

Kingsmeadow news

Sixth Form

December 2025

The first term of the academic year is the longest. By the end of December, most students are almost 40% of the way through the year, with years 11 and 13 being halfway through. It is also the term where the brightness of summer fades and the temperature plummets.

Being the first term, it is also an opportunity for resetting first impressions, refreshed excitement and new beginnings. I feel like the students of Kingsmeadow Community School have grasped these with both hands. Our students, and our parents and carers, have embraced the new staffing and systems we have put in place from September. Relationships between students, home and school have never felt better. Students are telling us that they feel more safe and supported, parents and carers are telling us that they feel more informed and school staff are telling of the excellent effort of students. Evidence of this includes the Praise Postcard system we introduced this year. Our initial supply of Praise Postcards ran out very quickly and we had to order a bumper batch, as our students strive to demonstrate their resilience, respect and integrity at every turn.



Mr Barrett
Headteacher

Your child may be able to tell you of the visit we had from the Local Authority, where four educational professionals came to see what we are doing at Kingsmeadow Community School. From their observations and talking to students and staff, they gave us wonderful compliments about our students, plus some suggestions for improving the school further. In particular they praised students' excellent classroom focus, the calm orderly behaviour around school and the work of the Student Ambassadors.

Despite the cold nights, this last half term has included great activity going on around school. We have seen some all-time record days of attendance as students understand and value the importance of being here. Most of our year groups have had key assessments or mock exams (yours are nearly here, year 11) and the effort the students have shown in trying to demonstrate their learning is amazing. We saw year 9 and 10 students off on a trip to EuroDisney to learn about the engineering and programming that goes on behind the scenes (though they had some time to enjoy the rides, too). We have had careers workshops, sports fixtures, a dodgeball tournament, the Remembrance parade, discos, a mock trial, a London theatre trip, our first ever Music Extravaganza on Tour and more. A lot to fit into one half term. The energy and dedication of our staff and our students never ceases to impress me.

All that remains for me to say is, whatever your beliefs or celebrations, have a deservedly restful break, a very Happy Christmas and I look forward to seeing everyone back in the new year.

A glittering evening to celebrate our students

We had another amazing Kingsmeadow Awards event on Thursday 13 November 2025, with lots of awards for academic excellence, outstanding resilience, community, wellbeing and core values, not to mention the Governors' and Headteacher's awards. A wonderful time was had by all who attended.

The Governors' Award went to Theo E in Year 11, and the Headteachers' Award was presented to Fearne S in Year 12. Here is the full list of winners. Congratulations to everyone!

Headteacher's award – Fearne S

Governors' award – Theo E

English - Fearne S, Mia R, Michael K.

Maths - Adam G, Indie O'H, Peyton Q

Science - Liam L, Sam B, Alisha V

History - Alfie T, Lily Y, Alisha S

Geography - Otto R, Sam B, Amelia B

Modern Foreign Languages - Fearne S, Evelina C, Cameron N

Social Sciences - Chloe A, Victoria K, Nethani G

Hospitality - Theo E, Matthew W, Fisayo B

Engineering - Alfie T, Nikos A, Kenzo C

Art - Mia R, Connie G, Aisla W

Photography - Zoe W-Y, Lily Y, Alfie B

Child development - Emily K, Connie G, Alisha S

Business studies - Adam M, Lilia H, Hamdhan R

iMedia/Digital Media - Adam O, Lily-Mae G, Aaron T

Computer science - Jacob R, Amber L, Zavin R

Music - Maddison Mae D, Kahlen L

Sport - Jaden T, Lexi G

Outstanding resilience across several areas - Spencer A, Rocky B, Ryan H

Outstanding resilience - Nikolas B

Academic excellence across all KS5 subjects - Lewis M

Outstanding resilience across all KS5 subjects - Leon B

Upholding the schools core values

Year 7 - Isaac H, Year 8 - Riley B, Year 9 - Philippa K-C, Year 10 - Indie O'H, Year 11 - Kahlen L, Sixth form - Kerry A

Wellbeing awards - Jacob H, Mayokun A, Sean B

Community awards - Niamh L, Yasmeen N



Mr Barrett presents the Headteacher's Award to Fearne



Honouring the fallen on Remembrance Sunday

On Sunday 9 November, our Headteacher and some of our students attended the local Remembrance Sunday ceremony to represent the school and pay tribute to those who gave their lives in service to their country. The event at St Nicholas with Christ Church in Dunston, brought together members of the community for a moment of reflection and gratitude.

Wearing poppies and standing in respectful silence, the students joined in the two-minute silence at 11 a.m., followed by the laying of wreaths at the war memorial. Our students laid the Kingsmeadow Community School wreath that featured a central design, pictured above, by Year 7 student, Ayah H.

Our students found the experience both moving and memorable – a chance to honour those who fought for freedom and to carry the message of remembrance into the future.



