

ISSUE

63

GEOGRAPHY TRIP
Iceland February 2019




Kingsmeadow
Inspiring minds

Newsletter

SPRING 2019

CREATIVE ARTS, DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY, STUDENT AMBASSADORS...and much more



SCIENCE CLUB
Investigating Density

HEADTEACHER'S INTRODUCTION



Welcome to the **63rd edition** of the Kingsmeadow Newsletter which is packed full of the many different and varied activities that go on here. This all goes to strongly reinforce my view that education is about so much more than what goes on in the classroom.

I am extremely proud of the journey we have made in the last few years. The summer term last year saw an OFSTED monitoring visit that supported our conviction in our improvement and development plans. We are now seen as a school of choice, with our new year 7 in September 2019 oversubscribed by students who have made Kingsmeadow School their first choice.

As a school and community we are focused on raising the aspirations of each and every individual student. Our aim is to provide every member of our community with the tools to succeed, both academically and in society.

My best wishes to all year 11 and Post 16 students in their upcoming examinations. We have and continue to provide, a host of support measures to help them. A collapsed timetable will soon be in place providing bespoke support slots, timetabled just before each and every exam session. It is crucial that year 11 and Post 16 students are in school as normal throughout this period of final exams to benefit from these targeted sessions. All students have been given both online and paper resources to aid their personal and independent study, but staff will continue to challenge and inspire students right through until the end of the exam period.

During the exam period all students MUST be in school.

Last year's exam outcomes were confirmed as the best ever in the new measure of Progress 8, showing Kingsmeadow has climbed above the national average. The current year 11 are set to return yet another set of excellent outcomes for the school, and with the continued support of the community, I am convinced that Kingsmeadow is set to grow in strength and character over the coming years.

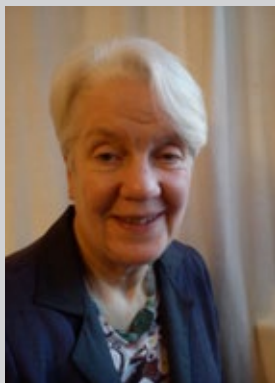
I am coming to the end of my second year as Headteacher of Kingsmeadow and I would once again like to thank you all for the support and challenge that has meant we have achieved so much in the last two years. I am looking forward to the next two years and seeing the school recognised for its fantastic progress.

Domenic Volpe, *Headteacher*

KEY DATES NEXT TERM



CHAIR OF GOVERNORS UPDATE



It is hard to believe as I write this that we are in the final term of this school year. It has been a busy one so far, for the school's students, its staff and its governors.

The most important events on the immediate horizon are the external exams this term – GCSEs, A-levels and BTEC. Governors receive detailed information about the progress of students throughout the school and about the initiatives taken by teachers to help them to achieve their very best. We know that special efforts are made by all in

the run up to the exams. We aim to ensure that the Headteacher and his colleagues have the resources they need to provide this support to students.

Governors are very aware of how stressful exams can be. Kingsmeadow is a very caring school, with supportive staff and a strong pastoral team ready to respond to issues raised by students and to spot students who they think might need a bit of help. Governors receive regular updates on safeguarding issues, focussing on the help given to students who need support to achieve well or whose behaviour is cause for concern. The behaviour of the vast majority of Kingsmeadow students is outstandingly good, a fact which is noticed by all visitors to the school, but just a few need guidance and sometimes sanctions in order to reach the standard of the rest.

Governors have continued to visit the school regularly. Our 'Learning Walk' last term enabled us to see whole lessons and we gained much from seeing how focussed and stimulating these are. Feedback from students about their learning is always positive, and staff welcome us into their classrooms. Our committees each meet once a term, to look at the budget, at staffing, at the curriculum and at student progress, and the full governing body held its termly meeting in March, receiving reports on a wide range of topics from student progress to careers information and guidance to sporting achievements.

This year we appointed a new 'Improvement Partner' for the school, Mr Phil Keay. He is external to the school and is tasked with providing independent professional advice to the Headteacher and governors on the overall progress of the school. He presented his first report to us in March, painting a very positive picture for us.

We have a strong governing body, which contains a wide range of skills and experience. Last term we welcomed a new governor, Jessica Blakey. She brings wide knowledge of teaching, learning and assessment which will be very relevant and useful to us. We still have a vacancy for one parent governor, and will be holding another election in the autumn term. If you would like to know more about our work and the role of a governor, please look at the governors section of the school website (under 'About Us'), and please put yourself forward next term if you are interested.

It just remains for me, on behalf of all the governors, to wish every success to all those taking exams this summer.

