

Kingsmeadow news

Year 8

February 2026

Year 8 key assessments - Monday 20 to Friday 24 April

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, parent and carer forums, 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.



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
Starting and ending relationships
Gender identity
Free speech versus hate speech

Wellbeing Wednesday

Self care

Wider world Thursday

Christianity and Judaism



Hello from Mrs Taylor Head of Year 8

Success doesn't happen by chance. It comes from commitment, dedication, and showing up every day, on time. Great attendance and punctuality are two of the simplest habits students can develop, yet they have a huge impact on learning, opportunities, and future careers.

Our Year 8 students reached the semi-finals of the Smart Cities Challenge, a remarkable achievement that highlights creativity, teamwork, and dedication. Their success was not just about ideas; it was about showing up consistently, contributing fully, and working together. This is proof that great attendance and punctuality directly support achievement, not just academically but in competitions and real-world projects.

During our recent Apprenticeship and Careers Weeks, we celebrated pathways to exciting careers. Whether in engineering, designing smart solutions, or in healthcare, success depends on being reliable and responsible - each a character trait that employers and apprenticeship providers look for.

Every day your child attends school is a step toward their future. We remain committed to working with parents and carers to ensure students show up, and can shine bright!



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/HpuCtzu0Llo>

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!



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

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.



Celebrating the International Day of Women and Girls in STEM

Women can't do science. That is what women scientists were told throughout history. Yet, they smashed the gender bias and forever changed the world.

The percentage of people in STEM careers who identify as female has increased and is now higher than ever before, but there is still inequality.

We wanted to increase awareness of the fantastic contributions to STEM made by women, and challenged our Key stage 3 students to create fact file style posters that celebrate the achievements of a woman in STEM.

There were many fantastic submissions, so well done to everyone who entered.

Congratulations to Leen N in Year 9 who was selected as the winner of vouchers to buy some yummy treats from Greggs the bakers.



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.

A large, illuminated sign for the Disney High School Musical Musical performance. The sign is framed by a glowing orange border and is set against a red curtain backdrop. The text "Disney" is in its signature script at the top, followed by "HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL" in large, glowing yellow letters. The background of the sign is a dark blue pattern of white icons related to cinema and theater, such as a camera, a film strip, a clapperboard, and a microphone. The sign is flanked by red curtains with gold tassels. Below the sign, rows of red theater seats are visible.

Disney
HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL

WEDNESDAY 1ST APRIL 2026

Join us for a glittering
Kingsmeadow
Community School
performance

