

Kingsmeadow community news

February 2026

It may be deep into February, but I am writing this on what I think has been the first day of 2026 when it has not rained! At times like this we are glad that we invested in the canopies over the Key Stage 4 yard, as well as being thankful for lunchtime indoor pursuits such as basketball, games club, homework zone and our brand new darts club.

Having just mentioned the Key Stage 4 yard, I cannot miss the opportunity to point out our new grab-and-go catering pod. Serving street food, it has been a huge hit with our key stage 4 students who are enjoying their own menu, whilst it helps to keep the canteen quieter for Key Stage 3 students.

This half term brought a visit from Ofsted. We knew that they were due to visit us and I have to say that I am pleased with what they saw and some of the wonderful, positive feedback they gave us. They were particularly complimentary about how well our students conduct themselves around school and engage with learning. Our Ofsted visit was under the renewed framework, which puts inclusion at the heart of the inspection and has much more exacting standards than previous frameworks. It is more difficult to achieve in this framework than it was in the previous one. I am not allowed to share the outcomes yet, as the report is only in draft format. However, I will say that the inclusion agenda really suits our educational principles here at Kingsmeadow and the Ofsted inspection team acknowledged the huge improvements we have made over the last sixteen months.

This half term has also seen our exam year groups, years 11 and 13, complete their final set of mock exams. Both year groups enjoyed a celebration event where they opened their results envelopes in much the same way they will for their final exams. Both year groups have seen an improvement on the previous year's results and so are on track for a record year at Kingsmeadow. As always, we have a strong pastoral support team around if they are disappointed in their results or need some final support to improve those grades even further.

In this newsletter you will read about our holocaust virtual reality event, special birthday celebrations, Thrive activities and some of our students performing amazingly well in a national competition. As ever, I am proud of the way that staff and students work together, with parent and carer support, in order to keep Kingsmeadow Community School such a positive and successful place to work and learn.



Mr Barrett
Headteacher



Promoting positive attitudes, skills and behaviours

We believe that every interaction is an opportunity to develop the good character of our students, and the promotion of positive attitudes, skills and behaviours such as self-control, confidence, motivation and resilience feature heavily in our curriculum.

These essential life skills give our students the ability to work well with others, build relationships, manage emotions, and cope with difficult situations, or respond to setbacks when they occur.

This half term, through our assemblies, tutor time, and living and learning the school's values our students have been learning about the following topics in their daily Tutor sessions:

Thrive

- The different types of family
- Change and bereavement
- Personal identity
- Free speech versus hate speech
- Starting and ending relationships
- Gender identity
- Recognising abusive relationships
- Dangers in relationships
- Hate crime

Wellbeing Wednesday

- Self care

Wider world Thursday

- Christianity and Judaism



Join our students for a night of glittering music and dance as they perform High School Musical. Tickets are only £3 each and available from reception now.

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Kingsmeadow Community School



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Kingsmeadow School Gateshead



@KMGateshead



Cake, flowers, gifts and lots of surprises for our Dot!

Monday 26 January 2026 was a very special day at Kingsmeadow because we celebrated a milestone birthday for our staff member Dot.

Dot turned 80 years young on the 26 January, and we have been very lucky that she has chosen to work at our school for 39 of those wonderful years.

We couldn't resist but make a fuss of her, and mark 29,220 days of being awesome! Happy 80th birthday Dot!

You can watch her surprise on our YouTube channel.
[youtube.com/@KingsmeadowSchoolGateshead](https://www.youtube.com/@KingsmeadowSchoolGateshead)



Dot with Mr Barrett at her surprise birthday assembly.

Our Year 8 students win runner-up award in national schools competition

A huge well done to our Year 8 students who took part in the national Smart Cities challenge.

The judges said they were incredibly impressed with the quality of their work, noting the team's strong ideas, creative thinking, and commitment to the brief. They were particularly impressed by the prototypes, and the team's overall confidence and teamwork.

This is an amazing result, and we are incredibly proud of what they have achieved. Well done Team Kingsmeadow!



