

ISSUE

59

OUTDOOR ACTIVITY CENTRE
Summer Trip To Derwent Hill


Kingsmeadow
Inspiring minds

Newsletter

WINTER 2017

CREATIVE ARTS, MORE ABLE, OUTDOOR ACTIVITY CENTRE, L4L, SPANISH...and much more



SPANISH
Newcastle United's Javier Manquillo
Visits The Spanish Department

HEADTEACHER'S INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the 59th edition of the Kingsmeadow Newsletter, but my first as Headteacher of this exciting school. You will notice more from the students in this edition organised into subject areas that the students will recognise. I am always amazed by what the students and staff manage to pack into a term, and although the Autumn term is traditionally the longest in the school year, the amount that has happened in this first term is remarkable.

I am a firm believer in opportunities making the difference. Kingsmeadow offers so many options for students to get involved in exciting activities, both in and out of the classroom. Whether it is the opportunity to deliver a presentation in REAL to the rest of your year group and parents, scaring the public at the Halloween evening at Beamish or representing the school in sport or music, the students at Kingsmeadow have a wealth of opportunities to shine, and they do every time.

January 2018 hails the start of a new term. This will be busy and will be a crucial term for our year 11 students in particular, who are preparing for their GCSE exams in the summer and making decisions about what they are going on to do with their hard earned qualifications. It is a changing environment out there for our young people, and we at Kingsmeadow will be working hard to support each and every student to do their very best in the exams so that they have all that they need for their next step.

My first term has been amazing. I have been impressed by the resilience and strength of the students and community at Kingsmeadow. I look forward to helping the school grow from strength to strength over the coming years, cementing its place as one of the best schools in Gateshead.

I look forward to seeing you all at the numerous events and evenings coming up over the course of the year.



Domenic Volpe, *Headteacher*



KEY DATES NEXT TERM

Year 7 and 8 Student Led Conference
16 and 23 January between 2.00 and 6.00pm

Subject-based Parents' Evening
Year 11 - 6 February between 2.00 and 6.00pm
Year 9 - 13 March between 2.00 and 6.00pm
Year 10 - 24 April between 2.00 and 6.00pm

Key Assessment 2
Year 8 - 29 January - 2 February
Year 9 - 5-9 February
Year 7, 12 and 13 - 19-23 February
Year 10 - 26 February - 9 March
Year 11 - 5-16 March

First written GCSE Exam -
Monday 14 May 2018

Last written GCSE Exam -
Friday, 22 June 2018

Year 10 and 11 BTEC
onscreen tests to be
confirmed throughout the year

SCHOOL CLOSED

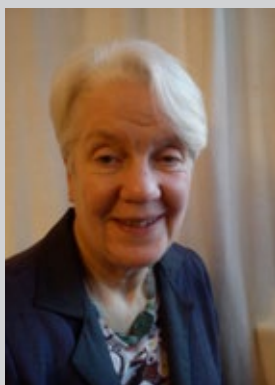
Half term

12 - 16 February

Easter Break

Friday, 30 March -
Friday, 13 April

CHAIR OF GOVERNORS UPDATE



I am writing this at the end of the autumn term, looking back on a busy time for students, staff and governors. Governors have continued to meet and to visit the school on many occasions.

In September we welcomed many newcomers to our excellent school. New students and staff came to us attracted by the school's inclusive and aspirational ethos, superb facilities and many exciting opportunities. The new Headteacher, Mr Domenic Volpe, and the new Deputy Headteacher, Mr Mark Barrett, are owed special thanks for the way they have assumed their new roles and worked

extremely well as a team at the top. It is unusual for both a head and a deputy to be new to a school at the same time, but they have made the transition as smooth as possible and are leading the school forward, building on the past while bringing in their own ideas.

In the first few weeks of term, governors and senior leaders looked at the GCSE and A level results from the summer's exams. Overall we were very pleased with the standards reached and we send belated congratulations to all involved. The school is improving its performance in relation to other secondary schools locally and nationally. The new Headteacher quickly analysed the results and formulated an improvement plan to continue to drive the school's performance upwards across the board. Every school has an improvement plan, designed to make sure resources and actions are in place to secure the best possible outcomes for students. Governors scrutinised the Kingsmeadow improvement plan and will monitor it throughout the school year.

As in all schools, the school budget continues to present challenges for resourcing all that the school would like to do. The Governors' Finance and Staffing Committee met twice during the term to look at the budget and allocation of school funding, and to agree pay increases for teaching staff where these were merited by individual performance by teachers. All performance targets for staff, teaching and non-teaching, are linked to the school improvement plan.

Governors continue to be very mindful of the need to look to the future, particularly to join in partnership with other schools at a time when our excellent local authority is finding it increasingly difficult to fund support for secondary schools. We have spent much time looking at options and as I write we are still waiting to hear from the government as to our chosen way forward. Once we have government approval, we will be consulting widely including with parents. From 2020 the government is introducing a National Funding Formula for schools, designed to iron out differences in school funding in different areas, and we are watching to see how this, alongside the government's commitment to maintaining levels of education funding, will affect Kingsmeadow. Governors will work hard with senior leaders to make sure that the school's special qualities and ethos are not diminished as we go forward.

On behalf of Kingsmeadow's Governing Board, I send my very best wishes for 2018 to you all.

Sarah Diggle *Chair of Governors*

KINGSMEADOW CROWN AWARD

The **Kingsmeadow Crown Award** is an opportunity for us to recognise and celebrate all of the extra-curricular work that our students put into becoming an active part of the school and wider community. It comprises a range of tasks and activities which students can choose to complete over and above their usual lessons. These activities include such things as: taking part in a school show or sporting event; raising money for charity; completing acts of kindness in the local community; being an active member of a school group or club and many more.

