

ISSUE

62

ROYAL AIRFORCE CADETS
The next generation




Kingsmeadow
Inspiring minds

Newsletter

WINTER 2018 CREATIVE ARTS, AWARDS EVENING, END OF TERM ACTIVITIES, SPANISH...and much more



CREATIVE & EXPRESSIVE ARTS
Music Fundraising Committee

Welcome to our first edition of the newsletter for 2019 which is packed full of the many different and varied activities that go on at Kingsmeadow School. This all goes to strongly reinforce my view that education is about so much more than what goes on in the classroom.

HEADTEACHER'S INTRODUCTION



Domenic Volpe,
Headteacher

I am extremely proud of the progress we have made in the last few years. Getting good GCSE passes and good A level grades can be life-changing for many young people. We have countless examples of students who have worked hard, with staff and school support, gained good grades and moved on to University, apprenticeships or work and used these qualifications as a springboard to their careers. **The Awards Evening** that took place on 6 December 2018 celebrated these achievements, and for those of you that were in attendance, I know that you were as proud as myself and the staff to see the young people of Kingsmeadow celebrating their success. As a teacher there is nothing that makes the job more enjoyable than knowing that your support and hardwork has enabled a student to reach their potential. Sometimes it is the extras that make all the difference - such as trips, visits, PE events, music experiences, trips to a university, meeting an employer in school etc. This is one of the key reasons we run so many of these events.

My best wishes to all **Year 11** and **Post 16** students in their upcoming examinations. We are providing a host of support measures to help them. Good teaching continuing right up to the final examination with revision strategies in lessons and reminders in assemblies about these. Exam timetables and revision timetables will be a focus over the coming weeks and months. Some **Year 11** students will be given the opportunity for a focused revision residential in the coming months to further boost their confidence. This was extremely successful last year, with every student making improved progress within the group. In the end though it is down to the students themselves to really knuckle down and start the work themselves. Our advice is that a clear revision schedule is crucial which involves both revision and study but also clearly affords time to relax. Getting a good balance of revision and relaxation is important.

Our **Year 8** are also reaching a key point in their time at Kingsmeadow. The Options process begins with an information evening on 22 Jan 2019 where students and their families will be taken through the process, ready for their KS4 Option choices which must be made by February half term. This is an incredibly important process.

Please take time to look through this latest edition of the Newsletter. What you will see is a small slice of life within the Kingsmeadow Community. I hope to see you all at events in the coming months.

TERM DATES

Monday, 8 April – Monday 22 April (incl)	Easter Break
Tuesday, 23 April	Summer term starts
Monday, 6 May	May Bank Holiday
Monday, 27 May – Friday 31 May	Half Term
Friday, 19 July	Closes for summer holiday



CHAIR OF GOVERNORS UPDATE



First, this comes with all good wishes for 2019 from the school's governors. At the start of a new calendar year we look forward with our own personal resolutions to 'do better'. But it is almost the mid-point of the school year, and we know that Kingsmeadow's students have been striving to 'do better' for several months. We see performance improving all the time, carefully nurtured by the school's able and committed staff. I hope that all have had a good and enjoyable Christmas break and have returned to school refreshed and full of the enthusiasm that governors saw last term.

Last term, we visited the school several times, to attend school events and our own meetings. The most interesting of these are our 'Learning Walks', when we tour the school, dropping in on lessons. During our Learning Walk in November, we talked to the new School Ambassadors, and were very impressed by how well they spoke and articulated their thoughts. The election process for the Ambassadors was democracy in action, and we have high hopes for them as drivers of improvement!

We met as a full governing board in November and our committees met once each during the term. **Achievement and Environment Committee**, which deals with student performance, curriculum and safeguarding, and **Resources Committee**, which deals with finance and staffing matters, both reported to the full governing body meeting in November. The detail of safeguarding matters, including monitoring any issues and data protection, is carried out by our Safeguarding Governor, Allison Thompson, meeting with senior staff of the school. She reports to the full governing body. We have also attended performances and awards ceremonies, impressed as always by students' achievements and talents.

Achievement and Environment Committee has looked in some detail at the school's arrangements to shape the curriculum both to meet the government's increased focus on 'academic' subjects and to provide students with a 'broad and balanced' curriculum. We pride ourselves at Kingsmeadow in providing as broad a curriculum as possible, and in not restricting students' choice of subjects except where this is unavoidable. We have been very pleased to see the enthusiasm with which Spanish is now studied in the school, helped along by a few footballers and some Spanish food!

Kingsmeadow continues to become ever more popular as the school of choice for local young people. Numbers of children wanting to come to the school next September have broken all records. In this newsletter you will read about some of the things that make the school such a great place.

As promised in the last newsletter, we will shortly be holding an election for a new parent governor to join the Governing Board. You will find information on the governing body and its role on the school website (under 'About Us'). Parent governors are elected by the parents and carers of students at the school. Watch out for information about the election and how to put yourself forward if you are interested.