We decorated Dot's work space as part of the celebrations

Warm conversations and strong connections at our Year 11 parent and carer coffee morning

Our recent parent and carer coffee morning was a great success. It was wonderful to see so many parents and carers come together to chat, share experiences, and enjoy a relaxed morning over coffee, cake and pastries. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the event so positive.

Taking place on Friday 6 February, the event brought together parents, carers, and staff for a relaxed and welcoming morning.

Attendees were treated to coffee, tea, cake and pastries while engaging in lively conversation and exchanging ideas on supporting students both academically and socially.

The event provided an excellent platform for parents and carers to meet one another, build connections, and discuss topics ranging from homework strategies to wellbeing and community activities.

Staff were on hand to answer questions, provide updates, and listen to feedback from families.

“We were thrilled to see the parents and carers of our Year 11 students,” said Mr Barrett, our Headteacher. “These gatherings are a fantastic way to strengthen the school community and ensure everyone feels supported.”

Mr Barrett added: “The success of this event demonstrates the value of creating spaces where families can connect with each other and the school. Plans are already underway for more parent and carer engagement events, and we look forward to welcoming even more parents and carers back to Kingsmeadow.”

Working hard and aiming high

Last year, all of our Year 13 students achieved the grades they needed to move on to their chosen stage of further education or employment, with 88% of the university applicants securing their first choice university. We are delighted that this wonderful achievement; coming from their hard work, is being repeated again this year with UCAS offers coming in thick and fast - and many more to follow.

Well done to the following students who have so far received their dream further education places for September 2026.

Aadam M, to study Computer Science at Durham University

Jay N, to study Biomedical Science at the University of Sunderland

Jayden C, who wants to study History and Politics, and has received four offers for Newcastle University, Northumbria University, York St John University and the University of Lancashire.

Kerry A, to study Psychology at York St John University.

Leon B, to study Electrical and Electronic Engineering at Northumbria University

Lewis M, who wants to study Mathematics at Durham University

Liam C, who has opted to study Aircraft Maintenance Engineering at Newcastle College's University Centre

Oscar H, to study Mechanical Engineering at Northumbria University

Ryan L has received conditional offers from Durham, Newcastle, and York University.

Udita V, who wants to study Law at Durham University.

Kingsmeadow students experience profound Holocaust education through virtual reality testimony

This month we welcomed educators from the Holocaust Educational Trust (UK) to deliver its curriculum-linked Testimony 360 programme.

Our Year 11 and Sixth Form History students learned about events through interactive eyewitness testimony and virtual reality technology, revolutionising access to survivor testimony and providing an invaluable opportunity for students to learn about the Holocaust.

Testimony 360 has changed the way that the Holocaust is taught in schools.

With this new technology our students are able to have a conversation with a Holocaust survivor, long after survivors themselves are no longer with us, and by using virtual reality, they explore historical sites associated with the Holocaust – all without leaving their classroom.



Our 2026 mock exam series

As this mock exam season comes to a close, we want to congratulate our Year 11, 12 and 13 students for their hard work, focus, and resilience. Mock exams are never easy, and this term truly showed the commitment our students have to their learning.

Our students approached their exams with maturity and determination. From early revision sessions to focused study during lessons, the effort put in was clear. Many students also took the opportunity to reflect on their performance, identifying strengths and areas for improvement - exactly what mock exams are designed to encourage.

While results are important, the experience gained from sitting these exams is just as valuable.

Mock exams help build confidence, improve exam technique, and prepare students for the challenges of the real exam season ahead.

Well done to Year 11, 12 and 13 for completing the mock exams successfully, and thank you to parents and carers for their continued support. We look forward to seeing students use this experience to build even more success in the upcoming summer exam series.





Kingsmeadow Community School works closely with parents and carers to open **future doors of opportunity** for all of its students. Working together, we develop our students' **character** and **skills** whilst striving for **academic excellence** so that they can enjoy success and positively contribute to the community and wider society.