Sarah Diggle *Chair of Governors*



Date	Event/Holiday
6 May	May Day
9 May	Creative Writing Event
10 May	External Exams Begin
20-24 May	Year 8 Key Assessment 3
3 June	2nd half of Summer Term begins
10-14 June	Year 7, 9 and 12 Key Assessment 3
17-21 June	Year 10 Key Assessments
24-26 June	Year 5 Instrumental week
W/C 17 June	Year 12 Work Experience Week
19 June	Year 19 FutureMe Careers Carousel
24 June	Year 10 Geography Field trips
27 June	Last External Exam
27 June	Year 11 Leavers' Prom
1 July	Year 9 Geography Field Trips
2 July	Rewards Day
4 July	Students' Art Exhibition
4 July	Year 6 Induction Evening
8 July	Year 7 REAL WWII Generational Experience
15 July	Year 8 REAL Exhibition



**SCHOOL
CLOSED**

Half term
27-31 May

Last day of term
19 July

CAREERS INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE (CIAG)

Students continue to take part in a variety of CIAG activities.
The main activities last half term included:

- Our very own '**Kingsmeadow Inspires Careers Fair**', over 25 employers and higher education providers were in attendance to support our year 8, 10 and sixth form students to inspire future career prospects.
- Year 9 students have had two higher education sessions, these are designed to educate students about the benefits of university both in terms of career prospects and as life as a university student.
- Year 10 students attended Northumbria University for the first in a series of '**experience of workplace days**'. They spent the day gaining an insight into the different careers available in higher education, ranging from campus security to senior lecturers.
- Year 11 students have had a wider range of **CIAG** activities over the last two half terms including:
 - A careers aspiration day.
 - One to one interviews with our impartial careers advice expert.
 - Meetings with the sixth form team to advise about life after GCSE's.
 - 'Mock interviews' with employers from outside school.

The mock interviews followed on from the careers aspiration day and allowed students to get a feel of what it will be like to sit down and be interviewed with an actual employer. Although many students were nervous on the day all employers commented on how well our year 11's conducted themselves and were impressed by the CV's students had already created.

A delegate from Newcastle UXL had this to say about the day:

“ Both my colleague, Sarah, and I thought the students were very well prepared and there were definitely some stand out candidates who would come across very well in 'real life' interviews. The school has some amazing young talent which was showcased yesterday.

What impressed me most was the maturity of students and also the amount of experience they have through school and external activities. Students were able to use these experiences to provide some excellent examples to back up their answers. This showed also how well prepared they were as they had put a lot of thought into their responses. Student behaviour was excellent and this is testament to the teaching staff at the school.

”

Kingsmeadow are always looking for future careers activities, if you would like to get in touch about Kingsmeadow's CIAG programme please email Mr Dunlop gdunlop@kingsmeadow.org.uk

More information can be found on our website.

Battle Of The Bands 2019

The after-school Music club 'BandCamp' will be performing at this year's Battle of the Bands held at the Royal Grammar School in Jesmond, Newcastle.

They will follow in the footsteps of last year's Kingsmeadow band 'Seasonal' who performed in the same competition.

Each band from different schools around the region perform two pieces in a bid to be crowned Battle of the Bands winners. There are some free tickets available, see Miss Tindall if you would like any and let's support Kingsmeadow in this competition!

CREATIVE AND EXPRESSIVE ARTS CEA

A poster for the Battle of the Bands 2019. At the top is the RGS logo. Below it, the text 'BATTLE OF THE BANDS 2019' is written in large, bold, black letters. The background is a fiery, orange and yellow explosion. Below the main title, the date and time 'FRIDAY MAY 24TH 7 PM' are written in a stylized font. At the bottom, the text 'TICKETS: www.eventbrite.com' is displayed.

RGS
**BATTLE
OF THE BANDS
2019**
**FRIDAY
MAY 24TH 7 PM**
TICKETS: www.eventbrite.com

Easter Showcases

The spring term saw the second series of showcases this year to demonstrate the work of instrumental and singing students.

The three concerts held in the space of a week were a platform for every single student who learns singing, piano, drums, guitar, bass and saxophone to showcase what they have been learning this term.

Vocal highlights included 'Burn' from Hamilton performed by Amie Scott in year 11, 'Pulled' from The Addams Family performed by Brooke Cutter in year 9 and 'Skyfall' performed by Bobbie Binks in year 9.

Among the drummers, Cameron Mason and Aaron Brooksbank performed grade 4 piece 'Cold Pants', while pianists performed a range of classical and popular pieces including 'Etude in A Minor' performed by Ling Gao in year 8 and 'Triumphal March' performed by year 11 pianists including Chris Troughton and Bradley Southern.

Beginner guitarists demonstrated some of the pieces they have been learning, while Brooke Roden in year 10 performed the more advanced 'Ghost of You' as well as year 8 bassists Daniel Brown and Rory Cowen performing a duet version of 'Sunshine of Your Love'. Saxophone players Katelyn Dickson, Lara Watson and Caitlyn Hughes performed sax transcriptions of popular tunes 'Thursday' and 'Black Parade'.