Sarah Diggle *Chair of Governors*

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2019

PARENTS EVENINGS

Tuesday, 12 March – 3-8pm Year 7, 8 and 12 Student-Led Conference
Tuesday, 19 March - 3-7pm Year 9 Subject Specific Evening
Tuesday, 30 April - 3-7pm Year 10 Subject Specific / Motivational Evening

KEY ASSESSMENT DATES

Monday, 4 February Year 9 Key Assessment 2 begins
Monday, 11 February Year 7, 12 and 13 Key Assessment 2 begins
Monday, 25 February Year 10 Key Assessment 2 begins
Monday, 4 March Year 11 Key Assessment 2 begins
Monday, 20 May Year 8 Key Assessment 3 begins
Monday, 10 June Years 7, 9 and 12 Key Assessment 3 begins
Monday, 17 June Year 10 Key Assessment 3 begins

EXTERNAL EXAMS

Monday, 13 May First written GCSE/LEV 2 Exam
Wednesday, 19 June Last written GCSE/LEV 2 Exam

REPORTS AVAILABLE

Friday, 8 February Year 10 Reports
Friday, 5 April Year 11 Reports
Friday, 10 May Year 9 Reports
Friday, 12 July Year 7 Reports
Friday, 12 July Year 8 Reports

AWARDS EVENING

Thursday 16 May CEA and Sports Awards Evening

RESIDENTIAL

W/C 25 February Year 11 Intervention Residential

RESULTS DATES

Thursday, 15 August Post 16 GCE Results Day
Thursday, 22 August GCSE Results Day



KS3

EFFORT AND
RESILIENCE

Jorja Allen Ryan Black
Ben Campbell
Elif Celikay Brooke Cutter
Skye Forster Naomi Gray
Megan-Jo Hannon
Elisha Manning
Annie Moorhead
Amy Morris
Darienne Thompson
Thomas Toward

READING AWARD

Scott Kane

KS4

EFFORT AND
RESILIENCE

Isabella Dodds
Molly Goodbarn
Kelsey Gray
Thomas Hunnam
Daisy James
John Jobling
Chloe Joicey
Sarah Marshall
Cameron Mason
Lorraine Papon
Magdalena Patrascu
Olivia Richardson
Eleanor Robson
Amie Scott
Hollie Smith
Sophie Stephenson
Rachel Taylor

YEAR 11

EFFORT AND
ACHIEVEMENT

Alaa Alzofiri
Abby Cass
Joe Cavanagh
Josh Chatto
Eliz Ergisi
Charlie Keenan
Chloe Northover-Cameron
Leah Marshall
Thomas Robinson
Hollie Smith
Samantha Tweedy-Gray
Abbie Watson
Parker White

ACADEMIC AWARDS EVENING 2018

On 6 December we celebrated our students' effort, resilience and achievement 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 also entertained by two fantastic singers, Brooke Cutter and Amie Scott.

Kelsey Groom deservedly won the night's highest accolade, The Headteacher's Award.

Congratulations to all concerned

YEAR 12

EFFORT AND
RESILIENCE

Hannah Hood
Kirsten Swan

YEAR 13

EFFORT AND
ACHIEVEMENT

Maia Atkinson
Niall Wilson



HEADTEACHER'S AWARD

Kelsey Groom

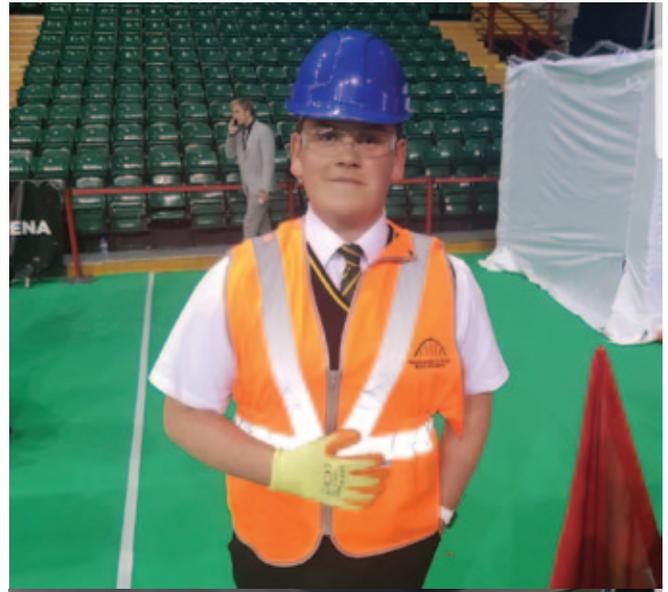
BUSINESS - ICT

Careers Update

The School year started with a vast array of different careers related activities running all the way through the school from year 7 to year 13.

Year 7 were introduced to the careers programme at Kingsmeadow and attended a visit to Northumbria University in September as part of their **REAL 'My Journey'** project. For many students this would have been their first taste of university and an opportunity to explore the benefits of higher education.

Year 8 have had assemblies on the careers programme and the careers opportunities in the creative sector. Students were all introduced to the options process and should be looking forward to their first careers fair and a visit to Newcastle University in January.



Year 9 students had an assembly on the options they have post 16 and have had two careers lessons. The first of which was about labour market information delivered by a visitor from the Department for Work and Pensions who works closely with the school to ensure all students leave school at the end of year 11 moving on to an appropriate education or work place. The second lesson was delivered by the ASK apprenticeship service giving students an insight into apprenticeships including information about apprenticeship opportunities available in the local area.