All of our year 7 students can work their way through the **Crown Award**, from Bronze to Gold, by completing twelve different activities across three different areas - **Inspiring Minds; Opening Hearts; Transforming Lives**. It is important that they go online and log their achievements as they do them, so that they are not forgotten.

It is expected that it could take students a year or more to complete each stage, meaning that their input is substantial and sustained over time. This makes it a very prestigious award for Kingsmeadow students, as only a few students will progress through all three stages.

As of the beginning of December, we have twenty two year 7 students who have already made a significant start to completing their **Kingsmeadow Crown Award**. Very well done to those of you who have! I would like to see many, many more of you year 7 students start the award, and urge all of you to go on-line, click the link and enter details of what you have already done towards the award.

Mr Barrett *Deputy Headteacher*





Jade Vickers receives her Headteacher's Award from the Mayor of Gateshead

ACADEMIC AWARDS EVENING 2016-2017

Celebrating our students' achievements is one of the most important, and one of the most rewarding, things we do at Kingsmeadow. Our **Academic Awards Evening** is the biggest and most exciting of our wide range of celebration events and activities. It celebrates the efforts, resilience and achievements of our students for the whole preceding year and is a great opportunity for us to publicly recognise the hard work that our students put into their studies at Kingsmeadow.

The hall was beautifully presented, with table decorations and festive lighting. A buffet and refreshments welcomed our guests which included students, their families, school staff, governors and the Worshipful Mayor of Gateshead, Councillor Pauline Dillon.

The award-winners included existing key-stage 3, key-stage 4 and sixth-form students, as well as rewarding those who left in the summer. It is important to Kingsmeadow that students are rewarded for their efforts, not just results. Therefore, our existing students had been nominated for their awards, by their teachers, based on effort and resilience. Similarly, our leaving students were nominated not only for their results, but also for the effort that they put in to achieve those results. Student award-winners received a Kingsmeadow certificate, and those who attended the evening also received an intu Metro Centre voucher.

The night was made all the more special by the members of the two school bands, who entertained us with wonderful musical performances. The year 11 school band and the Kingsmeadow steel pans band both performed beautifully and were a credit to the school.

None of the students receiving awards knew beforehand what they were receiving their award for - leading to some whoops of excitement and gasps of astonishment as winners were announced. We cannot list all award-winners here - but must acknowledge the winner of the prestigious **Headteacher's Award: Jade Vickers**. Her work ethic, excellent attendance, commitment to school teams and extracurricular events and learning make her a role-model for future students and a worthy winner of the award.

A huge thank you too all of the staff and students who worked hard to make the evening possible - and very well done to all award winners.



Bands performing at the Kingsmeadow Awards Evening

KINGSMEADOW FM

KINGSMEADOW FM is the school's very own radio station which broadcasts information for students. Tune in on Friday mornings for a round-up of the week's information as well as a look ahead to forthcoming events. There are also other occasional broadcasts including those from our Culture Club as well as extracts from English's book of the week.



YOU CAN LISTEN TO KINGSMEADOW FM VIA THE SCHOOL WEBSITE www.kingsmeadow.org.uk

BTEC BUSINESS

MY DAY WITH 'FUTURE ME' By Odin Winter

For some time, I have been undecided about what I would like to do with my life once I leave Sixth Form. To give year 13 business students a better insight into what higher education and apprenticeships offered, Mr Dunlop arranged a visit to St James' Park, for a day of inspiration and positivity.

David Hodgson did a presentation on how we can be more confident with ourselves so that we can get more out of life and how to look at what options are available for us as individuals.

We took part in various workshops which had members from different universities in the UK talking about higher education, as well as NCS giving insights into apprenticeships and what makes a good CV.

It was very inspirational to meet Chris Cook a former Olympic swimmer who discussed how we can strive for success and to be 'you' as an individual.

Overall, it was a very inspirational and informative day.





CREATIVE CEA

Music Update

Music got off to a great start in the Autumn term with a brand-new programme of extra-curricular activities and instrumental and singing lessons.

Miss Tindall implemented the new programme of free after-school activities, which means students can improve their musicianship and gain valuable performance opportunities.

The timetable is:

- **Monday - Youth Theatre**
- **Tuesday - Djembe Group**
- **Wednesday - Steel Pans**
- **Thursday - Rock School**
- **Friday - Choir**

All of these groups rehearse weekly and have been hard at work rehearsing for the **Christmas Concert**, as well as other performances such as **World Voice**, **St Nicholas' Church Service**, **Awards Evening** and a **senior citizens' Christmas party**.

An integral part of the Music Department are the instrumental and singing lessons which take place during the day every week. Did you know that over **10% of the all of the students at Kingsmeadow participate** in these and we offer lessons in: piano, singing, guitar, drum kit, saxophone, bass guitar, flute and clarinet. Students taking these lessons have already seen a significant increase in their overall music attainment as well as developing a love for singing and playing their instrument.

Music World Voice

In October, Kingsmeadow School hosted a singing afternoon called **'World Voice'** which showcased the international singing that we and other schools in the cluster had been learning about.

Organised by Gateshead Music Service, The Sage and The British Council, a vocal leader from Kenya and another from Columbia came to work with Gateshead schools. Their purpose was to learn about how Music is taught here, and to impart their own knowledge of singing to us.

Kingsmeadow Choir and Youth Theatre Group learned some songs from the Columbian vocal leader and showcased them alongside Lobley Hill Primary, Dunston Hill Primary, Cedars School and Caedmon Primary.

AND

EXPRESSIVE ARTS



BTEC Level Three Performing Arts - Drama

Our Sixth Form Performing Arts students took part in the annual **Halloween Spectacular** at Beamish Museum on Tuesday, 31st October 2017.

They were in character and frightened over 2,500 people who had bought tickets to experience the chilling events in this amazing venue.

Students took part in the “**Forest of the lost Soul**” and created fear and tension in the “**Trick or Treat**” experience in Old Beamish Town. Students enjoyed the fun of the experience, although they realised that the world of work is demanding and challenging, and employers have high expectations of you.

