

Kingsmeadow community news



I consider myself an honorary Gatesheadonian (I've lived here for eighteen years - is that long enough to qualify?) and as such, being part of the local community is very important to me. More than that, I believe that Kingsmeadow Community School should be at the very centre of the community that we serve.

First and foremost, we serve the community by providing the students of Kingsmeadow Community School with the best possible education experience. I believe that we are doing that, and our recent academic results and student feedback are a testimony to this. Part of that educational experience, though, is also about students experiencing more than classrooms and lessons.

It is for this reason that you may have seen our students out in the community experiencing workplaces, performing at different events, or you may have seen a flier about our music showcases or stage performances.

We also look to work particularly with parents and carers. Events like our awards evenings, motivational events and parents and carers coffee mornings give us opportunities to interact in a positive, relaxed way. Every interaction is an opportunity for us to learn more about our community and our students which we can use to keep making Kingsmeadow as good as it can be.

In order to serve the wider community, we have taken the step to offer out our facilities at zero profit rates to local groups. There are details about that later in this newsletter.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter and I hope to bump into many of you at future school and community events.



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.

October half term 2025

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."



Kingsmeadow celebrates the arrival of new school minibus



Excitement is in the air 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.

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."

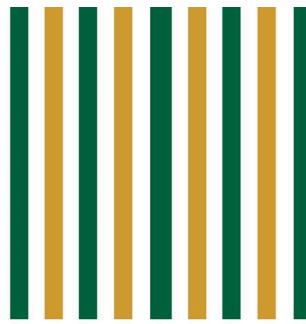
Improved learning at Kingsmeadow

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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