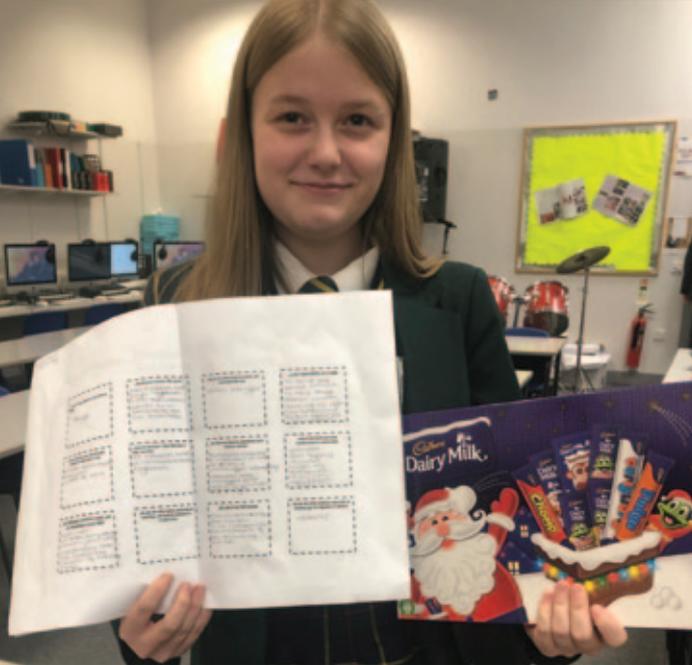
32 year 9 IT students also took part in **BIMA digital day** delivered in partnership with local firm **Engima** Interactive where students were tasked with creating their own virtual learning environment based on business problems posed on the day.

Year 10 students have had assemblies on options post 16 and why they may want to stay on at Kingsmeadow sixth form. Year 10 engineering students have visited industry leaders Nissan at their Sunderland plant. Year 10 business students have been involved in the **Premier League Business and Enterprise Challenge** with a group of students finishing in second place in the regional final held at St James' Park.

Year 11 students began the year with a visit to the **Metro Radio Arena** for the region's biggest careers fair. This was followed up with assemblies and one to one careers guidance meetings for all year 11 students. 30 students also had the opportunity to visit Newcastle University for their **'Inspiring Choices'** university visit.

Our sixth form students have also started the year with a variety of university visits. Many of our year 13 students are now in the process of applying for university through the UCAS programme and are guided by the sixth form team. Those who decide not to go on to higher education are guided both by internal members of staff but also provided with careers advice by an external careers professional.

We look forward to many more exciting opportunities this year including 5 **'experience of workplace days'** that will take place in the summer term for year 9 and 10. For more information about our careers programme please contact Mr Dunlop.



12 Days of Christmas (in the Music Industry)

As part of the Year 10 and 11 BTEC Music course students were encouraged to complete Miss Tindall's advent calendar specifically designed to help students with exam-style questions.

The advent calendar provided a question a day for twelve days and each question used a BTEC command word such as 'identify', 'explain' or 'describe'. The classes have been looking at the use of these words especially regarding how to gain more marks where the answer requires a more in-depth description. The advent calendar also tested the knowledge of content about the music industry, such as various job roles, organisations and links between them.

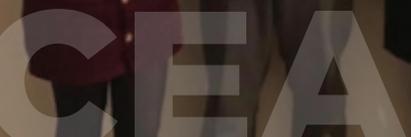
The task was completely voluntary but anyone who completed it in time received a selection box for their efforts just in time for Christmas.

CREATIVE CEA

Awards Evening Soloists

As part of the Annual Awards Evening, the Music Department provided some entertainment for guests. The two solo spots were taken by BTEC Music students **Brooke Cutter** (Year 9) and **Amie Scott** (Year 11), both girls have been working on Musical Theatre pieces in their singing lessons with Mr Watson. Brooke sang '**As Long as He Needs Me**' from Oliver and Amie sang '**I Dreamed a Dream**' from Les Misérables. Both gave very convincing performances vocally portraying the roles of Nancy and Fantine respectively.

Coincidentally, both students also received the Music award that evening for their effort, attainment and overall contribution to the subject over the past year. This was especially for their commitment to and performances with Choir and Youth Theatre which included many school and community performances. The other Music award winner was Parker White, (last year's Year 11) who performed well in the final Music exam and was a vital part of last year's **Rock School** and competed in Battle of the Bands.



Music Fundraising Committee



A new committee has been formed to raise funds for the Music Department and is run by keen students who love Music. Ling Gao, Tilly Caisley, Ryan Black (Year 8) and Brooke Roden (Year 10) have been taking a leading role, especially in the recent Music Showcases at which they set up and ran a cake stall. This initiative continued with the students running cake stalls at break and lunch times for students.

A special mention must go to Ling and Tilly as well as their families, who have spent hours and hours of their own time baking cakes, biscuits, brownies and more, to raise money for the Music Department.

Just at the Music Showcases alone, the fundraising committee raised approximately £100 from the cake stalls, selling tea and coffee and from 'pay what you feel' bucket donations.