This experience is part of the students' performance development and links to careers within the Creative Arts Industry.

We feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to collaborate with Beamish and work as a professional Theatre Company, whilst gaining valuable experience. Beamish were so impressed with our students and their professional attitude, we have now secured a three week project, collaborating with Beamish, creating and devising a production based on ‘**A Christmas Carol**’. Students will be performing through December as part of the museums Christmas ticketed events.



ENGLISH

Seven Stories English Visit

Year 8 students recently had the fantastic opportunity to visit and take part in the **Seven Stories** comic book exhibition. Students were inspired by the eclectic mix of original comic art, which featured everything from Desperate Dan to Wonder Woman. Students were fortunate enough to examine the work of British artist Ian Churchill, and current comic creators Kate Brown and Jamie Smart.

Students were then able to use this inspirational exhibition to explore the creative process of a comic genius, and produce their own comic book masterpieces.



Creative Writing Club

Year 7 have been participating in creative writing club this term! Every Thursday students come along to English, and let their ideas take flight, creating magical stories and fantastic descriptions.

The group are working hard to produce their own portfolio of amazing work which will eventually be shared with the rest of the school.

Below is an outstanding example by, **Michaela Cowes** and **Erin Reynolds**:

“ The stormy night gathered in as the man sat on the memorable bench. Waiting... In the night sky, snowflakes danced like ballerinas across a dark blue stage. As the church bells rang, the man’s tears faded and a small toothless smile appeared across his face. He breathed, an icy breath swirled around him.

Slowly, footsteps could be heard crunching like dry leaves across the swamped frozen green grass. A mist of light could be seen, glaring into the man’s wide eyes. They had arrived... ”

ENGLISH





KINGSMEADOW FOOTBALL ACADEMY

2016-17 was an excellent year for Kingsmeadow Football Academy. In September we were joined by 30 new year 7 recruits and we are looking forward to another successful year.

We have developed positive partnerships with **NIKE** and **Inspiresport**. NIKE supply our kit, and Inspiresport are also our Official Kit Sponsor through to 2019, as well as travelling with them each year to Barcelona and Valencia on warm weather training camps.



There have been some great individual performances within the Academy so far this academic year, with the year 7 squads reaching the last 32 of the National Cup competitions. The year 8 group have welcomed two additional players, who transferred from out of the area schools, showing recognition of the progression of the Academy in such a short period of time.

The philosophy we have set out within the **KFA** is for the basis of hard work, discipline, individual and team creativity within a professional environment. We encourage players to listen, learn and develop experience in making their own decisions when on and off the pitch. We believe this will stand them in good stead in the future with potential opportunities as a player and as a student.

We are confident that both year 7 and 8 Academy players will do their best to succeed within the Academy again this year.

Well done to everyone involved.

Ross McKay, Academy Manager

LEARNING FOR LIFE DAY (L4L)

Our Learning for Life days continue to inspire and educate our students here at Kingsmeadow, with each student following an alternative programme of learning from their usual school day. Each 'L4L Day' is an invaluable opportunity to teach our students vital parts of the curriculum, such as Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE), Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), Careers, Information, Advice and Guidance (CIAG) and Citizenship (including British Values).

During the course of our first L4L day of the new academic year students took part in a wide range of activities including yoga, Djembe drumming and health and fitness training. As always, the theme of staying safe played a big part in the day, with students learning about vital issues such as drug and alcohol education and mental health awareness.

The second L4L day continued the theme of staying safe with activities taking place for our key stage 4 students concerning health and staying safe. Our year 7 students took part in a full day session based on Remembrance Day, they learned about the significance of the cross, the poppy and the cenotaph and about war veterans in the community. They also had the opportunity to write their own war poetry.

As always, our students showed a huge amount of interest and enthusiasm for the alternative learning taking place, staff should also be commended for all of their hard work in making the days such a success.



MATHS

Mangahigh Competition

During the summer term of 2017, Year 7 and 8 students took part in an online competition called '**Boss of the North**' on an online site called Mangahigh. The aim of the competition was to complete as many Maths games and tasks as possible and score points by achieving a bronze, silver or gold award.

The students were able to compete against other students in Kingsmeadow as well as other students from schools across the north. We had 7 students achieve over 150 points each. For this they were each awarded a **Mangahigh Medal**.

Well done to Darienne Thompson, Paul Mitchell, Katie Harbertson, Skye Forster, Joe Wright, Anton Gilbert and Megan-Jo Hannon.



National Cipher Challenge 2017

A small group of our more able Year 7 and 8 have been invited to take part in the National Cipher Challenge 2017 ran by Southampton University. Each week they are asked to decrypt two ciphers, one relatively easy and the second a lot more challenging, and submit their answers to score points as individuals and as a team entry.

The winners, both male and female individual and team entries, have the opportunity to win £1000 first prize and £800 runner up prize. There will be a prize giving ceremony in Spring.

