	8M	McCullough, Ethan	9S	Scott, Amie	10I	Coleman, Leo	11S
Donmall, Bradley	7N	Borley, Rhiannon	8G	Robson, Luke	9I	Young, Harvey	10K	Harm, Jessica	11S
Celikay, Elif	7M	Dickinson, Josh	8N	Rocks, Matthew	9N	Gill, Ryan	10G	Cowley, Olivia	11S
Kindred, Olivia	7N	Smith, Courtney	8K	Jones, Gemma	9G	Lazenby, Matthew	10M	Hughes, Joshua	11G
Lawson, Ebony	7S	McKay, Ricky	8G	Dial, Jessica	9I	Jobling, John	10N	Choga, Brian	11K
Meek, Jake	7G	Pownceby, Chantelle	8S	Earl, Shauna	9N	Tunstall, Cameron	10I		
Black, Ryan	7N	Morris, Amy	8I	Patrascu,		Sibanda, Mongezi	10M		
Harm, Phillipa	7K	Stevens, Jack	8N	Adriana-Magdalena	9M	Stephenson, Sophie	10K		
Morris, Jack	7K	Walker, Kimberley	8S	Webster, Hollie	9N	Mason, Hannah	10G		
Hart, Ruth	7S	Iyigüven, Hazal	8I			Starling, Callum	10K		
Hamaraza, Karo	7E	Dawson, Lee	8J			Mason, Cameron	10I		
Smith, Jessica	7M	Harbertson, Katie	8K						
McNichol, Amelia	7K	Murray, Paige	8G						
Blench, Jenny	7N	Rose, Amy	8M						
Peart, Daniel	7S	Thackray, Camereon	8N						
Edgar, Alex	7M	Mitchell, Paul	8K						
Morris, Lennon	7S	Magassouba, Mama	8S						
Thompson, Kiera	7K	Maughan, Nathan	8G						
Sutton, Grace	7E	Hassan, Sarah	8M						
Potts, Emily	7E								
Gardner, Holly	7E								
Fagan, Steven	7M								
Gray, Naomi	7K								



Holidays During Term Time

Due to amendments (April 2013) that have been made to the Department for Education's Pupil Registration regulations to address attendance issues, it has been made clear to Headteachers that they should not grant leave of absence during term time. The Law does not grant parents/carers an automatic right to take their child out of school during term time. It is a common misconception that students are allowed to take up to ten days holiday in term time in any academic year.

As a result of the revised regulations, the governors at Kingsmeadow School have amended the current Attendance Policy from September 2013 and adopted a standard practice of: not authorising any family holidays in term time. If parents/carers, contrary to what the school has said, still decide to take their child out of school for a holiday then the absence will be recorded as unauthorised. This can lead to the involvement of the Legal Intervention Team and the possible issue of a 'fixed penalty notice' amounting to £60 per child per parent/carer which increases to £120 if not paid within the first 21 days.

I realise that some parents/carers will find these measures rather severe but we are following the new legislation and acting with other schools in the local authority including those within the Kingsmeadow cluster. I hope you will support our continued efforts to raise attendance and attainment.