AND

EXPRESSIVE ARTS

Winter Showcase Series

A series of concerts was held just before Christmas to highlight the talent found in the instrumental and singing lessons offered here at Kingsmeadow. It was also a chance for the bands formed as part of the BTEC courses to perform in front of an audience.

Over the three different performances students from lessons in drums, guitar, bass, saxophone, piano and singing performed a variety of solos and group pieces. For those studying Music as a BTEC option the showcases were compulsory as the recordings made during the performances form a vital part of the student performance portfolios.

The audiences were impressed with the musical offerings that they heard during the performances and it was also a great chance for parents to hear more information about what the students have been studying in their lessons as well as learning the importance of regular, sustained practice on an instrument or voice.

Just a few of the pieces performed were: Crazy Little Thing Called Love (**Brooke Roden** and **Rory Cowen** on guitar and bass), The Nod (**Cameron Mason** on drum kit), Someone Like You (**Amy Pickering**, voice), Living on a Prayer (Year 9 BTEC Music Band), Yours (Year 10 BTEC Music Band), Human (Year 11 BTEC Music Band), Why (**Tamsin Mitchell's** own composition on piano), Rektor (**Ling Gao** on piano), Zombie (BandCamp Music Club).

We are anticipating holding the next series of showcases near Easter and then again in the Summer to show even more progress as the year continues.



END OF TERM ACTIVITIES

Happily Never After

Christmas would never be the same without the festive entertainment that has become a family tradition for many. Here at Kingsmeadow we are no different. Our Drama Club collaborated with some of our staff to produce our very own Pantomime, **Happily Never After!**

It was not your typical panto as we were delighted to find many of our much loved characters from the well-loved stories made an appearance. Snow White to Aladdin, The Evil Queen to Dick Whittington, Cruella De Vil to Cinderella, all took to the stage to entertain our whole school on the last day of term!

The Drama Club students were dedicated and had a tight and rigorous rehearsal schedule. Their commitment really paid dividends as each of the 4 performances were equally as professional and full of fun. Staff gave of their time and really brought a sense of excitement to the show! There was a genuine buzz around school with students making predictions of what characters staff would be playing.



Mr Ridley played the Prince but shocked the audience as he was full of his own self-importance! He constantly took selfies and in the end didn't get his girl!

Jack Clay was constantly keeping his fellow Fairies, Mr Wightman and Mrs Hill in check! They were definitely mischievous and we only hope Mr Wightman's voice has now gone back to normal!

Snow White who was stunningly played by Mrs Gardner was blushing with all of the frivolity demonstrated by Widow Twankey. However she did help her find the Fairy Godmother.

Our very own Beany-Bob, Mr Overend melted everyone's hearts with his Irish lilt. I don't think he expected to find the love of Widow Twankey!! Her heart was fluttering and she only had eyes for him!

Well done to Mr Dunlop for playing the Dame, Widow Twankey! He pulled off that frock with style! He walked very well in those heels too! Maybe he has done it before? He was ever so professional, even with his streaming cold!

Mrs Richardson played Dick Whittington! She is a wonder woman!! I still cannot understand, how she managed to get to London, back to Kingsmeadow, meet parents, take phone calls and do all her paperwork and still not lose her cat! KS4 students also enjoyed her rendition of the ever popular Rock song "**Sweet Child of Mine**". She is a legend!

We certainly ended the term with a lot of Christmas cheer. Thank you to all staff and students involved, we smashed it! **It was FABULOUS!**



ENGLISH

Award-Winning Creative Writing Programme finds New Base at Kingsmeadow

From February half term, writers, artists and project producers will be based at Kingsmeadow to work with Year 7 and 8 students as part of a new partnership with New Writing North's creative writing programme, Young Writers' City.

As well as enriching the English curriculum, writers will run lunchtime and after-school clubs on a range of writing forms, from rapping and songwriting to screenwriting and poetry, so that all of our young people with an interest can develop their writing talent.

Throughout the programme, our Key Stage 3 students will be enabled to express their own creative ideas supported by professionals. Involvement gives our students unique opportunity to meet others with creative ambition and to showcase their talents.

New Writing North has over 20 years' experience in working with schools and in communities to support young people to write. The organisation's comprehensive Young Writers' programme currently runs five weekly creative writing groups, five annual summer schools, a talent investment scheme, and regular masterclasses and development programmes.

The **£200,000 Gateshead Young Writers Programme** is funded by The Kavli Trust, owners of Primula, which is based on Gateshead's Team Valley. All of the commercial business's profits go to supporting good causes.

KFA Year 7 (U12) 1st Team steam into the last 32 of the ESFA National Cup, with a resounding 5-0 victory over St Cuthbert's of Newcastle who proved difficult opposition.

This finishes off an excellent last week of term leading into 2019.



KINGSMEADOW FOOTBALL ACADEMY

Success - 2018- 2019 Season: The Story So Far



KFA Year 7 (U12) 1st Team went unbeaten to lift the Gateshead Schools U12 League Title for the first time at Kingsmeadow

KFA Year 7 (U12) Development Team advance with conviction into the Last 16 of the ESFA National 'B' Team Cup with an outstanding 10-0 win away to Tadcaster Grammar School.