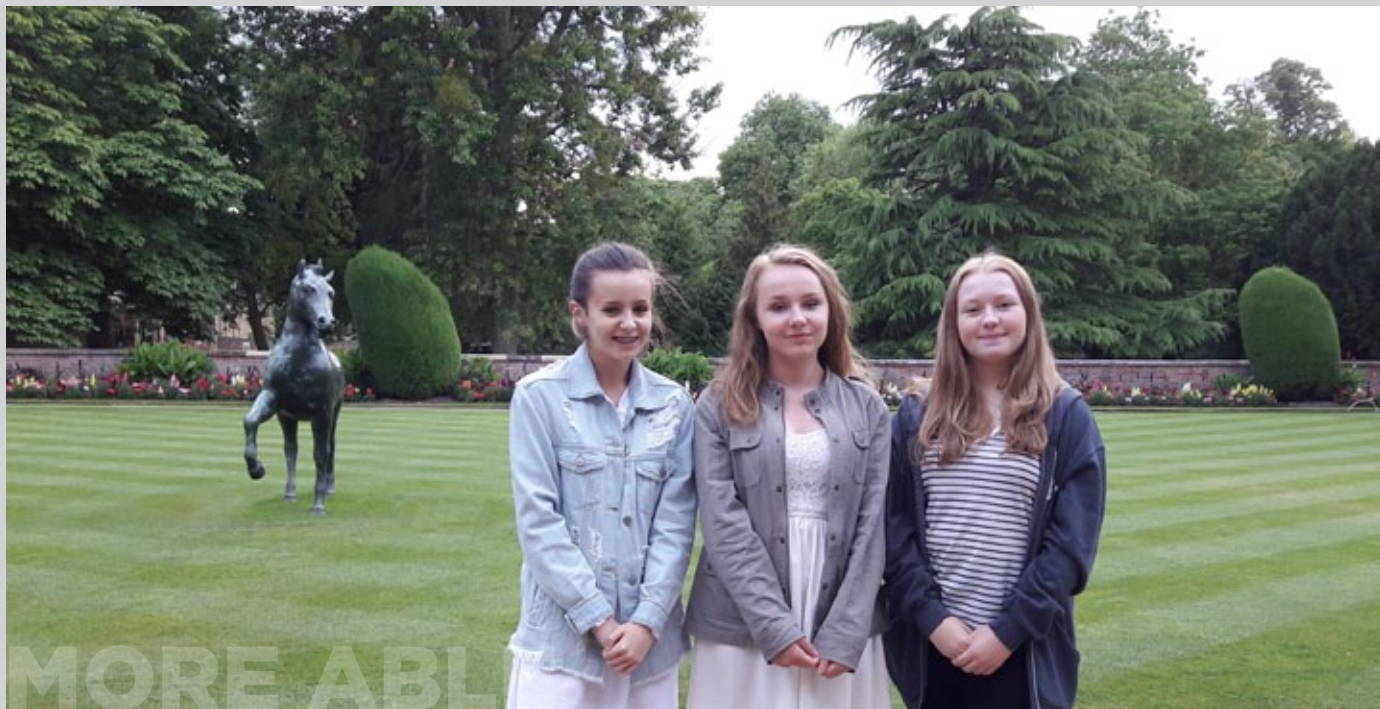
So far the students have cracked Caesar shift ciphers, Transposition ciphers, Polybius ciphers and Vigenere ciphers.



Our students are stretched and challenged across the curriculum and we aim to embed a love of learning for all. Additionally, students identified as More Able can access weekly tutor time masterclasses and mentoring during which time academic theories/skills, cultural experiences and university/careers pathways are explored. Furthermore, **Culture Club** is offered to **KS3** students as an Active Tuesday activity to encourage them to increase their cultural capital. **KS4** and 5 students are also invited to take part in book club, the Northumbria University mentoring scheme and various extra curricular activities as they become available.

At the end of last term this included a residential visit to Cambridge University for **Year 10 students**, an HE discussion group, the Mathspllosion event for Year 9 and a Maths Feast! In addition, a selection of students were nominated by their primary schools to attend stretch and challenge events here at Kingsmeadow, culminating in a hugely enjoyable gifted and talented awards evening in June.

MORE ABLE



November 2017

Our first Culture Club trip of the year took place on Tuesday 28th November, with students having the wonderful opportunity of visiting Newcastle Castle to enhance their research into Gothic literature.

David Silk, the Learning Officer at Newcastle Castle, took the students on a full tour of the keep, entertaining them with a creepy reading from a piece of classic Gothic literature in each room. He revealed different aspects of the Gothic tradition, and shared a couple of the more grisly stories from the history of the castle.



"I loved the adrenalin rush while the person was reading the stories" *K Dickson*

"Great! I loved it! The gruesome history interested me" *R Lee*

"I liked the Gothic architecture of the building and when we were on the roof" *G Sutton*

"I learned what hung, drawn and quartered meant" *J Rowell*

"I enjoyed the view from the roof of the castle most as it was quite a breathtaking sight" *T Atkinson*





OUTDOOR ACTIVITY CENTRE

Summer Trip To Derwent Hill

During the final week of the summer term 20 students made their way to Keswick in the Lake District to attend **Derwent Hill** outdoor activity centre. The students spent five days taking part in numerous activities such as: kayaking, gorge walking and cliff jumping. All the activities involved team work, where our students excelled at helping each other through very difficult challenges.

Everyone, including Miss Slater and Mr Overend, were brave enough to push themselves into completing tasks they did not initially think were possible and should all be proud of what they accomplished.

There are still a few spaces left on the **Derwent Hill** trip this summer. If you are interested please see Miss Slater (room 31) for a letter.



PE UPDATE

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Early morning sports clubs run every day from 7.45am and after school clubs continue to be a success. Please check out the PE notice boards for more details.

Netball

Year 7-11 Netball Teams are entered in the Gateshead Schools League. Year 11 are also entered in the Tyne and Wear League. Year 8 competed in the first round of their CVL at Lord Lawson where they were victorious over Cardinal Hume winning 4-2. Some of our year 7 and 8 girls are members of the Stadium Netball Club which runs at Kingsmeadow every Tuesday evening.

Gymnastics Club

Gymnastics Club continues every Friday evening. Training is well under way in preparation for Gateshead Schools' Gymnastics Festival.

Basketball

Many year 7, 8 and 9 students attend Basketball Club on a Monday night. They are working hard in preparation for Gateshead Schools Central Venue League.

Badminton Club

Gateshead Badminton Club runs at Kingsmeadow on a Sunday morning, our students have the opportunity to attend this club at a cost of £1 per session.