These concerts were also a vehicle for all of the bands in the BTEC Music classes to perform the ensemble pieces they have been working on in lessons and included 'Moves Like Jagger', 'Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow' and 'The Truth'.

The showcases will return in the summer term with further demonstrations of the work that goes on in weekly lessons.

CREAT CE

Want to Sing or Learn an Instrument?

Are you considering learning to play an instrument or sing? We have lessons available in piano, drums, guitar, bass, saxophone, and singing. These are priced at £45 per term. Please see Miss Tindall for a letter or for more information.

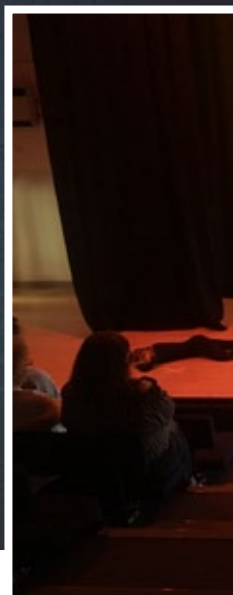
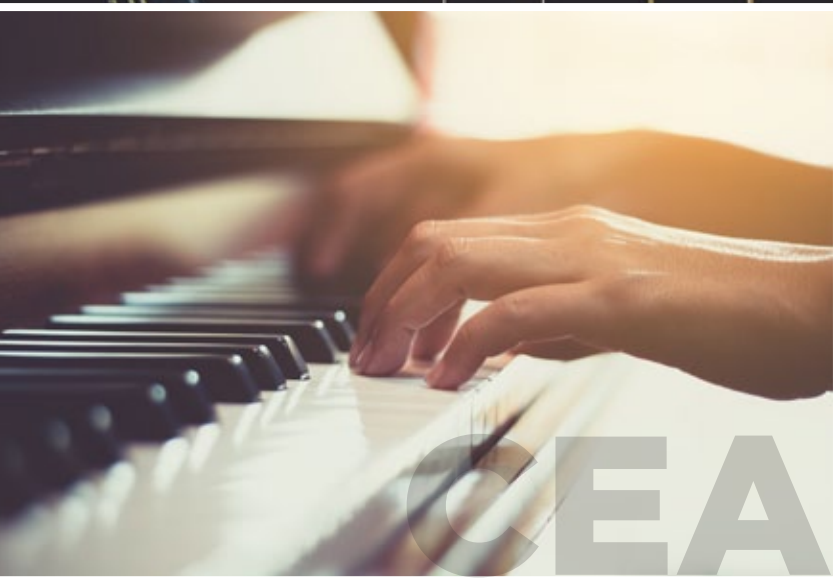
Inspire Composition Day

A group of year 9 and 10 BTEC Music students took part in a day aimed to inspire composition.

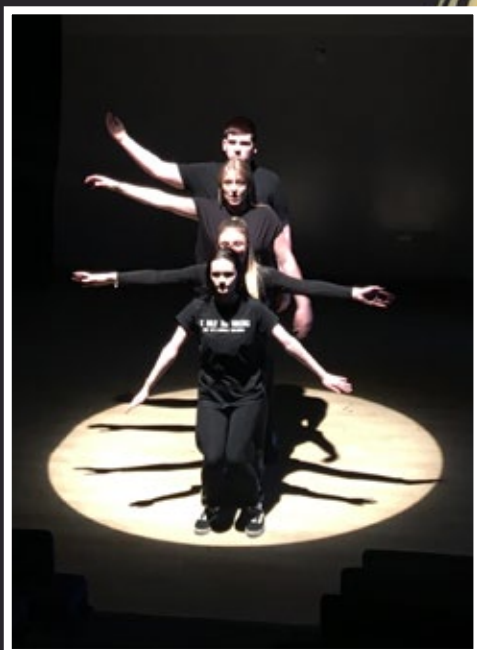
The day, held at The Sage Gateshead, was led by a leading composer and several professional musicians who worked with the students all day on generating ideas, understanding instrumental techniques and working on individual and group composition ideas.

The day was part of the BBC Proms 'Inspire' programme which aims to encourage composition amongst young people.

All BTEC Music students have to study composition as part of their course so this was a useful complement to the course.



IMPROVISATIVE AND EXPRESSIVE ARTS



Year 13 Btec Level 3 Performing Arts

We have all probably heard of the American programme 'Whose Line Is It Anyway' a show centred around four comedians improvising routines and scenes which have been randomly chosen for them. This was the starting point of introducing the skill of improvisation to the BTEC students. After weeks of researching practitioners and taking part in improvisation workshops our sixth form students collaboratively created an external exam performance piece.

They visited Newcastle Law Courts to support them in the development process. Eventually a stimulus was found, a poem by William Blake 'The Poison Tree' for their unit exam. The performance took place in school in front of an invited audience. All students demonstrated a wonderful work ethic and created a moving performance that really stimulated the audience and provoked many questions in the Q and A session which followed the drama.



