

# Kingsmeadow news

Year 10 - 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



## Creativity, talent and teamwork raises funds to support local patients and families

Kingsmeadow Community School students unveiled the design of their sculpture this week as it sets off on its Peter Rabbit: Tales on the Tyne adventure this summer.

The sculpture's final design is a culmination of ideas submitted by Key Stage 3 students as part of an art project aimed at encouraging creativity, self-expression and collaboration, whilst raising money for St. Oswald's Hospice. Following the success of Great North Snowdogs in 2016, Elmer's Great North Parade in 2019, and Shaun on the Tyne in 2023, the school's finished piece will feature in the city's fourth art trail that celebrates St. Oswald's Hospice 40th birthday and Beatrix Potter's 160th anniversary.

The school's project began earlier this year when students brainstormed fundraising ideas and developed their designs before the school's Senior Leadership Team selected the elements that would be included in the final piece.

Mr Barrett, Headteacher praised the students for their hard work and imagination. He said: "This sculpture represents much more than art, it reflects teamwork, determination and the incredible talent of our students. I am so proud of our students' hard work to raise funds that will support the patients and families who rely on the care of St Oswald's Hospice.

"I am also delighted that so many people will get to see and enjoy our lasting piece of public art when it features as part of the free, inclusive Tales on the Tyne art adventure."

The Kingsmeadow Peter Rabbit design can be seen from Wednesday 15 July – Monday 14 September 2026.



## Hello from Mr Charlton, Head of Year 10

At the beginning of May, Year 10 students enjoyed a fantastic Rewards Day celebrating the hard work and commitment shown throughout the year. The top 30 students with the highest average attitude to learning scores were rewarded with an exciting bowling trip, where students had the opportunity to relax, have fun and celebrate their achievements together.

Following the bowling trip, the entire year group came together in the afternoon to enjoy a film, giving everyone the chance to unwind and mark another successful term for Year 10.

As we move towards the final half term of the academic year, students are now preparing for some very important upcoming events. Focus will soon turn to Key Assessments and work placements, both of which provide valuable opportunities for students to demonstrate their progress and gain important experience for the future.

### Important upcoming dates

**15 June – 3 July:** Key Assessments

**13 July – 17 July:** Work Placement Week

I'm looking forward to seeing our Year 10 students continue to work hard after the half term and towards a successful end to the school year.



## Hard work + effort = well deserved rewards for Year 10

The top 30 Year 10 students with the best attitude to learning so far this year were rewarded with a fantastic trip to the ten pin bowling alley at the Metrocentre this month.

Students enjoyed some friendly competition, plenty of laughs, and a well-earned break from their studies after all of their hard work and positive effort throughout the year.

Following the bowling trip, the entire Year 10 year group came together to enjoy an afternoon film, giving everyone the opportunity to relax and spend time together outside of the classroom.

The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all and was a wonderful way to recognise the excellent attitude and commitment shown by Year 10 students this year.

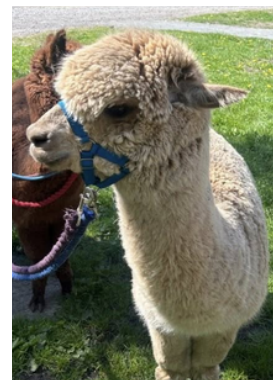
Well done, Year 10 – keep up the great work!



Well done to our brilliant Duke of Edinburgh silver and bronze award students who enjoyed their latest expedition in Thornley Woods, near Rowlands Gill.

They were blessed with great weather, and as always, were impeccably behaved, and they returned safely home after learning lots of new life skills from our teachers and support staff.

They also made a new furry friend – Alan the alpaca!



# 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.



# Developing safer, family friendly digital habits

In today's connected world, children are spending more time online than ever before. From educational apps and online learning to games and social media, smartphones and tablets have become part of everyday family life. For many parents and carers, finding the right balance between freedom and safety can feel challenging. That is where parental control apps can help.

These apps are designed to help families create healthy digital habits. They can be downloaded onto both a parent's device and a child's device, giving parents tools to guide and manage their child's online experience while still respecting each family's individual choices around technology.

Rather than guessing how devices are being used, parents can better understand their child's online behaviour and support them in making positive choices.

Apps such as Google Family Link, Apple Screen Time, Bark, Qustodio and Net Nanny are designed to support parents rather than replace conversations about online safety. Instead of simply restricting access, they encourage families to work together to build positive and responsible technology habits and allow parents and carers to supervise their child's device usage through a central space that manages screen time, app usage, and digital wellbeing.

Another valuable feature of these apps is location sharing. Parents can see their child's device location on a map, helping families stay connected and providing reassurance when children are travelling, visiting friends, or returning home from school. Location features only work when the child's device is powered on and connected to the internet, and families can decide how and when these tools are used.

As children grow older and develop greater independence, digital apps also offer parents and carers a practical way to guide children's digital experiences while encouraging trust, independence, and healthy routines. With tools for app management, screen time controls, location sharing, and privacy settings, the app helps families create a safer and more balanced approach to technology.

Mr Thompson, Kingsmeadow Community School's Online Safety Coordinator said:

"Technology can be a powerful tool for learning, creativity, and communication and digital safety apps aim to help families use the technology in a balanced and thoughtful way rather than treating screen time as entirely negative.

"As children continue to grow up in an increasingly digital world, apps can support families in building positive habits that work for everyone."

# 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".

