

Kingsmeadow news

Sixth Form - May 2026

This half term after Easter is usually the shortest and busiest of the year. This year was no exception. Year 7 Parents and Carers Evening, Year 8 Key Assessments, Year 9 Options returns, Years 10 and 12 coursework deadlines and, of course, Years 11 and 13 starting their final exams. All of this drives our expectations of academic excellence that students routinely strive for here at Kingsmeadow Community School.

We have seen all students enjoying success across the half term and have been sharing that success with you at home. I know that first hand from the number of praise postcards I have written, the congratulations letters I have signed and the positive phone calls I have made to parents and carers of students who have exceeded expectations. The teachers and pastoral leads of Kingsmeadow have been doing the same. These are jobs we are happy to be kept busy doing, as our students continue to excel in their efforts and achievements.

Even with this excellent level of academic effort, the staff and students of Kingsmeadow Community School have still found the energy and the time to get involved in so much more. We firmly believe in developing the character of young people - through our core values of Integrity, Resilience and Respect - alongside developing their academic profile.

A special mention goes to our students involved in Duke of Edinburgh - the largest cohort of students to do so at Kingsmeadow for at least ten years. We have seen students completing their Bronze Award expedition, as well as a practice expedition for Silver Award (which will lead to the full expedition before the end of this year). Completing a Duke of Edinburgh expedition takes courage, concentration and a huge bucket-full of resilience. Our students demonstrated those traits admirably - especially when faced with the most unpredictable of weather for May!

We have also seen students being successful outside of classrooms through activities such as: Junior Maths Challenge; a business breakfast at Vertu motors; beginning their UCAS statements; supporting a Year 3 and 4 sport and orienteering event; a Year 10 rewards trip to the bowling alley; being successful at the regional Athletics Championship (five of our students are going on to represent us at the county event in June). Not to mention the students who jetted off for the football-based trip to Barcelona over the half-term break.

Rumour has it that this half-term break might actually see the start of some summer weather. Let's hope so! Whatever happens, though, I wish everyone a safe, restful break and I look forward to welcoming all of our students back in June for the final half term of the year.



Mr Barrett
Headteacher



A Level Geography study reaches beyond the classroom

Our Year 12 Geography students travelled to Silloth in Cumbria this month for an exciting and informative field trip focused on coastal geomorphology. Despite the chilly weather, students embraced the opportunity to carry out first-hand investigations into the powerful natural processes that shape our coastline.

During the visit, students explored how geomorphological processes such as waves, tides, and sediment transport interact to create distinctive coastal landforms and influence how they change over time. Through a range of fieldwork activities and observations, they developed a deeper understanding of coastal dynamics and the importance of studying real-world environments beyond the classroom.

The trip provided valuable practical experience, helping students apply their classroom learning to a live coastal setting while strengthening their geographical enquiry and data collection skills.

After a productive day along the coast, students enjoyed a well-deserved hot chocolate treat to warm up before heading home. The perfect end to a successful and memorable field trip.



Hello from Mrs Rafferty Head of Sixth Form

As the summer exam series gathers pace, our Year 12 and 13 students are showing remarkable dedication, resilience and determination in the final stretch of their A-Level and Level 3 studies. After months of revision, coursework and preparation, our students are now putting their hard work into practice as they tackle one of the most important periods of their academic journey.

Our students have been arriving early, staying focused and supporting one another through the pressures of exam season, and our subject teachers have praised the mature attitude shown by students, many of whom have balanced demanding revision schedules alongside university applications and extracurricular commitments.

The lead-up to exams has seen students attending revision sessions, completing practice papers and working closely with staff to strengthen their understanding across all subjects.

Staff have also highlighted the positive atmosphere among the year group, with students encouraging each other and demonstrating excellent perseverance even during challenging moments. Their commitment reflects not only academic effort, but also personal growth and resilience developed throughout their time in our Sixth Form.

Their dedication throughout this demanding period is a significant achievement, and as the exams continue, our school community remains incredibly proud of the hard work and positive attitude shown by our students.

Real-world experience brings learning to life

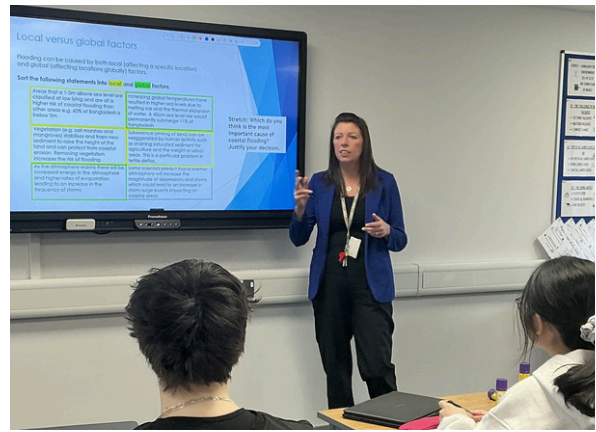
Our Year 12 CTEC Business students enjoyed a visit to Vertu Motors' head office at Team Valley this half term for an engaging and insightful experience that brought their classroom learning to life.

Students were given a full tour of the organisation and took part in a Q&A session with staff, gaining first-hand insight into how a large national business operates across key functions such as marketing, finance, operations and customer service. This real-world exposure directly supports their Unit 1 studies and will be invaluable as they prepare for their upcoming external exam.