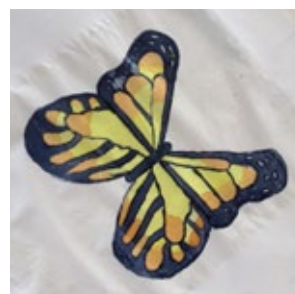
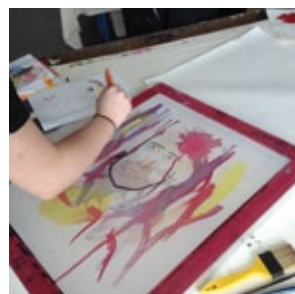
D&T DEPT

GCSE Art Textiles Visit Northern School Of Art

GCSE Art Textiles students from year 10 were given the opportunity to visit **The Northern School of Art in Hartlepool**, where they took part in a screen printing workshop. The hands on workshop allowed them to develop their current classwork skills further, using larger screens and using procion dyes. The work produced will be submitted alongside their GCSE coursework.

As well as working with Lesley the Textiles Technician, the students had the pleasure of working with past Kingsmeadow students, who are in the process of completing their degree course.

After completing their screen prints we toured various studio spaces and had the opportunity to see students producing their current textiles work. This was a great way of experiencing first hand further education work and course options in the field of Textiles, should year 10 consider this in the future.

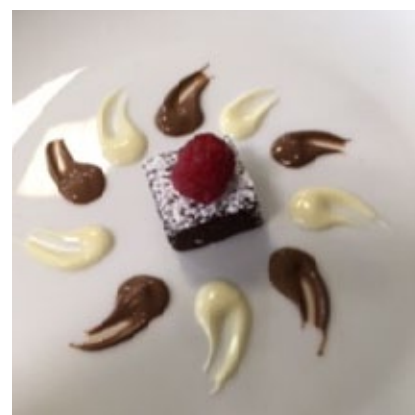


Food, Glorious Food!

Over the last few weeks year 11 students have been working on the practical element of their Level 2 Hospitality and Catering qualification, creating dishes for the menu of **Flip Flops Bistro**. Similar to an episode of Masterchef, students designed, trialed and modified a series of dishes prior to selecting 2 dishes for the exam, demonstrating a required number of skills in both food preparation and cooking.

Over the course of 4 days 34 students produced a wide variety of starters, mains and desserts from their menus, each designed to meet the needs of a named target group. Dishes included chicken Kiev, mozzarella sticks with a series of dipping sauces, brandy snap baskets with a raspberry coulis, chocolate mousse served with chocolate dipped gingerbread stars and key lime pie as well as a variety of pizzas and burgers.

Unfortunately, as the exam is still live, we are unable to share the actual photos of the work produced, but we have included some photos from the food styling activity students completed in preparation for the exam.





ENGLISH

Live Tales Workshop

In March, a selection of year 8 students participated in a creative writing workshop at the **Live Theatre** in Newcastle. Students were actively involved in a range of dynamic activities designed to get their creative juices flowing. Through a range of exciting, and sometimes unusual activities, students were able to create characters, consider conflict and become playwrights. The aim of the workshop was to encourage students to see creative writing in a new light, and to help them experiment with inspiring ideas. All of those involved, made significant and successful contributions to the range of writing tasks and challenges set. It was a delight to see so many students contributing so enthusiastically. Well done.

MATHS

UKMT Intermediate Mathematical Challenge

In February, over 40 of our year 9, 10 and 11 students took part in the **Intermediate Mathematical Challenge**. This challenge is aimed at year 11 students but also encourages students in younger years to participate. The challenge is held once a year and is aimed to stimulate mathematical problem solving and recognises the highest performers by awarding the top-scoring participants with bronze, silver and gold certificates.

This year we received a record number of top-scoring students with 11 bronze awards being received.

Congratulations to all students involved.



UKMT Team Maths Challenge

On the 26th of April 2019 four brave, driven mathematicians set out from Kingsmeadow Community School to compete in the annual **UKMT Team Maths Challenge** held at Durham Johnston School. Connor Morton and Nathan Alexander from year 8 teamed up with Megan-Jo Hannon and Alexander Dickson from year 9 to pit themselves against students from 29 other schools in the region. Keen and in high spirits, Team Kingsmeadow arrived early at this year's venue and warmed up with some interesting welcome problems. Once all other competitors had arrived, students were asked to show quality, resilience and above all communication skills across four rounds of Mathematical conundrums and teasing puzzles.

After the first two rounds, Team Kingsmeadow were pleased with their performance and in high hopes for the second half of the event. Unfortunately the second half of the contest did not play out as aspired. Challenging rounds coupled with tiny tactical mistakes (such as letting the team members with the shortest legs do the majority of the running during the relay!) meant that a Top 10 place was unattainable on this occasion. Nevertheless, Team Kingsmeadow placed in the top half with a very respectable 14th place finish.

