



# Kingsmeadow news

Year 9 - Easter 2026

As the year has brightened into spring, the students of Kingsmeadow Community School have continued to impress me with their dedication, resilience and efforts. This half term has seen:

- Excellent results from year 9 and year 7 key assessments
- Teachers predicting very positive academic results from our year 10 students
- Visits from schools, improvement partners and the local authority praising students' learning behaviours and academic efforts in the classroom
- Students giving themselves the best chances of success with some record weeks of attendance



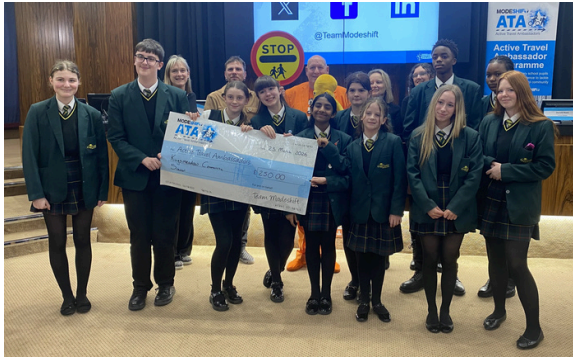
**Mr Barrett**  
Headteacher

All across the school, students and staff are working together to ensure that every student gets the best possible results in order to create future opportunities. This could not be done without the support of parents, carers and the community. We have seen record attendance at our morning coffee forums, where parents and carers give us direct feedback and ideas about school improvements. Despite a cold and damp evening, we had excellent attendance at the year 11 and year 13 parents' and carers' evening. We have also seen increased community involvement with some of the community organisations which use our facilities - such as Burnopfield Cricket Club and Dunston Juniors FC.

The year 9 options evening was particularly impressive. There was a real buzz around the place as students, parents and carers learned about the wide range of options subjects available here at Kingsmeadow. With support and guidance, I am sure students will make the right choices that will help them to go on and continue to be successful here at Kingsmeadow.

Of course, academic excellence is only part of the story. At Kingsmeadow Community School we firmly believe in the social and character development of our students. Our extra curricular offer is impressive and broadening. Our myriad of sports clubs have been joined by a darts club, and our girls' rugby club played in their first competitive game. Our Duke of Edinburgh students completed their practice walk and as I write this, our music and drama club are rehearsing for High School Musical - our school's first full scale musical production in over 8 years - which is being performed to a sell out crowd at the end of the half term. On top of that we have seen rewards events take sixth form students to an Escape Room and year 7 and 10 students bowling. Year 9 students have taken part in a Humanutopia wellbeing day, we have had a year 8 Girl Tech day, an indoor rowing competition and more.

Whether your Easter is bringing you exciting breaks, relaxation or just too much chocolate - I hope it goes well. I look forward to welcoming all students back in two weeks, safe and rested, ready for the vital third and final term of the year.



## Student ambassadors celebrate active travel funding success

Congratulations to our Student Ambassadors who were awarded £250 to deliver the school's Active Travel Project, funded by Gateshead Council and Modeshift.

Our ambassadors delivered an excellent presentation to the judging panel in the Council Chamber at Gateshead Civic Centre on Tuesday 24 March. They spoke confidently about their ideas and plans to encourage more active and sustainable travel within our school community.

Modeshift supports projects that promote safer, healthier, and more sustainable journeys. Their work helps schools develop initiatives that encourage people to walk, wheel, ride, or use public transport for everyday journeys.

We are incredibly proud of our ambassadors for representing the school so well and for showing fantastic teamwork, confidence, and presentation skills. Well done to everyone involved!



## Our latest Ofsted rating and report

We are pleased and proud to be sharing Kingsmeadow Community School's latest Ofsted Inspection Report with you. After just over a year of improving standards and outcomes, it was great to be able to share our successes with the Ofsted inspection team.

