Kingsmeadow news

Year 8 - 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 8 Key Assessments in April

These will inform potential set changes and interventions going into the next year, meaning that the time after Christmas is particularly important as they learn and re-learn the important topics.

After Easter they are preparing for the increased level of work going into the next year up and so every single lesson counts.



Hello from Mr Charlton, Head of Year 8



It has been a real pleasure taking on the role of Head of Year 8 this academic year. The first half term has provided a wonderful opportunity to get to know the students, understand their individual personalities and strengths, and see them settle into the routines and expectations of Year 8.

I have been particularly pleased to see the positive attitude and enthusiasm that many students have demonstrated, both within the classroom and as part of the wider school community. There have already been some fantastic examples of students supporting one another, embracing new challenges and showing pride in their achievements.

As we move into the next half term and beyond, I look forward to continuing to build positive relationships with the students and supporting them in their academic, personal and social development. I am excited to see what the rest of the academic year will bring and hope that Year 8 continue to grow in confidence, resilience and independence.

I am very much looking forward to sharing the rest of the year with them and celebrating their many successes along the way.

To contact Mr Charlton please email contactyear8@kingsmeadow.org.uk



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Our 2026-27 coffee mornings

Join us for coffee, cake and friendly Kingsmeadow conversation

All events 9.15am to 10.15am

Year 7 parents and carers
Friday 23 October 2026

Year 7 parents and carers Christmas coffee and bingo
Friday 11 December 2026

Key Stage 3 parents and carers
Friday 27 November 2027

Year 11 parents and carers
Friday 8 January 2027

All year groups parents and carers
Friday 23 April 2027

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

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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

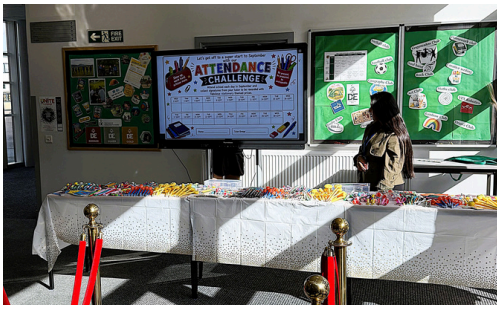
Friday 2 July 2027
9.15am to 10.15am

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

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.

New to rugby, ready to compete: Our Year 8 boys reach the next round

Our Year 8 boys have made us incredibly proud after delivering some epic performances in the inter-school rugby tournament, securing their place in the next round.

What makes this achievement even more impressive is that some of our players had never played rugby before. Their determination, teamwork and willingness to learn have been fantastic to see, demonstrating just how much can be achieved when students embrace new challenges and support one another.

The team has also benefited from expert coaching from Mr Parsons of Newcastle Red Bulls Rugby Foundation – formally Newcastle Falcons, whose guidance and support have helped the boys to develop their skills, confidence and understanding of the game.

We know our parents and carers will join us in celebrating this fantastic achievement. The boys have shown real sporting spirit and have represented our school with pride, proving that hard work, encouragement and a positive team attitude, can lead to remarkable results.

A huge well done to all the boys involved for their outstanding efforts so far. We wish them the very best of luck in the next round and look forward to seeing what they can achieve next!

Come on, Team Kingsmeadow!

Our rugby boys - Connor P, Daniel I, Dwaine D, Elliot D, Hassan A, James D, Jordan B, Logan D, Logan R, Oliver L, Olly G, Shay S and Thamer H.

It's never too early to develop positive study habits

Revision is often associated with GCSEs and examinations, but developing effective revision habits should begin much earlier. For students in Key Stage 3, regular revision is an important part of becoming confident, independent and successful learners.



Years 7, 8 and 9 provide the foundations for the knowledge and skills students will need as they progress into their GCSE courses. Revisiting learning regularly helps students to strengthen their memory, identify any gaps in their understanding and build confidence in what they have learned.

Learning how to organise their time, plan what they need to do and use different revision techniques will become increasingly valuable as they move through school. The earlier students develop effective revision habits, the more confident and prepared they will be for their future learning. That is why we are encouraging our students to revisit their learning throughout Key Stage 3, and helping them to develop the knowledge, confidence, resilience and independent study skills they will need to thrive in Key Stage 4 and beyond.

Parents and carers can play an important role by encouraging regular revision, helping students find a quiet space to work and asking them questions about what they have been learning. You don't need to be an expert in the subject – simply asking your child to explain something they have learned can be a very effective way of helping them recall and understand it. You can also use our Key Stage 3 revision resources that are available to download from our website!



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

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