Congratulations to all for their excellent team spirit and performance.



KINGSMEADOW FOOTBALL ACADEMY

It has been a great start to the spring term for all our Football Academy squads.



Each squad across both year groups entered into the **EVO Centre Easter Tournament** against Pro Club Academy and Development Clubs from around the UK. The players of the KFA got to test themselves over a two day period in a 6-a-side tournament that included, Newcastle United, Sunderland, Middlesbrough, York City, Doncaster Rovers and Norwich City. Three of our KFA teams were successful in reaching the final of their respective age group, with one of our teams (U12 Boys) preventing Norwich City from taking a clean sweep over the 2 days. It was a great tournament which encouraged creativity and provided the full squad with some additional game time.

The Girls picked up the **3rd trophy** for the KFA this year, with victory in the final of the U13 Durham County Cup vs Parkside. All girls involved showed incredible spirit, work ethic and a desire to succeed, which proved to let their ability on the pitch shine through with a 2-1 victory. Goals from Jodie Clarke and Sofia Burn, with Sofia Burn picking up 'Player of the Match' with an outstanding Captain's performance. Well done to all of the Girls who not only have developed individually this season but also as a team.

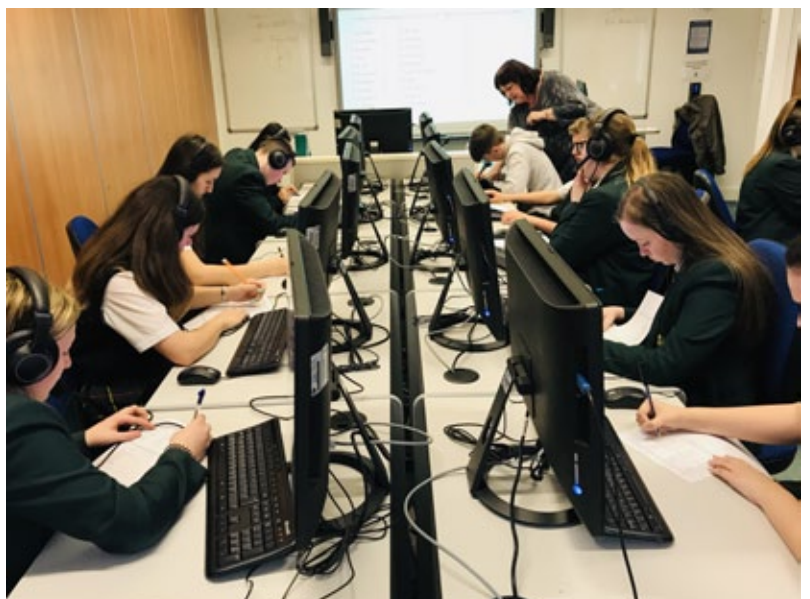
The year 7 Squad head off to **Barcelona** this month to experience their first warm weather training camp as part of their development as a KFA player both on and off the pitch.



University Language Taster Day!

A group of our year 9 students visited the University of Sunderland to learn about what life is like at university and get a taste of a university seminar from a leading academic. Students got a chance to use leading university software to practise their speaking and listening skills, even comparing the routes of a number of languages. Students were amazed by the array of courses available and the opportunities studying a degree can provide.

Year 9 are the first full cohort to study Spanish all the way through to GCSE level and will have the incredible opportunity of furthering their study of Spanish at A level should they choose to. With 49% of employers stating that they wished their employees had better language skills, it has never been more important to study languages.





Dance

Students attending Dance Club have been working hard rehearsing for Gateshead Schools Dance Festival which takes place at The Sage Gateshead. This year dance and drama club collaborated to put together a musical theatre piece. The group worked very hard to practice the dance moves and learn the words to the songs. Our dance was a mashup of songs from high school musical. We also included a section inspired from the musical 'stomp' using basketballs which the audience loved!

Well done to all dancers and actors. Our dance was a great success. This is a great once in a lifetime opportunity for our students to perform on the big stage at The Sage.

Lunchtime Activities

Lunchtime activities available are:

- five-a-side
- trampolining
- badminton
 - tennis
 - netball
 - football

PE UPDATE

Netball

Netball Club continues to run on a Thursday after school, year 7, 8 and 9 students participate in the Gateshead School fixtures. All girls show great commitment and enthusiasm for the sport.

Rugby Club

Rugby Club has made a promising start with girls attending from year 7, 8 and 9. The girls are working towards participating in a beach rugby festival in the summer.

Trampolining Club

Trampolining Club takes place every lunchtime for year 7 and 8 girls, this is well attended and is a great opportunity for the girls to improve their skills.

Rounders Club

Rounders Club has started this term in preparation for all of the Gateshead School and Tyne and Wear rounders competitions.

