

# Kingsmeadow news

Year 8  
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**



## **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.



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.



## Year 8 students take on the UK school's tech and digital challenge

As technology continues to evolve, and digitalisation plays an even bigger role in shaping the future, Year 8 students at Kingsmeadow Community School have taken on the digital challenge to develop their ideas to positively transform Gateshead to drive economic growth and improve the quality of life of its residents and visitors.

As one of only 17 schools in the country, Kingsmeadow Community School secured the experts from the Ahead Partnership and Netcompany to visit the school with their Smart Cities Challenge, an initiative that tasks Year 8 students with designing future-focused, tech-enabled urban spaces to tackle urban challenges.

In teams the students produced a fantastic range of tech-savvy plans to the experts, and the winning team has been selected to move on to represent the North East at the national Smart Cities Challenge event in Manchester later this year.

We were so excited to be chosen as one of only a few schools across the country to take part in the tech and digital challenge. It is a wonderful opportunity that our year 8 students grabbed with both hands. They have done the school proud with their efforts on the Smart City Challenge.

## GCSE, A Level and vocational success open doors to a bright future

This summer our students opened the most impressive set of GCSE, A Level and vocational results that the school has ever seen. In almost all measures, the 2025 results surpass any of the school's previous years.

Kingsmeadow Community School is undergoing significant improvements since the appointment of the new head teacher and senior leadership team last year. The students of Kingsmeadow Community School have responded with increased attendance, increased positivity and increased exam results.

Mr Barrett, said: "I am so proud of our outgoing year 11 and 13 students. They have embraced every academic opportunity we have given them and achieved so highly as a result, and they deserve every bit of the success that they have achieved."



## Parent and carer forum

Shaping the future together

### Are you our newest forum member?

We believe that our parents and carers offer many skills and can bring plenty of experience to the table, and we would like to work with them and capture this rich and valuable knowledge.

Our forum members are people just like you, and they bring plenty of ideas and views to the table.

The forum meets four times a year and talks about a wide range of topics.

Join us! You'll be promised a warm welcome. *(There's cake and a cuppa too!)*

### Our meeting dates for 2025-26

Tuesday 4 November 2025

Wednesday 4 November 2026

Thursday 30 April 2026

Thursday 26 June 2026

All meetings at 6pm to 6.45pm

To find out more call  
0191 460 6004 or email  
[forum@kingsmeadow.org.uk](mailto:forum@kingsmeadow.org.uk).



### Hello from Mrs Taylor Head of Year 8

It's been a busy and productive half term for our Year 8 students, who have recently completed their key assessments with focus and determination. Teachers have been impressed by the positive attitude and hard work shown across all subjects, with many pupils demonstrating real progress and commitment to their learning.

To celebrate these efforts, we will be rewarding the top 30 students who demonstrate a positive attitude to learning with a bowling trip. More details to follow.

Parents and carers are reminded that the Year 8 Parents' Evening will take place on Wednesday, 27 November. This important event will give families the chance to meet with subject teachers, discuss progress, and set targets for the rest of the academic year.

Outside the classroom, Year 8 students have continued to make the most of the after-school extracurricular programme, taking part in a wide range of clubs and activities. Staff have been delighted with the high level of participation and enthusiasm shown by students eager to explore their interests and develop new skills. To find out more about these search for extra-curricular activities on our website.

## Kingsmeadow celebrates the arrival of new school minibus



Excitement is in the air at Kingsmeadow Community School as staff and students proudly unveil 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. 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.”

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.

“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.”



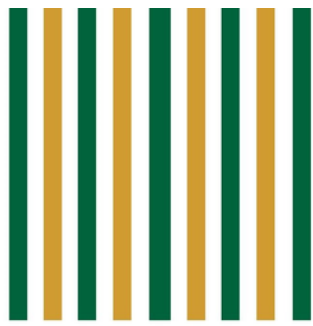
## Improved learning at Kingsmeadow

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.





# Follow our story



**Kingsmeadow Community School**



**Kingsmeadow.School**



**KMGateshead**



**@KingsmeadowSchoolGateshead**



**[www.kingsmeadow.org.uk](http://www.kingsmeadow.org.uk)**

**Proud to be part of the local community**

Kingsmeadow Community School  
Market Lane, Dunston, Gateshead. NE11 9NX