KFA Year 8 (U13) Girls continue their impressive unbeaten start to this season, reaching the Quarter Finals of the Durham County Cup, beating local rivals Cardinal Hume in a breathtaking penalty shootout, winning 4-3. The Girls will face Cardinal Hume again in January to continue the battle by facing each other in the last 32 of the ESFA National Girls Cup.



KFA Year 8 (U13) Development Team produced an outstanding away result at National Champions Malet Lambert School, winning 4-0 and reaching the Quarter Finals of the ESFA National 'B' Team Cup for the 2nd year running.

MFL

El Olivo

Year 10 students had the opportunity to take part in an MFL workshop at Tyneside Cinema to develop and hone their language skills. Students watched the film **El Olivo** and took part in a number of follow up activities which encouraged students to discuss their understanding of the language used in the film.

Three of our students, **Denisa-Florentina Ursica**, **Justin Palahniuc** and **Aaron Bradford** have produced a short review of the film:

'**El Olivo**' or '**The Olive Tree**' in English, is a Spanish film released in May 2018. The film follows around Alma, whose target is to return her grandad's olive tree, which is 2000 years old, sold by her dad during her childhood. Meanwhile, life on a Spanish farm is revealed by the film, often showing Alma in the chicken coop or cleaning outside. Dedicated to bring back the olive tree, Alma finds the tree's location with the help of others online and convinces her uncle, Alcachofa (Artichoke) and her friend Rafa to come to Düsseldorf with her and take it back. On their way there, stunning views of the Spanish countryside, mountains and occasional rural France are also shown, with breath-taking quality. Eventually, the trio can't take the tree back from the company which held it in Düsseldorf and Alma's grandad passes, however, she takes a branch of the tree, so that in the end she brought a part of the tree home to him, but not all of it. Overall, the film has a very well developed story with an interesting focus. We found the MFL workshop to be a very valuable experience.



El Viejo Saloon

As part of our enriching languages curriculum here at Kingsmeadow, all of Year 7 and Year 8 students had the opportunity to watch an authentic Spanish theatre production. **El Viejo Saloon** was performed in total Spanish, immersing students in the language they are actively learning.

It was impressive to see students grasping complex language and understanding the plot of the play, albeit at times very challenging. A massive well done to all students who also took an interactive role in the play, getting up with the actors on stage.

As a core subject, our Spanish department continues to grow and we look forward to more exciting opportunities very soon.



NCS AWARD

NCS Champion School Gold Award 2017/18

Kingsmeadow School have been awarded the 2017/18 **Gold Award** by the National Citizen Service. This recognises our excellent working approach and participation with NCS.

National Citizen Service is the country's fastest-growing youth movement. They exist to engage young people in activities which will help them to **'succeed in new challenges, embrace new experiences and make your mark on the world.'**

We received this award by working closely with local NCS Team Leader, Chris Byrne, in encouraging Kingsmeadow students to sign up to clubs, events and the popular summer residential and volunteering programme. Chris can be seen here presenting the Gold Award to our Head of KS4 Standards, **Sonya Robson**.

The excellent partnership continues. In the last week of November over 40 of our current year 11 students signed up for the 2019 summer programme. They will have an unforgettable experience which will make them 'feel challenged and changed, engaged and empowered.'



PE UPDATE



Football

Year 9 football team are having a positive season. Their only defeat so far was on penalties against last year's national champions Cardinal Hume. They have a second fixture against Cardinal Hume to come in the New Year, this time in the County Cup. Victory in that fixture would see us progress into the semifinal.

Basketball

Basketball club continues to run on a Monday night and is extremely well attended by year 7, 8 and 9 students. Students are preparing for Gateshead Schools Central Venue League. Year 11 also participated in Gateshead Schools Central Venue League in November and came 4th overall.

Guest Speaker: Bershawn Jackson (Batman Jackson)

As part of the Great North City Games we had a visit from an Olympic athlete. Bershawn Jackson, an American athlete, who mainly competes in the 400m Hurdles came to meet our students. He gave an inspirational talk, participated in an athletics lesson and signed autographs.



Netball Club

Netball club continues to run on a Thursday night, year 7, 8 and 9 students participate in the Gateshead School fixtures. All girls show great commitment and enthusiasm for the sport. Many of the girls have shown huge potential to be successful in this sport. We are currently trying to encourage students to join a local external netball club in an effort to develop their skills further.



Gymnastics Festival

On Tuesday 4 December 14 girls took part in the annual Gateshead Schools Gymnastics Festival. We were one of many Secondary and Primary schools in Gateshead who participated. The girls worked extremely hard in the preparation, committing two hours per week to rehearse. Our students were a credit to themselves and the school.

PE UPDATE

Sportshall Athletics RoadShow

Gateshead Schools Sport Partnership ran an athletics roadshow at Kingsmeadow. This was in preparation for the Gateshead Schools Sports hall Athletics Competition. It was extremely successful in promoting health and fitness across all year groups. It also encouraged teamwork, competitive sport and allowed students to challenge themselves.

Promote sportshall athletics across all year groups encouraged teamwork.

Sportshall Athletics: Year 7 Boys Success, Year 8 Girls success

Students from both years 7 and 8 attended Gateshead Leisure Centre for the annual Sports Hall Athletics competition hosted by the Gateshead Schools Sports Partnership. All of our students gave a fantastic account of themselves, with our year 8 girls finishing 3rd. Our Year 7 boys went one better and finished in second place, narrowly missing out on a gold medal but still qualified for the county finals in January.