PE Cluster Update

Year 5 Leadership

Last term budding sport leaders from Dunston Hill, Lobley Hill and St Aidans came for a day of training. They worked really hard learning all skills needed to be a sports leader. They all left with certificates and some games to try out at their schools.

Year 5/6 Sportshall Athletics

St Aidans, Lobley Hill and Dunston Hill all came and competed in sportshall athletics last term. There was a lot of good performance with Dunston Hill winning overall and going on to represent the Kingsmeadow Cluster at the Gateshead Finals.

Year 1/2 Gym Skills

Also last term year 1 and 2 children from Dunston Hill, Lobley Hill, St Aidans and Caedmon came to try and improve their gymnastics skills. It was a very busy and fun afternoon.

Top Sportability

Year 9 Kingsmeadow Students took part in sportability training, leading children in sport with a disability. The students really enjoyed the course and learned a lot. They then put their skills into action on 16th November helping run a sportability athletics competition at Gateshead Leisure Centre.

Quicksticks

Kingsmeadow hosted a primary cluster quicksticks festival on Wednesday, 24th April. Caedmon, Lobley Hill and Dunston Hill participated. All students took part in a carousel of skills in preparation for the hockey tournament which followed. Dunston Hill were the overall winners. As always our Sports Leaders were a credit to the school.





Geography Trip to Iceland February 2019

On 17th February 2019 we took 27 students from year 9 to 13 to Iceland for a trip of a lifetime. During our 5 day 4 night trip we packed in a huge amount (as you can see from the photos!). We swam in hot thermal springs, trekked on a glacier, walked into the dark, deep lava tunnels and touched the ends of 2 tectonic plates. Not to mention the beautiful black beaches, stunning waterfalls and fascinating lava museum.

The students were impeccably behaved and always polite. They were a credit to Kingsmeadow School and we can't wait to do it again in February 2021!

In the words of our wonderful students:

"It was phenomenal, the opportunities for photos were unbelievable."

Bethany year 11

"It was the experience of a lifetime. I mean, I climbed a glacier! It's very rare you hear someone say that."

Megan year 9

"The trip was one of the best trips ever. It was full of excitement and adventure and I had lots of fun. The best part about Iceland was when we got to roam around the shops and be able to experience the Icelandic culture. Overall it was an amazing holiday."

Ethan year 10



REAL

Food Bank Drive To Spread Kindness To Our Community

Recently **7X1 REAL** ran a foodbank drive in school as part of our **'Can Kindness Change The World?'** project. This was their act of kindness to have an impact on our local community. They are rightly proud of what they achieved, they collected lots of toiletries for both adults and children, as well as food items and those all-important chocolate treats that some children may not otherwise have received at Easter.

This project certainly taught our students that a little compassion, determination to make a difference and putting effort in to helping others is extremely worthwhile and that, while we might not have changed the whole world, we might just have made a world of difference to some.



An Intergenerational, Community Cohesion Event To Spread Kindness

7Y1 REAL students went along to a Craft, Knit and natter group at **Lobley Hill Community Centre** on 18th March. The students took along little gifts of decorated cardboard teapots with individually wrapped tea and coffee bags as well as a large box of shortbread biscuits. The ladies (who were of the older generation) were delighted to chat with our students all about their kindness project.

They also shared their story of kindness by knitting little cuddle dolls for the police to use when they have to talk to vulnerable young children, tiny hats for the premature baby units and little squares to make blankets for children in Africa. Our students were once again reminded of the fact that our world and indeed, our community is full of kind people and that even just giving up some time to spend with others and chat with them can make a world of difference to that person.

A Real Act Of Kindness in the Metrocentre to Encourage Others to 'Pay It Forward'

Inspired by the novel, 'Pay It Forward', studied as part of their second project 'Can Kindness Change the World?' The REAL team of staff and support staff escorted our year 7 REAL students on a walk to the Metrocentre on Tuesday 2nd, April. The reason for this visit was a 'flash mob' style mission to carry out acts of kindness that would promote kindness in our community. Each REAL class congregated in different zones within the Metrocentre where they promptly began handing out small gifts to shoppers, along with kind words and small business cards which informed them that they had received an act of kindness from a Kingsmeadow student and encouraging them to 'Pay It Forward' by being kind to others.

The whole event only lasted 15 minutes during which time over **500 'token gifts'** were distributed to surprised shoppers. Our REAL students were respectful, considerate and kind and the experience left all involved with a REAL sense of pride. The feedback from members of the public was fantastic with comments such as 'you must be very proud of your impeccably behaved and respectful students.' and 'what a wonderful idea to show young people in such a positive light'. We also received emails from people who received gifts to tell us that they were delighted to meet such well turned out and well-mannered students and the gifts were a lovely gesture of kindness.

