

Kingsmeadow news

Sixth Form
October half term 2025

If the first half term gives an indication of how good the school year is going to be, then the students of Kingsmeadow Community School are going to have an excellent year.

For school leaders, the new school year starts on results day. This year's results day was a wonderfully positive day. The outgoing students achieved the best set of results that the school has ever seen. I know that the coming years will see more records broken as the students coming through are highly motivated and hard working.

We have welcomed a great set of year 7 students this year. There was lots of positive feedback for parents and carers on the settling-in evening, followed by some relaxed chat at our parent and carer coffee morning. We will be hosting more of these with other year groups. Our new sixth form students are now settled into year 12 and have already sat their baseline assessments. Lots of hard work is expected from them.

Our focus on classroom learning expectations sees the students and staff working more effectively than ever. We are encouraging this through developing a culture of praise around school. Hopefully your child has come home with a praise postcard, a head teacher queue jumper or you have received a positive telephone call from an impressed member of staff. Students have reacted well both to this positive praise and to the removal of poor behaviour logs.

I have to commend our staff and students for embracing a wider range of extra curricular opportunities than I ever remember seeing at Kingsmeadow Community School. There are way too many after-school or lunch time clubs to list here. Suffice to say, whatever sport, pastime or activity your child has an interest in, we are bound to have a club for them. Just get them to ask their tutor.

This half term we have also had university visits, a digital challenge, a Macbeth screening, a Nissan visit, a climbing wall visit and Wear it Red against racism day. I had a wonderful morning out with our choir and creative writing students at the St Nicholas Church 60th birthday celebrations. We have students signed up for a number of school trips going as far afield as London, Barcelona, Paris, Montenegro and New York. We have a new set of Student Ambassadors and a sixth form Head Student Team who are already coming up with great school improvement ideas.

I am happy to be exhausted at the end of a busy and successful half term.



Mr Barrett
Headteacher



St. Nicholas with Christ Church, Dunston
Thursday 11 December 2025
6.30 - 7.30pm



From key assessment results, to dazzling performances in art, music, and effort, young achievers at Kingsmeadow are regularly receiving recognition through the school's new Culture of Praise initiative.

Our students inspire us every day with their dedication and creativity, and it's not just their successes in academic excellence, but in leadership, effort, and community spirit too.

With the school's continued support and encouragement, we are proud to celebrate each and every one of our students, whether their achievement is big or small.



Kingsmeadow students top the bill in community celebrations

Kingsmeadow Community School's creative writers and choir members took centre stage recently to support St. Nicholas with Christ Church in Dunston in their 60th birthday celebrations.

Student members of the school's Creative Writing Club read poems they had written especially for the event, while the choir performed beautiful renditions of 'Hallelujah' by Leonard Cohen, and 'Somewhere over the rainbow' from The Wizard of Oz.

Built in 1965, the modern church of St. Nicholas' serves the Dunston community as part of the Gateshead West Deanery, the Archdeaconry of Sunderland and the Diocese of Durham. The celebrations also included a showcase of memories, with news articles and photographs from baptisms, weddings, and other special moments connected to the church over the last 60 years.

Mr Barrett, Headteacher said: "Seeing our students go out and help the community of Dunston to celebrate such an important birthday for the local church made me so proud.

"The children involved gave superb, assured performances that I and everyone else in church really enjoyed. It added to the whole atmosphere of celebration."

You can watch the students' performances on the school's You Tube channel.

We want to end poverty. Period.

Period poverty is the lack of access to menstrual products, hygiene facilities, and sanitation due to financial reasons or social stigma. It can cause people to miss school, work, or other activities. It can even negatively affect mental health.

In the UK, nearly 2 million girls aged 14-21 have missed school due to their period. That's why our Sixth Formers have led the school's Period Poverty campaign and gave free period products to students during lunch and break times in the last week of half term. Well done to everyone involved in this important work.

Cultivating tomorrow's titans of business

To inspire confidence to think about the possibility of creating their own businesses, we took our Year 12 Business Studies students to meet North East entrepreneurs last week to hear about their journeys in creating their own businesses.

They learned about the highs, lows, successes, failures and ongoing challenges in the world of business from Samuel Knight International, Olive and Bean, Gardiner Richardson and Angels Nursery.



Hello from Mrs Rafferty Head of Sixth Form

This half-term has been an exciting one for our Sixth Form students, full of opportunities to explore future pathways and develop leadership skills.