Rugby

Rugby coaching from Gateshead Fell Rugby Club coaches continues on a Monday and Wednesday after school. Five of our students also play for Gateshead Fell Rugby Club, they train during the week and play on a Sunday. A huge thank you to Dale Costello and Fred Dunlop for their support with the coaching.



Boys Football

- Year 9 boys continue to show great spirit despite a disappointing start in the league.
- Year 10 boys have played three games this year, beating last season's league champions 3 - 2 in their first game before drawing with Whickham and losing to Thorpe. The boys are still in with a chance of winning the league if results remain positive.
- Year 11 boys were successful in getting a squad together for the first time since year 8. Despite losing to Joseph Swan the boys demonstrated a great attitude.
- Year 7 and 9 are entered into the Gateshead schools futsal competitions to be played this half term.

Gateshead Schools Cross Country Championships

32 Kingsmeadow students competed at Gateshead Schools Cross Country Championships at Watergate Park. Students from across all 8 Gateshead schools took part in the challenge to qualify for the next round. Our year 7, 8 and 9 students demonstrated some great performances on a tough course. Congratulations to Elif Celikay in year 7 on finishing 7th and qualifying to represent Gateshead in the County Championships in January.

Year 9/10 Sports Hall Athletics Championships

Students from year 9 and 10 competed in the Gateshead Schools Indoor Sports Hall Athletics Championships in November. All students were a credit to the school with many students achieving their personal best in running, jumping and throwing events. Exceptional performances came from the year 10 boys' team who were pipped at the post and finished 2nd by 10 points but still qualify to represent Gateshead in the County Competition in January. Well done and good luck.

Gateshead Schools Leadership Summit 2017

Twenty year 7 and 8 students joined students from across Gateshead at Gateshead Leisure Centre to learn how to be an effective sports leader. We have many students who dedicate their time to help and support with our cluster primary sporting events.

The day allowed students to mix with students from other schools, working as part of a team to complete challenges, taking on different roles as part of teams outside of their friendship groups and learning in a positive, fun learning environment. Being involved in the leadership summit allowed students to develop vital skills necessary for being a successful leader.



PE Cluster Update

It has been a very busy term for the PE Cluster:-

• 9th October

60 students from Dunston Hill took part in a 'High 5 Tournament'.

• 16th October

Mr Bolam held a Tag Rugby master class with the help of some year 9 sports leaders.

• 20th October

A Sports Leadership course took place to train year 5 students to become playground leaders and organise games in their yard at lunchtime. Year 13 sport students ran the course.

• 13th November

Dunston Hill, Lobley Hill and St Aidan's took part in 'The Sportshall Athletics'. Dunston Hill won and went on to represent Kingsmeadow at the Gateshead Finals.

- The term of events finished with 142 of our cluster year 2 students completing a circuit of gymnastics skills.



A Real Immersion Trip To A Real Prisoner Of War Camp

On 7th June, our 'REAL' students were given the opportunity to participate in a thought-provoking educational visit to **Eden Camp**, North Yorkshire, as an immersion event to form part of our third project of the year.

Eden Camp is holder of both the English and Yorkshire Tourist Boards Attraction of the Year Awards with its immersive displays that bring history to life. Housed in an original Prisoner of War Camp, the visit to this unique, award-winning museum transported our young people back in time to wartime Britain. The students experienced the sights and sounds and even the smells of the 'Home Front' and 'Front Line' in a series of expertly recreated scenes and even included a visit to the 1940s music hall to enjoy a puppet show and listen to the music from **Dame Vera Lynn**, **George Formby** and **Gracie Fields**. The experiences gained from the trip will be used to inspire and evoke further learning of WWII, evacuees and how communities came together to keep up morale in times of difficulty.



A 'Real' Exhibition Of Learning To Promote Community Cohesion

On 29th June our hall was transformed into a 1940s afternoon tea dance. Our '**Then and Now**' event saw a mixture of senior citizens from our local area and school governors from both Kingsmeadow and Dunston Hill being entertained by our students, as they were taken on a whistle stop tour of WWII in a morale boosting and uplifting way. The '**REAL**' staff worked tirelessly along with the school caretakers to transform the hall and set up an authentic afternoon tea with triangle sandwiches, fresh cream scones and a selection of cakes and pastries all served on, vintage china. They also had either tea or coffee which was kindly donated by Simon Musgrave from local business Ringtons Tea Merchants. Our students (dressed as WWII evacuees) then entertained our guests with their learning through the mediums of song and dance. The REAL staff were all dressed in 1940s fashion and our drama teacher Miss Pirie wowed with her WWII songbook medley, singing classics from Dame Vera Lynn and The Andrews Sisters. Our guests received gifts of foot warmers and a Ringtons' sample pack.

REAL



A Real Celebration Of Progress And Achievement

On Tuesday 11th July, our year 7 class of 2017 attended our annual REAL Graduation ceremony where students received Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum awards, based on our 'Mastery Model' for assessment. The awards were for their demonstration of our 6 character traits; Respect, Courage, Compassion, Integrity, Pride and Quality and for their progress and achievements in digital literacy. There was also a special award for Danika-Lee Scott and Elisha Manning who were both given a Metrocentre voucher. Danika-Lee was nominated by her teachers for always demonstrating all of our 6 character traits and Elisha received hers for scoring top marks in the digital literacy assessment.

All of our students left the ceremony with a graduation scroll containing an inspirational quote relating to our character traits.

A Real Transition Immersion Event

The REAL team played a big part in transition week, welcoming our new year 7 students to be given a flavour of what it is like to be a Kingsmeadow student. Students took part in many **'team building'** activities, including orienteering, which were planned to introduce and begin to embed our six character traits.