A real highlight of the visit was the opportunity to meet Robert Forrester, CEO of Vertu Motors. Students spent time in the head office boardroom where they received careers advice and an honest insight into leadership, progression, and what it takes to succeed in business.

The visit also provided a strong careers focus, with students learning about different roles within the organisation and potential pathways into the industry. It was particularly encouraging to hear several students discussing future employment opportunities with Vertu Motors following the visit.

Experiences like this are rare and had a significant impact on the group, and we would like to thank Vertu Motors, and all staff involved for providing such a valuable and inspiring experience for our students.



Read our latest blog

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

The next blog piece is from Mrs Dawson, our Head of Geography. You can read it at <https://www.kingsmeadow.org.uk/our-school/our-teachers-blog-spot/>



Peter Rabbit's Kingsmeadow makeover

Our students have been working hard to make Peter Rabbit showcase ready for his appearance on the Peter Rabbit: Tales on the Tyne trail, and would like to introduce you his Kingsmeadow design.

Well done to the students who played a key role in his design and led on the raising of funds for St Oswald's Hospice.

The Kingsmeadow Peter Rabbit design can be seen from Wednesday 15 July – Monday 14 September 2026, when iconic landmarks in Newcastle and North Tyneside will be transformed by the arrival of super-sized sculptures of Peter Rabbit.

May half term subject revision sessions Tuesday 26 - Friday 29 May 2026

Morning session - 10am to 12 noon				Afternoon session 12.30pm to 2.30pm		
	Subject	Year group	Venue	Subject	Year group	Venue
Tue 26 May	GCSE English A Level Biology Independent Study	11 13 11 - 13	Learning Zone S01 Sixth Form study area	A Level English A Level Physics Independent Study	13 13 11 - 13	S01 S02 Sixth Form study area
Wed 27 May	A Level Psychology GCSE Science Independent Study	13 11 11 - 13	S01 Learning Zone Sixth Form study area	Level 2 iMedia A Level Chemistry Independent Study	11 13 11 - 13	E02 S01 Sixth Form study area
Thu 28 May	GCSE History GCSE Geography Independent Study	11 11 11 - 13	S01 S02 Sixth Form study area	GCSE Spanish Independent Study	11 11 - 13	S01 Sixth Form study area
Fri 29 May	GCSE Maths Independent Study	11 11 - 13	S01 Sixth Form study area	GCSE Further Maths Independent Study	11 11 - 13	S01 Sixth Form study area

Important Students must register their attendance at the school reception.

Exam day

Make sure your child leaves their phone and electronic devices at home

Our students are aware of the strict guidelines; set nationally, that they need to adhere to throughout the exam series.

All electronic devices and notes are banned from the exam hall. Students found to be in possession of these can be disqualified or face serious penalties.

Don't let your child risk years of hard work for one careless moment.

Kingsmeadow creative writing student celebrates success after publishing first book of poetry

A Year 11 student has achieved an impressive milestone after having a collection of poetry published, proving that creativity and determination can lead to remarkable success at any age.

Natasha, who began writing poetry as a hobby, has spent much of her formative years developing poems inspired by everyday experiences, emotions, and the world around her. What started as a simple passion soon grew into a serious creative project, resulting in her full collection of poems ready for publication.

Encouraged by her teachers and family, Natasha submitted her work to a publisher and was thrilled when her work was accepted. The collection – Words From The Soul, features a range of poems that explore the themes of Nature and time; My friends, family and love, and Me and experiences.

Teachers have praised Natasha's dedication and talent, describing her achievement as an inspiration to other young writers.

Mr Barrett, Headteacher said: "I have had the pleasure of hearing Natasha perform her poetry at various events both in school and out in the community. Whilst it is a phenomenal feat to be published at such a young age, it is no surprise to me that her talent has been recognised."

He added: This goes to show how powerful young voices can be in the world of literature and I expect that her example will inspire other students to explore their creative ideas. I am so proud of what Natasha has achieved and of the support she has received through our Creative Writing Club."

The young poet said she hoped her book will encourage even more students to try writing themselves. "Poetry is a way to express what you feel and see things differently," she said. "If you enjoy writing, you should keep going and share your work."

With her first book now published, Natasha plans to continue writing and hopes to release more poetry.

We wish her even more success for the future.



Creating a stronger and supportive community through local partnerships

Following a successful first year of partnership working that is providing significant benefits to local people, Kingsmeadow is proud to announce that Dunston UTS FC Juniors has officially named the community school's facilities as home.

Graham Bannister, the Chairman of Dunston UTS FC Juniors said: "We're delighted to be working in partnership with Kingsmeadow Community School. The facilities have been fantastic for our teams, and the support and communication from staff has been second to none.

"Most importantly, this partnership is helping us provide more opportunities for local children to get involved, develop, and enjoy their football in a positive environment. We're really proud to be building such a strong relationship and look forward to continuing to grow together."

Since opening the Kingsmeadow Community Lettings service to local sports clubs the school's facilities have proven to be in high demand. The school offers high-quality spaces to local clubs and groups at an affordable rate of hire, and its facilities; set in beautifully tendered grounds, are supporting training sessions and match preparation for local groups that enables players to train effectively in a safe and well-maintained environment.

Mr Barrett, Headteacher said: "A key focus of our partnership strategy is to increase the provision of opportunities for local children to participate in sports activities. Through structured coaching sessions and inclusive activities, local people are being given the chance to develop their skills, improve their physical wellbeing, and engage positively with sport in a supportive environment, and I am proud that our school is enabling the local community to do that".