Primary Cluster PE Events

Year 5 Leadership

Last term budding sport leaders from Dunston Hill, Lobley Hill and St Aidans came for a day of training. They worked really hard learning all skills needed to be a sports leader. They all left with certificates and some games to try out at their schools.

Year 5/6 Sportshall Athletics

St Aidans, Lobley Hill and Dunston Hill all came and competed in sportshall athletics on 13 November, 2018. There was a lot of good performance with Dunston Hill winning overall and going on to represent the Kingsmeadow Cluster at the Gateshead Finals.

Year 1/2 Gym Skills

Year 1 and 2 children from Dunston Hill, Lobley Hill, St Aidans and Caedmon came to try and improve their gymnastics skills on 26 November, 2018. It was a very busy and fun afternoon.

Top Sportability

Year 9 Kingsmeadow Students also took part in sportability training, leading children in sport with a disability. The students really enjoyed the course and learned a lot. They then put their skills into action on 16 November helping run a sportability athletics competition at Gateshead Leisure Centre.



RAF Cadet Squadron Blaydon 1509

As part of my role as CIAG coordinator I had the pleasure of attending RAF cadet squadron Blaydon 1509 at their annual awards evening. It was a privilege to see the fantastic commitment and hear about all of the amazing opportunities available to the young people who have been involved.

Kingsmeadow students who are involved are:

- **Cadet Joshua Kingham**
- **Cadet Sophie Graham**
- **Cadet Leia Goodger**
- **Corporal Liam Stobbart**

Liam has written the following article to give you an overview of the activities he has been involved in this year:

"I have been a member of the RAFAC for just over a year, throughout that time I have been to many places and gained many experiences that wouldn't have been available to me outside of the air cadets.

During the last year I attended two annual camps, **Northumbria ACF Wathgill** for two weeks where we completed an expedition and in October I attended Warcop, a multi-activity camp where we took part in a wide range of activities.

I attended the inter wing football competition where our wing were placed second, I then attended regional trials and was selected as a centre back for the north region team. The team travelled to **RAFC Cranwell** to represent the north region and were placed second, receiving a regional blue along with our flashes upon gaining a silver corps winners medal.

I have completed 6 bronze level badges; Duke of Edinburgh's award, first aid, ATP wings, a leadership badge, a cyber and a communicator badge.

I have also taken part in 7 competitions which include swimming, athletics, archery, inter-wing football, regional football, wing competitions day and the at challenge where myself and 4 others from the squadron were placed 2nd.

With the AEF being an integral part of the air cadet experience I got the chance to go to a ground school at RAF Topcliffe which enabled me to gain my bronze ATP wings upon completion of my fourth flight in the Grob Tutor; a small two seater aircraft. I also got the chance to go on an air experience flight in the Chinook Helicopter at **RAF Leuchars** which was a great opportunity.

Next August I will be attending a four day road march as well as visiting a **Belgian Air Force** base and visiting historical WW2 sites.

After such a productive year I look forward to seeing what the next will bring."

REAL UPDATE

A REAL Exhibition Showcase of Learning

Our Year 7 REAL students completed their first REAL project of this academic year and they shared their learning from the project with an authentic audience made up of Year 4 and 5 students from Dunston Hill Primary School.

REAL is our innovative, project-based learning curriculum where we focus on learning skills based around the 4Cs. Communication, Collaboration, Creativity and Critical Thinking. Our students use these skills when researching and working in groups. They give presentations to groups and whole classes all about their learning and everything they do in a project is focussed around giving a comprehensive and well-evidenced answer to a driving question. The driving question for their first project, their transition term and journey from primary school into secondary education, has been **'What can we learn from a difficult journey?'** The students have read the novel **'Kensuke's Kingdom'** by Michael Morpurgo which incorporated much learning and developing of their geographical knowledge and map skills as well as carrying out historical enquiries into significant, difficult journeys of the past; notably that of the notoriously disastrous journey of the Titanic in 1912. They also studied the significant and often difficult pilgrimages undertaken by different religious groups in the world. They learned all about the Hajj, a pilgrimage which is hugely important to the followers of Islam as well as carrying out independent study into the Christian pilgrimages to Lourdes, Rome and the Holy island of Lindisfarne.

Each REAL class then took on some independent extended study where they worked in collaboration with their peers to case study and present on a country whose biggest religion is Christianity. Each REAL class studied a different, predominantly Christian country. It was this learning which they showcased for the primary school students in the midst of Advent, the journey to Christmas and one of the most important Celebrations in the Christian calendar. Our students took their audience on a whistle stop journey around the Christian world at Christmas. They showcased learning of different Christmas traditions and celebrations around the world, including right here in the UK, through the mediums of poetry, song and dance.

The feedback from the Dunston Hill staff and students was fantastic with staff telling our students how much they themselves had learned from this unique exhibition of learning. **Well done Year 7.**

A Real Giving Advent

Mrs Ross carried out assemblies at the beginning of December 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 some of our year groups an Advent challenge.