One lady in particular, Mrs Sheila Toes, insisted on giving Miss Vincent (one of our teachers) some money after being approached by our students with a little gift of kindness. Despite Miss Vincent's protestations and requests for the lady to 'Pay it Forward', as opposed to making a donation to us, Mrs Toes was adamant that Miss Vincent take £20.00 as she was so delighted with the whole concept of our students carrying out these acts of kindness. We have decided to buy food items with the £20.00 to donate to **Gateshead foodbank**, so that her kindness is 'Paid Forward'.

UPDATE



A Real Insight Into A Sikh Gurdwara

During the spring term, year 7 students took part in an educational visit to **Gurdwara Singh Sabha** in Newcastle. This was an amazing enrichment opportunity designed to motivate and inspire our students, enabling them to gain a REAL insight into how the Sikh community use their place of worship. The students thoroughly enjoyed a kind, friendly and informative welcome from our Sikh guide, Mr Cloud Singh. After a drink and a chat in the Langar Hall we were taken on a tour of the Gurdwara and saw members of the Sikh community come and go as they normally would, which helped us understand the beliefs and practices of this particular religion. We are proud to say that Cloud commented on the exceptional respectful behaviour and eloquent speaking from our students who asked a wide range of inquiry and appropriate questions in order to deepen their understanding of his faith and of where kindness fits in to the Sikh community. The Gurdwara was a wonderful place to see and our students benefited greatly from this 'REAL' experience. As religion is weaved into the fabric of our society and has been for many centuries, at Kingsmeadow we believe in providing REAL opportunities for our students to experience and learn about the different religious groups within our local community can help us to enhance and engender a more tolerant society for us all.



SCIENCE

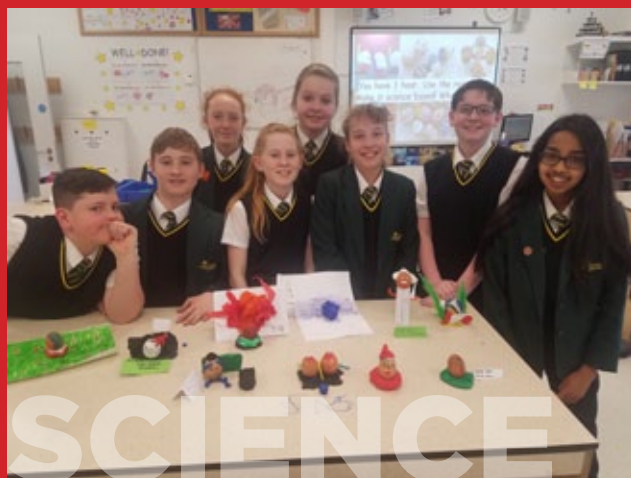
Science Club

The year 7 Science Club have been putting their practical skills to the test in a range of experiments this term. They started off by investigating density, methodically trialing the different substances provided to find which was the densest, resulting in the creation of a perfect density column. In keeping with the density theme, students then went on to produce their very own mini lava lamps using the same principles.

The next topic on the agenda was rates of reaction, in which the students produced their own method to test if concentration influences the rate of reaction. However the students did it in style, investigating what happens when you add different number of mentos to Diet Coke, our results: the more mentos, the bigger the explosion!

We then moved on to helping out pirates, investigating which type of juice would be the best in preventing people from getting scurvy by working out the vitamin C content within. This took us all by surprise when the budget brand beat the labelled, finding that Captain Jack Sparrow's best bet would be Asda's own orange juice!

The students rounded up the term by competing in a Science Egg competition, having an hour to come up with their best design, the only criteria being the design must be linked to Science. All of the entries were very creative, from volcanoes, to incubation, to eyes or tyre dye, however first prize was awarded to the brilliant Man on the Moon egg, much to Miss Murphy's disappointment who wanted her Albert Eggstein to win - there's always next year Miss!



STUDENT AMBASSADORS

Following our elections in school late last year, our student ambassadors have now been appointed and are hard at work making sure that students are represented in the running of the school.

Our ambassadors meet on a regular basis (at least once every two weeks) to discuss student matters and voice any concerns or ideas they may have. The point of our **Student Council** is to ensure that issues concerning students across the school are discussed openly and steps can be made to improve the already high standards here at Kingsmeadow.

Each student ambassador represents both their year group and one of the four school houses (**Angel, Baltic, Sage** and **Tyne**), meaning we have one student ambassador per house, per year group. This means that every Kingsmeadow student has a point of contact and can speak to their student ambassador about issues within school, which can then be passed onto staff members, senior leaders and governors,

In the past few months our student ambassadors have met with both **Mr Volpe** (Headteacher) and **Mr Barrett** (Deputy Headteacher) and the school governors to talk about how school systems and standards can be developed and improved. They have also been involved in the recruitment process for new staff in school.

Student ambassadors have also been a central part of the end of year rewards process, more of which you will be able to read about in the next issue of our school newsletter.