Our Year 12 students attended the University and Apprenticeship Fair at St James' Park, where they met representatives from universities, apprenticeship providers, and industry partners. The event gave students valuable insights into post-18 options and helped them start thinking about the next steps in their careers and education.

Adding to this, students had the chance to hear from Northumbria University, which visited the school to talk about their progression scheme. This provided a fantastic opportunity for students to learn about tailored support and pathways available at university, helping them make informed choices about higher education.

In leadership news, four Year 13 students have been appointed to the Student Leadership Team, reflecting their commitment to representing their peers and supporting school initiatives. Plans are already underway to recruit two more Year 12 students to join the team next half term.

Year 12 students have also been making a positive impact in the wider school community through their Period Poverty Project, demonstrating compassion and initiative by raising awareness and providing support for those in need.

Kingsmeadow celebrates the arrival of new school minibus



Excitement is in the air as staff and students proudly unveiled their brand-new school minibus – a much-anticipated addition that will enhance learning opportunities and strengthen community connections.

The modern 17-seater Ford Transit will be used to transport students to excursions, extra-curricular activities and community events, providing a safe and flexible way to explore learning beyond the classroom.

To mark the start of a new chapter in school adventures, the minibus has been decorated with artwork inspired by Alexis, a student in Year 10. Alexis' artwork, that depicts the school's core values imagery, was chosen from dozens of entries submitted into the school's art competition.

Headteacher Mr Barrett said: "This is an incredible moment for our school community. The new minibus will help us to open doors to even more opportunities for students to have experiences outside of the usual classroom environment. To have that minibus driving around the Northeast displaying the wonderful artwork of one of our students, Alexis, makes it even more special."

"I can't wait to go on my first excursion in it," said Alexis. "It looks amazing inside, with seatbelts, air conditioning and lots of gadgets, and to have my artwork on the exterior feels amazing. I feel so proud, and delighted with my prize of £50 worth of artist supplies."



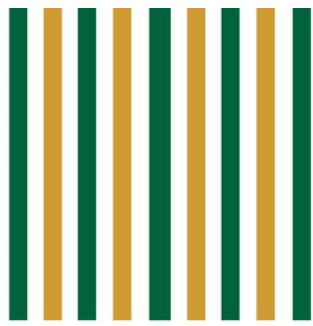
Improved learning at Kingsmeadow

All of the students at Kingsmeadow Community School are benefiting from higher levels of academic expectations. From September, our focus in classrooms has not been on just good behaviour, but on good behaviour for learning. This means that students have to show that they are engaged, attentive and working hard in all lessons.

Coupled with the above, we have enhanced our teaching approaches:

Students now begin every lesson with a silent, recall starter - this helps them to revise and remember previous learning. In lessons students are expected to apply their knowledge for longer - demonstrating resilience and practicing exam skills. Students are also experiencing cold-call questioning - this is a questioning technique that helps teachers to target every single student in the class and to engage all in thinking about the answer.

The students have really stepped up to meet these higher expectations. Recent visitors to school have commented on the purposeful and powerful learning environment. Additionally, feedback from our Student Ambassadors tells us that they enjoy the new challenges in the classrooms and feel that they are learning so much more because of them.



COMMUNITY LETTINGS AT



Kingsmeadow facilities for community hire

We are proud to serve our community and now offer our high-quality spaces to local clubs and groups at an affordable rate of hire.

Our sports facilities are set in beautifully tendered grounds, with lots of free parking spaces.

Multi-use games area

Our floodlit area is the equivalent size of three full size tennis / netball courts.

Astroturf pitch

Our floodlit, FA-approved Astro pitch is the equivalent in size to one full size adult pitch or three x 7 a-side pitches.

Sports Hall

Our modern Sports Hall can accommodate four full size Badminton courts, and is marked out for a wide range of sports activities.

Grass pitch and Track and Field area

Our grass pitch area can accommodate 5, 7, 9 and 11-a-side games. Our Track and Field area offers an eight-lane 400m athletics track, an eight-lane 100m track and space for a full-range of field events.

Changing and shower facilities

These are included in the hire fee. Both male and female changing rooms have toilets and accessible shower facilities.

Our facilities are available during term time and school holidays, with the exception of some periods throughout the year when our students take their exams and key assessments.





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Proud to be part of the local community

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