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 the homeless and people living in extreme deprivation in the Newcastle area in the week leading up to Christmas. The response was fantastic and 15, very full and beautifully presented, shoeboxes were handed over.

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 £3.00 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, quizzes, acts of kindness at home and charity football games all planned and carried out by the students themselves in order to raise vital funds. The cheque handed over to Emma Bell from the SVP charity was for **£262.00**.

Our Year 9 and 10 students were challenged to create a **'Reverse Advent Calendar'** where they 'gave' rather than received. The idea was that each tutor group got a large box and spent the first 2 weeks of December in the run up to Christmas, bringing in festive foods 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 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.

SCIENCE

Science Club

With a brand new afterschool Science Club having started, the year 7's have had 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 volcano making to custard bouncy balls!

In our first ever session students designed and created their perfect balloon rocket, carefully calculating how to ensure their rocket covered the maximum distance, regardless of speed. Their rockets competed in our balloon rocket championship, with the winning rocket travelling over 5m!

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 trialed 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!

Students have also discovered 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! The students weren't sure if they were at Kingsmeadow or Hogwarts!



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. Some students even declared they want to go on to become surgeons!

Sixth Form Work Experience Week

Congratulations to the year 12 students who have already secured work experience placements for next June and a big **'thank you'** to Primark, Hays Travel and Caedmon Primary who have agreed to give our young people a taste of the world of work. Students are taken off timetable for a week in the summer term to experience a typical working week in the industry of their choice.

We are always looking for partners with whom we can work to provide an insight into the labour market, so please get in touch if you feel you could inspire the workforce of the future by taking on a work experience student or attending our careers fair in January.

UCAS applications

Fourteen of our students have applied to university for a range of courses including; primary school teaching, midwifery, occupational therapy, Business management, History, forensic science, sport, psychology and drama. Many have already received conditional offers whilst others have been given interviews. We would like to wish all applicants the very best of luck.

SIXTH FORM



Other Pathways

Students not applying to university are receiving a range of measures and support to guide their progress. This includes one to one interviews, **APPRENTICESHIP REGISTRATION**.

Year 11 Advice and Guidance

Year 11 students have had a busy programme of activities to advise and guide them on their post 16 options.

On Tuesday 25th of September year 11 students attended a careers fair where they received information on a range of careers and apprenticeship opportunities. Also on Monday 1st October when forty year 11 students will visit Newcastle University to observe university life and course options. Every year 11 student has had a one-to-one interview with our careers advisor and with Mr Hood and Mr Dunlop (our lead teacher for careers, information, advice and guidance) where all future options - including access to our sixth form - was discussed. This was followed, on Thursday 29th November, by a sixth form information evening after which students opted for a range of subjects including; Biology Business, Chemistry, Engineering, English, Geography, History, Physics, Psychology, Sociology and sport.

Any parent or carer who would like additional information or advice on any of the above please contact the 6th form team:

Senior Citizens' Christmas Party

As part of their enrichment programme, sixth form students are invited to plan and host a Christmas party for the senior citizens who are regular visitors to the sixth form centre. This year's gathering, held in the learning zone was a great success. Our guests were treated to an afternoon of festive food and fun with bingo and a medley of carols performed by Dunston Hill Primary school choir. Santa even managed to make a guest appearance with gifts for all. This annual gathering is enjoyed by both young and old and keeps Kingsmeadow School at the heart of the community.

Mr R Hood
Head of Sixth Form
rhood@kingsmeadow.org.uk

Mrs A Weatherill
Sixth Form Progression Officer
aweatherill@kingsmeadow.org.uk

Mr M Barrett
Deputy Headteacher
mbarrett@kingsmeadow.org.uk

Mr Dunlop
Head of CIAG
gdunlop@kingsmeadow.org.uk

The elected student ambassadors for 2018/19 are:

Year 7

- Angel **Francesca Grant**
- Baltic **Holly Swaddle**
- Sage **Luke Stringer**
- Tyne **Leah Armstrong**

Year 8

- Angel **Ling Gao**
- Baltic **Connor Morton**
- Sage **Tommy Atkinson**
- Tyne **Lexi Hope**

Year 9

- Angel **Amy Latsi**
- Baltic **Thomas Toward**
- Sage **Megan-Jo Hannon**
- Tyne **Alexander Dickson**

Year 10

- Angel **Mason Ford**
- Baltic **Brooke Roden**
- Tyne **Justin Loan Palahniuc**

Year 11

- Angel **Chloe Joicey**
- Baltic **Rachel Taylor**
- Sage **Loraine Papong**
- Tyne **Chloe Thackray**



STUDENT AMBASSADORS

During the autumn term students at Kingsmeadow took part in a process to elect new student ambassadors beginning with our Democracy Day in September. During this day our students learned about how the democratic process works in different parts of the world and how they can be part of this process 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.

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.

Midwife visit with Year 9 Child Development

As part of the Child Development course, students have to learn about different health professionals and their job roles. We 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.