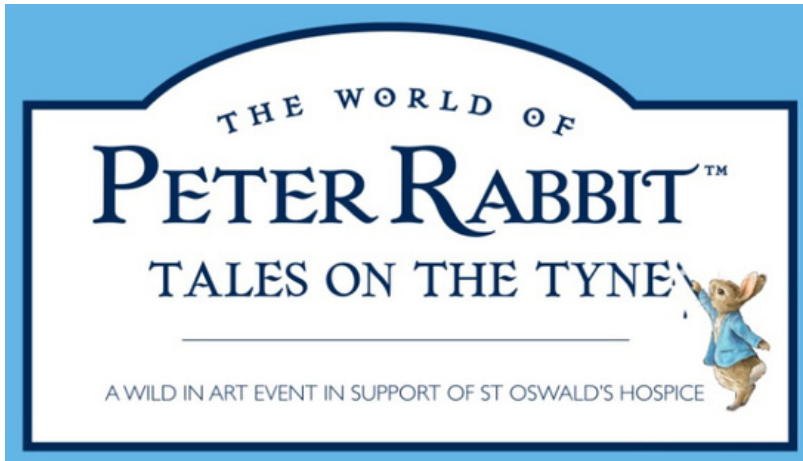
Hello from Mrs Rafferty Head of Sixth Form

This term has been an exciting and enriching one for our Sixth Form, marked by new leadership roles and a range of opportunities designed to raise aspirations and support future pathways.

We are delighted to announce our new Year 12 Deputy Student Leadership Team: Fearne S, Teri B, Mark W, and Ewan F. They will work closely with the Year 13 student leaders to support school initiatives, represent student voice, and contribute to the ongoing development of our sixth form community.

Our Year 12 students visited the University of Sunderland for an insightful campus experience. They participated in taster subject sessions in Biomedical Science, Sport, Psychology, and Midwifery, gaining first-hand experience of university study and practical applications in these fields. They also explored the university's Progression Pathways, which offer eligible students a valuable step towards accessing competitive degree courses. A group of students were also given the unique opportunity to observe online Cambridge University interviews.

We were pleased to welcome the Social Mobility Foundation into school to introduce their Aspiring Professionals Programme. Eligible students can receive mentorship from professionals in their chosen field, as well as access to work experience, internships, and other opportunities to enhance their career pathways and university applications.



The blank sculptures before their transformation

Raising funds with Peter Rabbit

We have signed up to participate in the Peter Rabbit™ Tales on the Tyne Trail, and have adopted our own Peter Rabbit sculpture to help raise funds for St. Oswald's Hospice.

We will be creating a unique piece of art, and once completed it will be displayed; with the rest of the fluffie, alongside supersized Peters throughout summer 2026 at venues on a trail across Newcastle and North Tyneside. After the trail, our little Peter will be returned to Kingsmeadow for us to keep forever.

Being part of this art adventure is bringing a unique opportunity for extra learning and fun to our school where our students will experience a sense of pride and accomplishment, while boosting their self-esteem and confidence.

Year 9 began the fundraising efforts in November by collecting donations to create colourful hampers for the Kingsmeadow Christmas raffle. The green, gold, blue, yellow, red, pink, purple, and orange hampers have helped the school to raise £260 so far.

We can't wait to keep you updated with our progress!



A celebration of musical talent in the heart of our community

Our latest music showcase proved to be another resounding success, bringing together creativity, talent, and community spirit. Held in Dunston's St. Nicholas with Christ Church on Thursday 11 December, the event featured some top performances and tunes by our students.

Mr Barrett praised the participants for their hard work and dedication, noting how the showcase provides an important platform for students to share their accomplishments beyond the classroom. Parents and community guests also expressed pride in seeing the next generation of artistes in action.

Our showcase highlighted not only the academic achievement of our students, but also the enthusiasm and collaboration that define our school community.

Well done everyone!



Attendance matters!

Every day your child attends school they build new knowledge, while investing in their future, and our students with 100% attendance in the run up to the end of term had the chance to win an amazing prize in our 15 days of Christmas promotion.

We had hundreds of entries, and the winner of the iPhone 17 Pro was Alexcia H, in Year 10.

Well done to everyone who took part and benefiting from being in school each day where they extended their knowledge, and strengthened their foundations for future success.



Absences add up!

Regular school attendance is essential to your child's success, and it's crucial for academic progress and overall development. Please ensure your child is in school, on time, and ready to learn every day.

School everyday

Missing just two days a month means a child misses 10% of the school year

Affected learning

Absences disrupt learning and leads to falling behind

Social development

School provides opportunities to interact with peers and develop important social skills

Lower grades

Missing just 13 days of school = one full grade lower in exam results

Future opportunities

Regular attendance builds a strong foundation for future academic and career success.

Plan ahead

Whenever possible schedule appointments and family trips outside of school time.

Ensuring your child attends school regularly is a legal requirement. If you are facing challenges with attendance talk to us, we are here to help. Phone 0191 460 6004 or email attendance@kingsmeadow.org.uk

**Wishing a very
Merry Christmas
and a happy new year
to our students,
parents, carers,
and staff**

