Kingsmeadow news

Sixth Form - October 2026

I believe that the first half term of a year gives an excellent indication of how positive and successful that year is going to turn out. With that in mind, we can all look forward to an excellent 2026-27 here at Kingsmeadow Community School.



Mr Barrett
Headteacher

The summer results started the year with a bang. Our leaving year 11s and year 13s produced record results for the school - with grades that have opened up a wide range of future opportunities for individual students. Year 11 students' average grade was close to 5, whilst the results for A-levels were the best in Gateshead! And, what's more, our current students are on track to achieve even more highly.

These results have come about due to the consistent and positive learning environment that we have here at Kingsmeadow. Students work with us and try hard. In lessons, students have embraced our teaching techniques: **silent starters** which give a calm, purposeful start to the lesson and allows students to prepare mentally for the subject; **cold-call questioning** which means that every student learns from every question, with opportunities to consider and prepare their answers before speaking out in class; **independent tasks** meaning that students get the opportunity to practice reading, writing and thinking skills in a way that best prepares them for exams.

As well as embracing learning opportunities, students are displaying improved learning behaviours. The number of behaviour incidents requiring some sort of intervention have reduced by around a third in the first half term of this year. Every visitor to Kingsmeadow Community School comments on the quietness of the corridors and the purposeful classroom environment when students are in lessons and learning.

School is not just about the academic results. Here at Kingsmeadow Community School we put a strong emphasis on social and character learning - hence our daily Thrive session and our commitment to extra curricular opportunities. This half term has seen: engineering students visiting Nissan; year 13 D&T students visiting Ikea and Barker & Stonehouse; year 8 students winning through the first round of their first ever school rugby championship; the school competing in a wide range of football and netball fixtures; sixth form attending an apprenticeship fair and an NHS careers morning; a busy and positive year 7 settling-in evening; year 11 watching a Royal Shakespeare Company production of Macbeth; a Happy Diwali themed lunch; a Wear it Red Day in support of Show Racism the Red Card.

A busy, productive and positive half term. I think everyone deserves the rest that the half term break brings and I look forward to seeing everyone back on 2nd November.

Kingsmeadow
Integrity, Resilience, Respect

National recognition as we lead the way on school attendance

We were so proud to receive a National Award from the Fischer Family Trust (FFT) for Kingsmeadow Community School being one of the most improved secondary schools in England for student attendance.

This shows how well you, the parents and carers, are working with us to make the school a safe and purposeful environment where children want to come and to learn. We appreciate that some days it is difficult to make those tough calls to get your child in when they are a little under the weather. However, the benefit of them being in school is huge. Good attendance has the single biggest impact on making sure that children are successful academically.

Our attendance is improving again this year as you and your child continue to work with us and to show the value you place on a good education. Here are some key attendance messages which you can use to continue to encourage the best possible attendance for your child.

Year 12
Students are covering both exam content and coursework modules throughout the year. Missing lessons means missed opportunities to improve coursework, which puts extra pressure on the final exams.

Year 13
Students need excellent attendance in the first half of the year to best prepare them for their Mock Exams in January. The results of those exams are a strong indicator of their end of year success and helps them to focus their revision on the key topics. From then to the final exams, starting May, they will be covering vital exams skills and content - so every lesson counts.



Hello from Mrs Rafferty, Head of Sixth Form



It has been a busy and productive half term for our Sixth Form students, with a strong focus on academic progress, future aspirations and developing the skills needed for success beyond Kingsmeadow.
Following our best-ever A Level results over the summer, our new Year 12 students have settled into Sixth Form life and selected their Level 3 qualification courses, taking their first steps towards their future ambitions.

Our Year 12 students also attended the University and Apprenticeship Fair at St James' Park, where they explored a wide range of progression routes and began considering the opportunities available to them after Year 13.

Meanwhile, some of our Year 13 students have already submitted their university applications through the early application process, including those applying to Oxford or Cambridge, or for medicine and dentistry courses.

With the application deadline only recently passed on 15 October, we are delighted that some students have already received offers from Newcastle University and the University of Bristol. The majority of Year 13 students will continue preparing their applications ahead of the January deadline.

Our Wider Opportunities Tutor Programme has continued to open doors and raise aspirations, with students accessing a range of exciting opportunities through the Social Mobility Foundation, Zero Gravity and the University of York's Next Step York progression scheme. Students have also had opportunities to explore careers in medicine and dentistry through conferences hosted by Medic and Dental Mentor. In addition, we have introduced Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) to encourage students to explore subjects beyond their A Level studies and strengthen their super-curricular profiles.

Back in the classroom, Year 12 students have completed their first set of baseline assessments. They approached the process with maturity, engagement and resilience, demonstrating a positive attitude as they begin their Sixth Form academic journey.

Developing effective independent study habits has also been a priority for all Sixth Form students. During tutor sessions, they have explored a range of revision strategies, including the Cornell Note-Taking Method, the Pomodoro Technique, blurting and the PQRST method. These approaches will help students develop effective revision routines, strengthen their understanding and prepare confidently for future assessments.

