

Kingsmeadow news

Year 11 - 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.

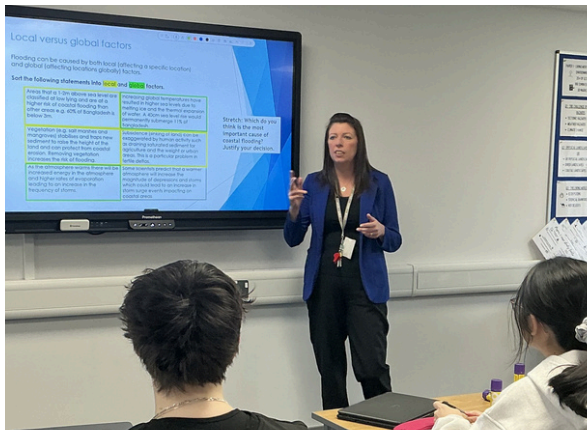
A special mention goes to our students involved in Duke of Edinburgh - the largest cohort of students to do so at Kingsmeadow for at least ten years. We have seen students completing their Bronze Award expedition, as well as a practice expedition for Silver Award (which will lead to the full expedition 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



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/>

The hottest ticket in town!



Hello from Miss Hornsby, Head of Year 11

The start of the GCSE examination season has been incredibly positive, and I am immensely proud of how our Year 11 students have approached this important period. Their conduct, maturity and determination have been outstanding, and they have represented both themselves and the school brilliantly.

Students have arrived prepared, focused and ready to give their very best in each examination. The resilience and commitment they have shown reflects the hard work they have put in throughout the year, and we would like to thank parents and carers for the support and encouragement you continue to provide at home.

There is still much to play for, and every revision session, practice paper and hour of preparation can make a real difference. We continue to remind students that the time to rest is at the end of the exams, not in the middle of them. Consistency, routine and determination over the coming weeks will help them finish strongly and achieve outcomes they can be proud of.

During the half-term break, revision sessions will be available in school. They'll provide an excellent opportunity for students to consolidate knowledge, strengthen understanding and speak directly with subject specialists who can offer targeted support and guidance. I strongly encourage all students to take advantage of these valuable opportunities.

I also look forward to celebrating the achievements of the Year 11 cohort in the coming weeks. The Leavers' Assembly will take place on Friday 19 June, followed by the Year 11 Prom on Friday 3 July – two special occasions to recognise the end of an important chapter and celebrate the journey our students have shared together.

I wish all of our Year 11 students the very best for the remainder of their examinations and thank parents and carers once again for their continued support.

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.





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

Our 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, when iconic landmarks in Newcastle and North Tyneside will be transformed by the arrival of super-sized sculptures of Peter Rabbit.

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".