Having six green standards, representing all of the core areas of the school, is an excellent achievement in such a short space of time. Our improvement work on the sixth form is ongoing and we are confident that this area will also turn green when Ofsted next visit in around 12-18 months time. This is representative not only of the hard work of staff, but also of the efforts of students, parents, carers and the community in embracing our changes and putting in great effort to ensure that every child gets the best possible educational experience at Kingsmeadow Community School.

More information, and a short video that further explains the grades, the school's current position, and the new Ofsted framework is available on our website. [Click here to read more.](#)



## **NEW!** **Our teachers' blog spot**

Education is more than lessons, textbooks, and exams, it's about connection, curiosity, and continuous growth.

Our blog spot is a new space where our teachers share, explore, and reflect upon the meaningful moments and insights, both inside and outside the classroom.

The first blog piece is from Mrs McGarry, our Head of English. You can read her blog at <https://www.kingsmeadow.org.uk/our-school/our-teachers-blog-spot/>



**Wishing you a  
very happy and  
peaceful Easter,  
from all of the  
staff at  
Kingsmeadow  
Community  
School**



## **Hello from Mrs Diston, Head of Year 9**

Our Year 9 students have shone with creativity, commitment, and maturity this half-term.

There has been a real buzz of excitement among Year 9 students recently, sparked by the school's Peter Rabbit sculpture and the inspiring fundraising project connected to it. Students have shown fantastic enthusiasm, getting involved in discussions, sharing ideas, and taking pride in contributing to something that brings the whole school community together. It's been wonderful to see their creativity and teamwork on display.

Alongside this, Year 9 students deserve huge congratulations for the way they have approached their Key Assessments. Their focus, determination, and positive attitude have really stood out. Many students have demonstrated excellent preparation and resilience, and staff have been impressed by the effort and progress shown across subjects. This strong work ethic is something they should all feel proud of.

Equally commendable has been the mature and thoughtful way students have engaged with the subject options process. Choosing subjects for the future is an important step, and Year 9 has handled it with responsibility and care. They have asked insightful questions, reflected on their strengths and interests, and begun to make informed decisions about their next steps.

Overall, it has been a fantastic half-term. Their enthusiasm, hard work, and maturity highlight what a positive and capable group they are. Well done to all, and keep up the great work Year 9!

# Year 9 subject options

The months leading up to moving into Year 10 is an extremely important stage in every child's education, and it is the time to give consideration to the GCSE and vocational subjects that will be studied in Years 10 and 11. It is vital; in this stage of your child's education, that careful consideration is given to their option choices, and that parents and carers are reminded of the importance of good school attendance.