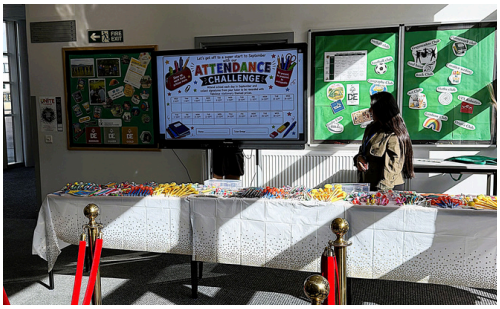
With university applications progressing, new opportunities emerging and important study skills being developed, it has been an excellent start to the academic year for our Sixth Form. We look forward to seeing our students continue to build on this momentum in the months ahead.

To contact Mrs Rafferty please email sixthform@kingsmeadow.org.uk

We had a 'Super Start to September'







We were delighted to launch our Super Start to September attendance campaign last month, when we celebrated the importance of starting the new school year with excellent attendance and positive routines.

Our attendance message is simple: every day counts, and being in school every day gives our students the very best opportunity to learn, make progress, build confidence, develop friendships and take part fully in school life.

The focus of our Super Start to September campaign was encouraging every student to make attendance a priority from day one, and celebrate the students who attend regularly, arrive on time and show a positive commitment to their learning.

Mr Ferguson, our Deputy Headteacher and Head of Inclusion said: “We know that strong attendance has a significant impact on students’ educational experience and outcomes.

“Missing school means missing valuable learning, and even occasional absences can quickly add up over the course of a school year. Just as important though, being in school everyday gives students the chance to build friendships with each and feel connected to **their** school".

We have some really exciting initiatives and rewards planned throughout the year.

We would also like to say a huge thank you to our parents and carers for supporting positive attendance routines at home and helping our students to get to school every day, on time and ready to learn.

Alongside an opportunity to work with the school's leaders to discuss approaches to further improve our students' experience of school, our forum provides a voice for parents and carers to raise issues important to them and their children. Forum members are people just like you, and they bring plenty of ideas and views to the table.

The forum 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 believe that our parents and carers offer many skills and bring plenty of experience too, and we would like to work with them and capture this rich and valuable knowledge.

Could you be a member of the Kingsmeadow parent and carer forum? If you'd like to play a role in shaping the future of the school please email forum@kingsmeadow.org.uk.

Kingsmeadow

Integrity, Resilience, Respect

Parent and carer forum

Shaping the future together

Our meeting dates for 2026 - 27

Wednesday 4 November 2026
5.45pm to 6.30pm

Friday 19 March 2027
9.15am to 10.15am

Wednesday 21 April 2027
5.45pm to 6.30pm

Friday 2 July 2027
9.15am to 10.15am

To book your place email forum@kingsmeadow.org.uk

Sixth formers take on UK maths challenge

Putting problem-solving skills to the test!



The 7th October was UK Mathematics Trust Competition Day, and we were delighted to see our Sixth Form students embracing the challenge of the Senior Maths Challenge.

Our students took on the first round of 22 challenging mathematical problems, putting their knowledge, logical thinking and problem-solving skills to the test – all without the use of a calculator!

The Senior Maths Challenge is a fantastic opportunity for students to develop their advanced problem-solving skills, mental agility and mathematical reasoning. It encourages them to think creatively, approach unfamiliar problems with confidence and explore mathematics beyond the classroom.

We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm and determination our students have shown. Taking part in a competition like this is about much more than getting the right answer – it is about challenging yourself, embracing difficult problems and developing the resilience to keep thinking when the solution isn't immediately obvious.

Well done to all our Sixth Form students who took part – your enthusiasm for mathematics and willingness to challenge yourselves is fantastic to see!



Keeping our students safe.

At Kingsmeadow Community School, the safety, health and wellbeing of our students is always a priority. As part of our ongoing commitment to safeguarding and inclusion, our staff have completed Allergy and Anaphylaxis Training developed by allergy experts, based on Benedict's Law, and supported by Natasha's Foundation.

Benedict's Law was introduced following the tragic death of Benedict Blythe, a young boy who died after experiencing an anaphylactic reaction at his nursery. The law aims to improve allergy awareness and help ensure that children with allergies are better protected in educational and childcare settings.

The training has helped our staff develop a greater understanding of allergies and anaphylaxis, including how to recognise the signs and symptoms of a potentially life-threatening allergic reaction and the importance of responding quickly and appropriately in an emergency. It also reinforces the importance of following established procedures and ensuring that students with allergies are supported effectively throughout the school day.

By investing in specialist training, we are strengthening our staff's knowledge and confidence while promoting a culture of awareness, vigilance and shared responsibility.

We believe every student deserves to feel safe, supported and included. Completing this training demonstrates our continued commitment to protecting our students, raising awareness of potentially serious allergic reactions and ensuring that the wellbeing of every member of our school community remains at the heart of everything we do.

Benedict's LAW

Natasha's Foundation
A future without food allergy

Kingsmeadow
Integrity, Resilience, Respect

Festive music showcase

Thursday 10 December 2026
6pm to 7.30pm



Join us for a magical evening of songs and music as we celebrate the joy and spirit of the festive season.

Free admittance

St Nicholas with
Christ Church,
Ellison Road,
Dunston, NE11 9UN

