Kingsmeadow news

Year 10 - 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. Importantly, **for Year 10**, students will be 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.



Hello from Mrs Anderson, Head of Year 10



I am incredibly proud to be the new Head of Year 10 and have been delighted with the positive start students have made to the year. It has been fantastic to see them enjoying their subjects, particularly their new option choices, and embracing the opportunities and challenges that Key Stage 4 brings.

As we look ahead to November, students will be preparing for their first set of Year 10 Key Assessments. These assessments are an important opportunity to demonstrate their learning, identify strengths and highlight areas for further development as they continue working towards their GCSEs.

Preparation is key to success, and I encourage all students to take a proactive approach to revision. This means reviewing class notes regularly, using revision resources provided by teachers, practising exam-style questions and testing their knowledge rather than simply re-reading information.

Breaking revision into manageable sessions and starting early will help students build confidence, strengthen their understanding and avoid leaving preparation until the last minute.

Students should also ask their teachers for help with any topics they find challenging and make sure they are fully equipped and ready for each assessment.

Parents and carers can play a valuable role by encouraging a consistent revision routine, helping students organise their time and recognising the effort they put into their preparation. Developing these independent study habits now will provide a strong foundation for future GCSE success.

I would also like to remind families of the importance of excellent attendance, as every day in school counts towards students' progress, confidence and achievement. It was lovely to meet so many of you at our recent Welcome to Key Stage 4 event, and I look forward to continuing to work closely with families to ensure every student feels supported and able to achieve their potential.

There is already a real buzz around Year 10 work experience later in the year. This will be an exciting opportunity for students to explore future career pathways, develop new skills and gain valuable experiences beyond the classroom.

I look forward to seeing Year 10 continue to work hard, prepare purposefully for their assessments and make the most of every opportunity this important stage of their school journey brings.

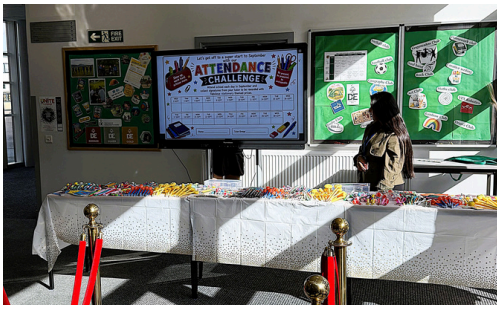


To contact Mrs Anderson please email contactyear10@kingsmeadow.org.uk

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.



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

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

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

Working together to build our Year 10 students' confidence and achieve their full potential

To help recall their learning, we provide our Year 10 students with a list of questions on a range of subjects each week. They are an invaluable revision resource, and we use them in school to ask students some quick-fire questions too.



Parents and carers play an important role in helping students develop effective revision habits and feel confident as they prepare for assessments and examinations. Your encouragement, support and reassurance can make a real difference to your child's progress and motivation.

We encourage all students to take responsibility for their learning and develop the independent study skills they need to succeed.



You can download the weekly list of questions from our website on the Students' Hub section.

Thank you for your continued support in helping your child prepare for success.



Student Ambassadors Assemble!

Our student ambassadors play an important role in making a positive difference across our school and the wider community.

Working alongside our teachers and staff, they champion student voice, wellbeing, inclusion and positive relationships, and their focus demonstrates our values of integrity, resilience and respect in action.

Our ambassadors also have opportunities to develop their confidence and leadership skills through community projects, events and experiences beyond school. From promoting active travel and healthy lifestyles to representing Kingsmeadow in the wider community, they are learning how their ideas and actions can create meaningful change.

Travel and community opportunities give our students the chance to meet new people, experience different environments and develop independence, teamwork and communication skills. These experiences help our ambassadors grow as individuals while strengthening their understanding of their role as positive representatives of our school.

We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, maturity and commitment shown by our student ambassadors and look forward to seeing the positive impact they continue to make.

Wellbeing and Community Ambassadors

Lauren B (7EBk)
Bella A (7MSm)
Masuud B (7MSm)

Millie M (8EBr)
Nethuki W (8EBr)
Oliver L (8AFo)
Scarlett N (8DHa)
Emily H (8DHa)
Avanthika S (8EBr)
Kai C-R (8DHa)

Jewanna H (BCo)
Ayana K (9KSt)
Josephine O (9KSt)
Mateo E (9LMu)
Musiba A (9SRo)

Katie P (10RBe)
Kieron-Lee D (10ASh)
Thasina C (10SDo)
Grace O (10 RBe)

Leadership Ambassdors

Hala M (7LRi)
Maleen S (7EBk)
Ayub A (7EBk)
Rose R (7MSm)

Jack L (8AFo)
Julian W (8JBu)
Lily J (8AFr)
Ellie T (8DHa)
Emily H (8THu)

Michelle O (9CBn)
Ruby Jo W (9CBn)
Jacob H (9LMu)
Olivia B (9BCo)
Lilly S (9CBn)

Isabella P-W (10RBe)
Leen N (10RBe)
Lara K (10DGo)

Travel Ambassadors

Niamh L - Year 8
Emily H - Year 8
Emily H- Year 8
Millie M- Year 8
Oliver L - Year 8
Avanthika S - Year 8
Ruby T - Year 9
Michelle O - Year 9
Jacob H - Year 9
Mateo E- Year 9

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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