## Attendance

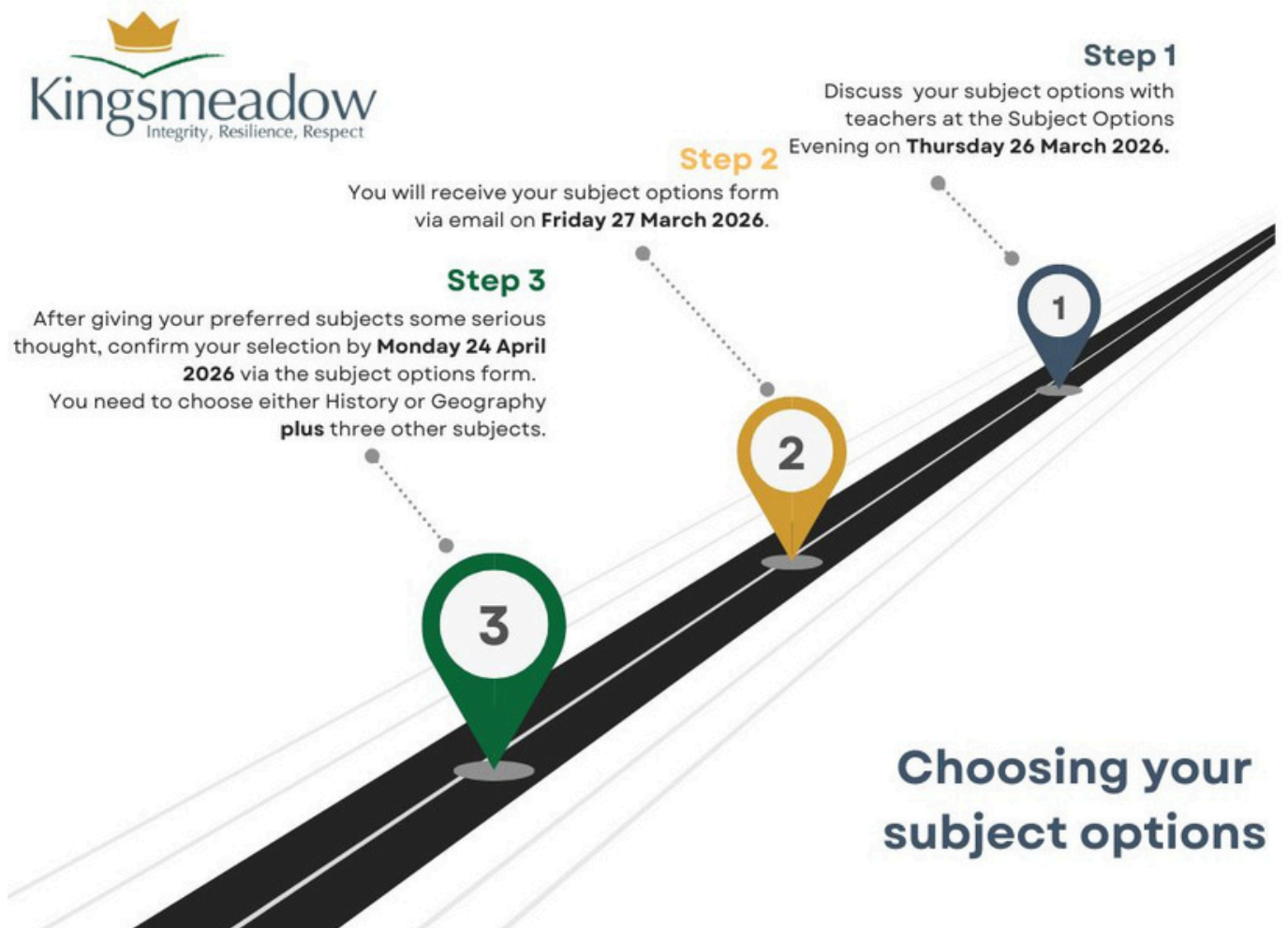
Attendance is very important in all years, but especially so in the next two years. Controlled assessment and field tasks take place in many of our subjects, and missing any of these will put students at a disadvantage, with the potential to seriously affect good results.

## Holidays

External examinations and coursework assessments also occur throughout Years 10 and 11, and parents and carers are reminded that the law states that holidays during term time are disallowed.

## Our subject options booklet and supporting information

To help our students to choose the best subjects for them, we have produced a suite of videos and presentations that provide a very useful insight into what each subject. These are available on the Students Hub section of our website. Subject options will be assigned later in the summer term. The diagram below provides a handy reminder of the deadline dates for your child to submit their choices.





## HAF Plus is back for Easter 2026

**HAF Plus is Gateshead Council's free holiday activities and food programme for children in years 9, 10 and 11 who are in receipt of benefits related free school meals.**

### **What's on offer?**

Five days of free bus travel in the holidays

**Bookable activities** - Escape Rooms, Darts, Drumming, Photography/influencer workshop, Italian cooking experience, Barista experience, Board game hangout, Crochet hangout

**Perks** - including cinema tickets, bowling vouchers and much more.

**Don't miss out.** Download the HAF Plus app at [www.gateshead.gov.uk/HAFplus](http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/HAFplus) and register using the e-voucher codes emailed to parents and carers from Holiday Activities.