

# Kingsmeadow news

## Sixth Form

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.



**Mr Barrett**  
Headteacher

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, and parent and carer forums. 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.

# Our 2026 mock exam and key assessment series

As this mock exam season comes to a close, we want to congratulate our Year 12 and 13 students for their hard work, focus, and resilience. Mock exams and key assessments 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.

Our subject teachers have praised students for their positive attitudes and calm behaviour throughout the exam period. Exam conditions were taken seriously, and students demonstrated excellent organisation and respect for the process. This created a productive environment that allowed everyone to perform at their best.

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 12 and 13 for completing the mock exams and key assessments 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.



## Hello from Mrs Rafferty Head of Sixth Form

It has been an incredibly positive and exciting time for our Sixth Form, with success and achievement evident across Years 12 and 13, plus lots of interest from prospective students too.

Our Sixth Form Open Evening on 12 February was a tremendous success. The event was very well attended, with prospective students and their families filling the school with energy and enthusiasm. Visitors had the opportunity to explore our wide range of A Level and vocational courses, speak to passionate subject teachers, and hear directly from current students about life in the Sixth Form.

Our Sixth Form student ambassadors were outstanding representatives of the school, confidently sharing their experiences and offering honest insight into the academic and enrichment opportunities available. The atmosphere throughout the evening reflected the strong sense of community, ambition and support that defines our Sixth Form. We were delighted by the extremely positive feedback from families, many of whom commented on the welcoming environment and the clear commitment to helping every student succeed.

Adding to this sense of aspiration, our Year 12 students recently visited Newcastle University. The trip provided an invaluable opportunity to experience university life first-hand. Students toured the campus, explored facilities and attended informative workshops.

It's an exciting time at Kingsmeadow as our Year 13 students receive their UCAS and apprenticeship offers. It's fantastic to see them so close to achieving their dream further education and career choices.



## 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 at <https://youtu.be/HpuCtzuOLlo>



## Raising aspirations, confidence, skills, and knowledge

Our Careers, Education, Information, Advice and Guidance programme supports our students to identify their future aspirations by exploring potential progression routes and helping them to make informed decisions that affect their future education, training, and employment opportunities.

On the 6th February we welcomed local employers and further education providers to Kingsmeadow to talk to our Year 9 - 13 students about future opportunities at our careers fair. It was a great event, and our students made some valuable connections to set them on the road to post-16 and 18 success.



## Parent and carer forum

Shaping the future together

## Next meeting

Friday 20 March 2026  
9.15 to 10.15am.

Alongside an opportunity to work with the school's leaders to discuss approaches to further improve our students' experience of school, the forum provides a voice for parents and carers to raise issues important to them and their children.

Our forum members are people just like you, and they bring plenty of ideas and views to the table. It meets four times a year and members talk about a wide range of topics to further help the development of strong partnerships between the school and home.

We would like to work with you and capture your rich and valuable experience and knowledge. If you'd like to play a role in shaping the future of the school please email [forum@kingsmeadow.org.uk](mailto:forum@kingsmeadow.org.uk)

# 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.



## 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 and determination, 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 from 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 three offers from Durham, Newcastle and York University.

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

# Safeguarding at Kingsmeadow



**Mrs Byrne**  
Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead



**Mrs Lowery**  
Designated  
Safeguarding Lead



**Mr Wraith**  
Nominated Governor  
for Safeguarding



**Miss Bulman**  
Health and Safety  
Coordinator



**Mrs Bell**  
Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead



**Mr Thompson**  
Online Safety  
Coordinator

We take the health and wellbeing of our students very seriously and we are proud that safeguarding has a high profile in our school, with everyday practices supporting our commitment to keep our students safe.

Our staff receive regular safeguarding training. They have the skills and knowledge to spot concerns and know how to report these when appropriate. We do not promise confidentiality to any young person and, where possible, always share concerns with parents or carers so we can work closely to address the problem or issue.

The school's Safeguarding Lead is Mrs Lowery, supported by Mrs Byrne in the Safeguarding Team, our Sixth Form Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead, and the school's Health and Safety and Online Safety Coordinators. Mr Wraith is our Governing Body Safeguarding Lead.

Our safeguarding policies are available on our website and paper copies are available on request.

**If you are concerned about your child or another young person, please do not hesitate to call the team on 0191 460 6004 or email [safeguarding@kingsmeadow.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@kingsmeadow.org.uk).**

A poster for a school performance of Disney's High School Musical. The title "Disney HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL" is displayed in large, glowing marquee letters within a red, light-bulb-bordered frame. The background is dark blue with faint icons of school supplies and cinema-related items. Red curtains are visible at the top and sides, and rows of red theater seats are at the bottom.

Disney  
HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL

**WEDNESDAY 1ST APRIL 2026**

Join us for a glittering  
Kingsmeadow  
Community School  
performance