Prior to the lesson, students were set the task of writing a set of relevant questions that they were willing to ask Joanne about her role and her experiences, this allowed for them to actively take part in their learning. The feedback from the students was very positive saying they found it very informative and that it was useful to hear first hand personal experiences.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

100% ATTENDERS FOR AUTUMN TERM 2018

YEAR 7

Gracie Lauder	7E
Dina Ramin	7E
Holly Swaddle	7E
Archie Williamson	7E
Ethan Caisley	7G
Aiden Easton	7G
Alisha Grant	7G
Brooke Phillips	7G
Leah Rushton	7G
Charlie Scott	7G
Elliott Wilson	7G
Rebecca Wraith	7G
Ellie Henderson-Arkless	7I
Denisa Nita	7I
Amy Richards	7I
Bobby Roy	7I
Brooke Sharp	7I
Philippa Tate	7I
Harry Bexon	7K
Daniel Chima	7K
Owen Clarke	7K
Tanvitha Gowda	7K
Saran Magassouba	7K
Zahra Muneer	7K
Katie Rawling	7K
Molly Wear	7K
Aaron Wishart-Yeomans	7K
Emily Betts	7M
Joseph Connelly	7M
Evie Spoor	7M
Joel Asiamah	7N
Fynn Brown	7N
Daniel Cockburn	7N
Mia Elliott	7N
Jessica Miller	7N
Elle Robson	7N
Andile Sibanda	7N
Louie Tyers	7N
Lily Brown	7S
Brandon Carr	7S
Alfie Collins	7S
Georgia Dial	7S
Jonjo Ellis	7S
Alice-May Forrest Henderson	7S
Katie Kane	7S
Manprit Nanpal	7S
Charlotte Pringle	7S
Alima Samake	7S

YEAR 8

Hud Collace	8E
Ling Gao	8E
Holly Gardner	8E
Evan Gjini	8E
Karo Hamaraza	8E
Trinity Ikuero John	8E
Grace Sutton	8E
Daniel Brown	8G
Charlie Carroll	8G
Katelyn Dickson	8G
Jake Meek	8G
Nathan Atkinson	8I
Scott Kane	8I
Gbolahan Agbaje	8K
Tilly Caisley	8K
Jack Clay	8K
Brad-Lee Joicey	8K
Amelia Rose Mcnichol	8K
Jake Mulholland	8K
Kiera Thompson	8K
Eliif Celikay	8M
Ruben Da Silva	8M
Libby Donnelly	8M
Daniel Dunn	8M
Alfie Keane	8M
Ryan Black	8N
Jenny Blench	8N
Michaela Clowes	8N
Jack Mackereth	8N
Josh Pickering	8N
Christopher Walker	8N
Aidan Blench	8S
Tillie Burns	8S
Nuh Collace	8S
Nathan Cummings	8S
Bradley Green	8S
Ruth Hart	8S
Ebony Lawson	8S
Lennon Morris	8S
Connor Morton	8S
Daniel Peart	8S

YEAR 9

John Appleby	9G
Jesse Barnes	9G
Rhiannon Borley	9G
Alexander Dickson	9G
Zhalian Faraj	9G
Skye Forster	9G
Nathan Maughan	9G
Ricky Mckay	9G
Paige Murray	9G
Mark Shaw	9G
Benjamin Gilbert	9I
Amy Morris	9I
Katie Harbertson	9K
Courtney Smith	9K
Mayci Cook	9M
Sarah Hassan	9M
Ewan Malone	9M
Billy Smith	9M
Phillipa Grant	9N
Amy Latsi	9N
Jack Stevens	9N
Joe Wright	9N
Dylan Wylie	9N
Mama Magassouba	9S
Chantelle Pownceby	9S

YEAR 10

Ryan Boyle	10I
Jessica Dial	10I
Olivia Richardson	10I
Luke Robson	10I
Jack Bowman	10K
Kelsey Gray	10K
Eleanor Robson	10K
Leo Shalgosky	10K
Jay Shepherdson	10K
Paris Eastland	10M
Keros Lizinde	10M
Liam Morris	10M
Magdalena Patrascu	10M
Madison Starling	10M
Ethan Kernohan	10N
Matthew Rocks	10N
Mason Ford	10S
Max Glister	10S
Ethan Mccullough	10S
Lewis Sewell	10S
Alice Snee	10S
Charlotte Stephenson	10S

YEAR 11

Jessica Hunt	11G
Harry James	11G
Dillon Moore	11G
Aimee Wiggins	11G
Cameron Mason	11I
Loraine Papong	11I
Dylan Richardson	11I
Cameron Tunstall	11I
Julia Zarychta	11I
Aaron Brooksbank	11K
Nahima Choudhury	11K
Jason Cousins	11K
Euan Morris	11K
Callum Starling	11K
Sophie Stephenson	11K
Tiegan Watson	11K
Jasmine Wilson	11K
Sonny Collace	11M
Tamsin Mitchell	11M
Cameron Potts	11M
Mongezi Sibanda	11M
Joshua Stewart	11M
Cain Brunning	11N
Ryan Pharoah	11N
Kieran Carr	11S
Alicia Kavanagh	11S
Chloe Scott	11S
David Simmons	11S
Abby Watson	11S

Attendance Challenge Winners

Congratulations to all our winners of this terms Attendance Challenge

1st
PRIZE
Tillie
Burns
Year 8

2nd
PRIZE
Amy
Richards
Year 7

3rd
PRIZE
Katelyn
Dickson
Year 8

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.



Attendance Challenge Winners