UPDATE



A Real Response To Poverty

As part of their current project with the driving question **'Does chocolate have any virtues?'** our year 8 students have been learning about poverty around the world and how Christian charities respond to poverty. They have studied a charity called The Samaritan's Purse who organise **'Operation Christmas Child'**, this involves sending a wrapped shoebox full of new **'gifts'** to a child in a country who, as a result of poverty, would not receive a gift this Christmas. Our REAL year 8 students responded to this by each class donating gifts or postage money and putting together a shoebox for the appeal. Miss Harris took all 6 boxes to a drop off point in the Metrocentre and our students all went home with a feeling of pride knowing they'd all been responsible for making a child smile this Christmas.

Does Chocolate Have Any Virtues? A Tasty Immersion!

Our year 8 students began their first project of the year with an immersion event that included some blind chocolate tasting. Students needed to taste the different chocolate on offer then write a description and prediction of what it was. Many were pleasantly surprised with some flavours but very few enjoyed the chocolate that was infused with chilli! This immersion activity was just one of many which was aimed at hooking and engaging the students immediately ready for some REAL learning about poverty across the world, the industrial revolution, Christianity and charity and reading the novel **'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'**.

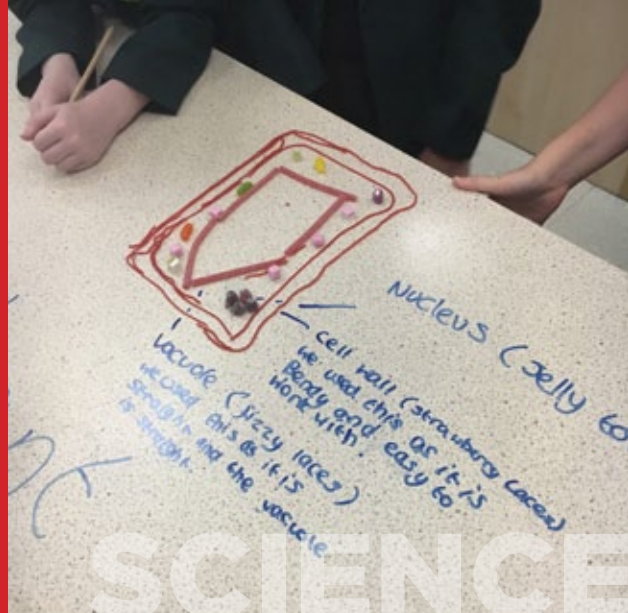
A Real Chocolate Factory Visit!

At the beginning of November a group of year 8 Extended Study competition winners, in REAL, received **Golden Tickets** in their winning chocolate bars. They enjoyed a great visit to Davenport's Chocolate Factory in Pelaw where they were treated to demonstrations of chocolate making, as well as being given the opportunity to try different flavours before making their own chocolate lollipop. Hard work on their extended study project certainly paid off for them all as they got yet another taste of **'REAL life'** learning!

SCIENCE

Year 7 Science

As part of our Science curriculum in year 7 students have to learn all about the topic Cells. Students have spent the first few weeks of term learning all about the differences between plant and animal cells. One Science skill that students are taught about is modelling information they have learnt in order to show and develop their understanding. 7X1 were asked by Mr Rippon to use different sweets to create a model of the cell. They had to consider what they knew about each part of the cell and choose an appropriate sweet to model it. They then had to justify why they chose that particular sweet in their models. The students produced some fantastic models as part of their lesson.



SPANISH

Fiesta Nacional De España

Thursday 12th October was the official **Day of Spain** or **Fiesta Nacional** and to celebrate this our students enjoyed a number of Spanish activities and delights.

All registers throughout the day were answered in Spanish and students were encouraged to speak in Spanish whenever possible. Students were also treated to a delicious Spanish themed menu at lunchtime and even ordered their food in the Spanish!

During tutor time students attempted some Spanish tongue twisters and listened to Spanish pop music. ¡Un día fantástico!



Newcastle United's Javier Manquillo Visits The Spanish Department

Kingsmeadow students welcomed Newcastle United professional footballer **Javier Manquillo** and his twin brother **Victor Manquillo**, who plays for Ashington, into one of their Spanish lessons. Students quizzed Javier and Victor with 60 questions which were spoken in both Spanish and English. The session allowed students to practise their Spanish in a real life situation and be inspired by a very successful young player.

Javier said that he loves being in the North East because the people here are so friendly. He said he believes Newcastle United fans are some of the best in the world.

The players were very generous with their time and allowed students to get autographs and pictures with them. The Times newspaper also covered the players visit. We hope events like this will encourage our students to continue with their commitment and passion for Spanish well into the future.



Bring It On

Recently, 14 year 10 students attended the 'Bring it On!' engineering event at the Stadium of Light. The students started the day watching explosive and fascinating science experiments by Dr Bunhead. After an exciting start, the students then spent the rest of the day learning about the different areas of engineering, from digital to subsea, where they could try out experiments and engineering tasks themselves.

The students took the opportunity to talk to many different people who work for companies in the north east to find out about the potential routes into a career in engineering, ranging from apprenticeships to graduate programmes.

All the students left the event with more knowledge about the vast possibilities a career in engineering can offer and were all discussing what they would like to do in the future.

STEM

(Science, Technology, Engineering And Mathematics)



Years 7 And 8 Create Big Ideas



On Monday 11th December 90 students in years 7 and 8 had the opportunity to work with the organisation 'Solutions to the Planet'. The students were initially introduced to 7 visitors who work in different STEM industries involved in environmental improvements. They then spent the day discussing different problems our planet faces and developing their own solution for an issue that was important to them.

Alex, Robert, Ricky, Martin, Thomas and Shae discussed the issue of deforestation. **"Our solution is to ban building developments on new land and build on old land instead where there are unused buildings. We found the day fun, interesting and new."**

Amy, Fay, Katie, Skye and Megan-Jo discussed the issue of pollution in the atmosphere. "Our solution is to send a massive vacuum into the earth's atmosphere to suck up all the pollution and replace it with healthy oxygen. Our thoughts about the day was that it was a good experience to learn about the opportunities within STEM subjects. Our favourite part was when we got to design our logo."

At the end of the session the students were very brave and presented their ideas to everyone involved in the day. The visitors delivering the event were very impressed with the work produced and did not hesitate to tell us:

"Your students were fantastic, their ideas were really varied and they produced such high quality work throughout the day. I must also add that they are a real credit to the school in terms of their behaviour, we all had a really great day and hope that you did too."

The teams will now further develop their ideas to be entered into a nationwide competition. Previously, students from Kingsmeadow School have made it to the final of the competition at Westminster Palace. Hopefully, this year we will win!



TRAVEL AND TOURISM

Visit To Newcastle

As part of our Travel and Tourism curriculum we organised a visit to Newcastle City Centre. The students had a tour and talk at **Newcastle Keep** to inform them about the history of the building and how they market and promote the venue. Our students really enjoyed the experience and took part whole heartedly in all of the activities - even being put in the stocks!

We then had lunch in a local Italian restaurant where students ordered their own food and discussed how they would review the restaurant.

Finally we had a trip to **The Cycle Hub** (a bike friendly independent café) for a talk on specialist tourism from Lizzie at Skedaddle Holidays. The students asked insightful questions and listened carefully to help them with their upcoming exam.

We finished with cookies and muffins thanks to the generosity of **The Cycle Hub**.

Students were at all times polite and a credit to the school.



WELLBEING

Wellbeing is defined as the state of being comfortable, healthy and happy. Therefore, this is a great topic to introduce to students who often become stressed over work and trivial aspects of their life in a way that can make them feel uncomfortable or unhappy. This can be solved with the practise of mindfulness in which you take a small amount of time out of your day in order to live in the moment. This can be completed in multiple ways: breathing exercises, being aware of your surroundings, colour therapy, meditation and many more exercises. Due to the benefits of this practice, it is great for students and teachers alike, to take time out of their day to be mindful.

Wellbeing Week, allows for the opportunity to experience this mindful approach to life, with mindfulness taster lessons and other events that can help you become mentally and physically happy and comfortable, such as coffee mornings, healthy eating mornings, exercise classes and book club. We have now completed two Wellbeing Weeks with students and staff contributing time, effort and money (cakes and charitable donations to **Macmillan Cancer Care** and **Mencap**) to improve their general wellbeing.

Book Club allows for students and staff to group together and share their love for literature. Every Wellbeing Week they band together to choose which piece of literature they will read next. This allows for engagement with worlds that they have never before visited or stories that evoke emotion on every page. This is linked to mindfulness as it is allowing the brain to live in the present as you read your book and it can help improve intellect and love for reading. On the following Wellbeing Week the club gathers to share their opinions on the book vote on what to read next. As an attendee of **Book Club**, I can say that personally, I am really enjoying the literature that is being chosen and the atmosphere allows for a feeling of happiness and togetherness as you share your thoughts on what you liked or disliked about the book. It helps create a place where those who love literature can continue that love, but it also allows for those who have an interest and want to further develop their reading skills to do so, too.



Current staff book club selection
- **A Thousand Splendid Suns** by Khalid Hosseini

Current student book club selection
- **Looking for Alaska** by John Green

Alban Morina, Year 12

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Every School Day Counts

Encouraging regular school attendance is one of the most powerful ways you can prepare your child for success—both in school and in life. When you make school attendance a priority, you help your child get better grades, develop healthy life habits, avoid dangerous behaviour and have a better chance in the future

365 DAYS IN A YEAR	190 SCHOOL DAYS IN TOTAL	ABSENCE
100% attendance	190 days attendance	0
95% attendance	180 days attendance	2 weeks absence
90% attendance	171 days attendance	4 weeks absence (approx)
85% attendance	161 days attendance	6 weeks absence
80% attendance	152 days attendance	More than half a term absence
75% attendance	143 days attendance	9+ weeks absence

As few as
19 MISSED DAYS
over the school year
reduces a student's
chances of
success.

GCSE
results could
DROP BY
ONE GRADE
across
ALL SUBJECTS!

LATENESS	LOST LEARNING
5 mins late each day	3 days lost!
10 mins late each day	3 days lost!
15 mins late each day	3 days lost!
20 mins late each day	3 days lost!
30 mins late each day	3 days lost!

Attendance Challenge Winner's

Congratulations to all our winners of this terms
Attendance Challenge

1ST PRIZE

Family Christmas Hamper
Hud Collace – Year 7

2ND PRIZE

Amazon Echo Dot
Eleanor Robson – Year 9

3RD PRIZE

Virtual Reality Glasses
Aaron Brooksbank - Year 10

SPOT PRIZE winners awarded during
the Christmas Assemblies

Year 7 - Brogan Keenan and Hannah Hunter

Year 8 - Poppy Thompson and Ewan Malone

Year 9 - Billy Lawrence and Keros Lizinde

Year 10 - Jack Kelly and Aimee Scott

Year 11 - Shannon Davison and Abbie Quinn

CONGRATULATIONS TO 11G,

Mr Lennox group on winning the
Tutor Group Attendance Challenge this Term.
Tutor group was awarded with Pappa Johns Pizza's for lunch



100% ATTENDERS FOR AUTUMN TERM 2017

YEAR 7

Morris, Lennon	7S
Hart, Ruth	7S
Wildish, Karlie	7S
Lawson, Ebony	7S
Ceron-Ellison, Antonio	7S
Cummings, Nathan	7S
Dixon, Amelia	7N
Blench, Jenny	7N
Langstaff, Matthew	7N
Wilson, Jake	7N
Black, Ryan	7N
Temple, Aimee	7N
Kindred, Olivia	7N
Donmall, Bradley	7N
Frost, Taylor	7N
Fagan, Steven	7M
Edgar, Alex	7M
Smith, Jessica	7M
Vowles, Oliver	7M
O'Hagan, Abbey	7M
Rowell, Joshua	7M
Robson, Morgan	7M
Pattinson, Abbie	7M
Celikay, Elif	7M
Dunn, Daniel	7M
Gray, Naomi	7K
Joicey, Brad-Lee	7K
Thompson, Kiera	7K
Clay, Jack	7K
McNichol, Amelia	7K
Morris, Jack	7K
Harm, Phillipa	7K
Caisley, Tilly	7K
Mulholland, Jake	7K
Agbaje, Gbolahan	7K
Godina, Edward	7K
Atkinson, Nathan	7I
Gibson, Jake	7I
Harvey, Charlie	7I
Norton, Samuel	7I
Kane, Scott	7I
Carroll, Charlie	7G
Rowan, Jack	7G
Reynolds, Erin	7G
Liddle, Jessica	7G
Meek, Jake	7G
Franco, Perla	7G
Hazon, Bailey	7G
Tose, Mark	7G
Gardner, Holly	7E
Hunter, Hannah	7E
Pearreth, Megan	7E
Potts, Emily	7E
Sutton, Grace	7E
Hamaraza, Karo	7E
Williams, Alicia	7E
Gao, Ling	7E

YEAR 8

Pownceby, Chantelle	8S
Yeaman, Benjamin	8S
Magassouba, Mama	8S
Chatto, Lacey	8S
Harm, James	8S
Stevens, Jack	8N
Thackray, Camereon	8N
Dickinson, Josh	8N
Joicey, Martin	8N
Burn, Harvey	8M
Hall, Liam	8M
Rose, Amy	8M
Hassan, Sarah	8M
Malone, Ewan	8M
Cook, Mayci	8M
Darling, Fay	8K
Harbertson, Katie	8K
Mitchell, Paul	8K
Smith, Courtney	8K
Thompson, Poppy	8K
Kingham, Joshua	8K
Clarkson, Lewis	8K
Gibson, Joshua	8I
Morris, Amy	8I
Iyiguven, Hazal	8I
Winn, Tony	8I
Clowes, Leon	8I
Toward, Thomas	8I
Erkasap, Esra	8I
Richardson, Lewis	8I
Murray, Paige	8G
Maughan, Nathan	8G
McKay, Ricky	8G
Borley, Rhiannon	8G
Wiggins, Leah	8G
Dickson, Alexander	8G
Appleby, John	8G
Casson, Matthew	8G
Temple, Lauren	8G

YEAR 9

Snee, Alice	9S
Tucker, Harry	9S
Stephenson, Charlotte	9S
Sewell, Lewis	9S
Hughes, Caitlyn	9S
McCullough, Ethan	9S
Robinson, Amy	9S
Azimi, Mohammad	9S
Laidlaw, Jessica	9N
Lane, Katie	9N
Rocks, Matthew	9N
Earl, Shauna	9N
Alexander, Kieron	9N
Webster, Hollie	9N
Lizinde, Keros	9M
Starling, Madison	9M
Hodgson, George	9M
James, Daisy	9M
Treanor, Nathan	9M
Johnson, Luis	9M
Patrascu, Adriana-Magdalena	9M
Shalgosky, Leo	9K
Wood, Bailey	9K
Hudspith, Tom	9I
Hedley, Reece	9I
Robson, Luke	9I
Dial, Jessica	9I
Boyle, Ryan	9I
Brown, Hayden	9G
Hedley, Alice	9G

YEAR 10

Scott, Chloe	10S
Bastos, Christina	10N
Pharoah, Ryan	10N
Smith, Lewis	10N
Jobling, John	10N
Johnson, Jessica	10M
Potts, Cameron	10M
Stewart, Joshua	10M
Lazenby, Matthew	10M
Slater, Beth	10M
McFadyen, Shannon	10M
Sibanda, Mongezi	10M
Mitchell, Tamsin	10M
Brooksbank, Aaron	10K
Wilson, Jasmine	10K
Choudhury, Nahima	10K
Young, Harvey	10K
Cousins, Jason	10K
Starling, Callum	10K
Stephenson, Sophie	10K
Mason, Cameron	10I
Papong, Loraine	10I
Scott, Amie	10I
Thompson, Daniel	10I
Tunstall, Cameron	10I
Richardson, Dylan	10I
Gill, Ryan	10G
Moore, Dillon	10G
Mason, Hannah	10G

YEAR 11

Malia, Ben	11S
Cass, Abigail	11S
Cowley, Olivia	11S
Harm, Jessica	11S
Coleman, Leo	11S
McNichol, Matthew	11N
Crighton, Nikita	11N
Graham, Jazzmin	11N
Spoor, Holly	11N
Marshall, Leah	11K
Moran, Charlotte	11K
Guest, Kaitlyn	11K
Breen, Kaytie	11K
Robinson, Thomas	11K
Swinney, James	11K
Choga, Brian	11K
Azimi, Nvar	11K
Smith, Hollie	11I
Trotter, Jason	11I
Graham, Leia	11I
Duggan, Dylan	11I
Melville, Ben	11G
Svotwa, Blessings	11G
Winn, Sophie	11G
Hughes, Joshua	11G
Davison, Shannon	11G
Quinn, Abbie	11G
Wales, Charlotte	11G
Dodds, Isabella	11G
Rickerby, Katie	11G

First Day Absence

Kingsmeadow School recognises that there is a strong link between achievement in school and good attendance; because of this we operate a first day response to absence.

If your child needs to be absent, could you please contact school on the first morning of the absence and explain the reason for absence. When reporting school absences please contact Kingsmeadow School on telephone number 0191 4606004 and press option 2 (to report an absence).

If your child is going to be absent for more than one day it is important that you keep daily contact with the school and when your child returns to school, please ensure that you sign their diary or send in a signed and dated note giving a reason for their absence.

If school do not hear from you then you will be contacted either by telephone or text message during the school day or by letter. If you have recently changed your contact details it is important that you inform school of any changes in cases of an emergency.