SIXTH FORM UPDATE

Work Experience

Year 12 students will complete one week of work experience w/c 17th June 2019. It is becoming increasingly difficult for students to secure local placements and we would therefore, be grateful to any governors who may be able to offer contacts for placements in medicine/care, administration, customer service, or engineering. Indeed, if any local workplace or company are able to offer our year 12 students the experience of the day to day operations of a company, we would like to hear from you.



Events 2019

As part of the NECOP, which is a combination of the 5 main universities in the North East, All year 12 and 13 students took part in a visit to Newcastle and Northumbria Universities. This was a very successful event, raising awareness of opportunities for year 12 and helping many year 13 make the decision to attend university.

Other events that raised awareness and aspirations included:

- December 2018 Bag pack at M&S for FACT.
- In February year 13 Engineering students attended a Deconstructing Engineering at British Engines.
- In March Psychology students attended Sunderland University for Brain Awareness event linked to AS Psychology and year 12 ICT students attending Digital Careers Fair at PROTO
- Whilst year 13 students attended Leeds University Psychology department.

Recruitment 2019

Year 11 students have been receiving one to one support from Richard Tickell who is the Support for Schools advisor for Gateshead employed by the **Department for Work and Pensions**. This has been followed up by individual interviews for all year 11 students. This is to raise awareness of post 16 opportunities and gauge interest in the sixth form curriculum offer. Early indications are very positive. Year 11 students then attended our open evening where they received information regarding entry requirements and subject choices.

UCAS

We are proud to say that all **year 13** students who have applied to university including subjects such as teaching, midwifery, psychology, history and archaeology, have received offers.

We would like to wish our year 12 and 13 students the very best of luck in their forthcoming exams.

Anybody wanting further advice please contact:

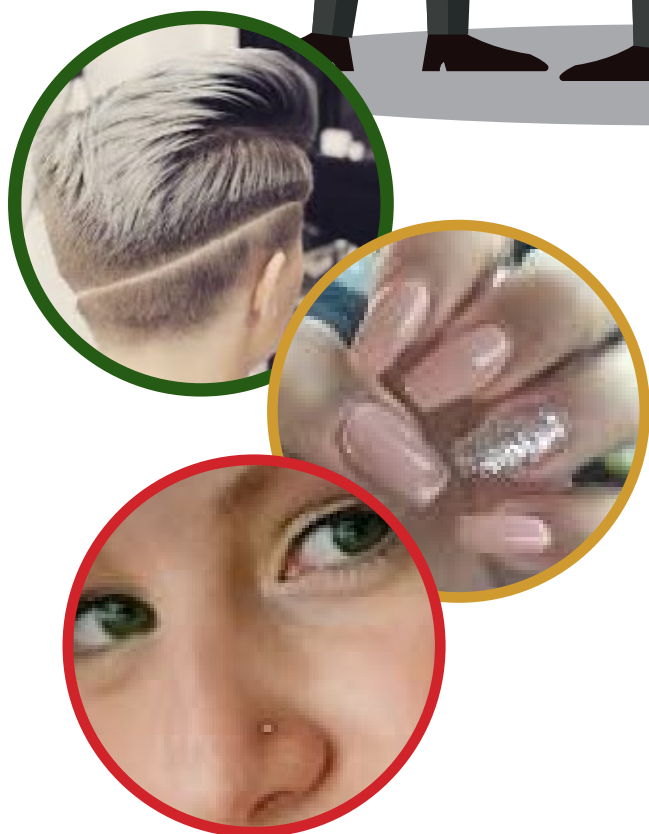
Mr R Hood

Head of Sixth Form
rhood@Kingsmeadow.org.uk
Tel 0191 4606004 ext 254

Amanda Weatherill

Sixth Form Progression Officer
aweatherill@kingsmeadow.org.uk
Tel 0191 4606004 ext 266

UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS



As you are aware, we have high expectations about school uniform. Whilst we strive to maintain a fair and consistent approach across all year groups, teenage trends come and go. The most recent for boys seems to be **shaved lines in hair** and **eyebrows**. For girls, **jewellery, acrylic nails** and **false tan**.

We appreciate that they can be costly and are intended to have longevity but they are not acceptable in any form in school and we urge parents not waste money on them. Students will be asked to remove them and if not able to do so immediately, will face graduated sanctions until the situation is remedied.

As trends can be difficult to predict, we have a general uniform policy whilst reserving the right to judge whether a student meets our expectations. We will work closely with parents to resolve any issues as quickly and positively as possible. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's uniform, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Please remember school is a busy place, if you need to see any member of staff please ring ahead to book an appointment.

100%

99%

98%

97%

96%

95%

94%

93%

92%

91%

90%

Less than
90%

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Is your child's attendance giving them the best chance of success?

The Department for Education has stated that there is clear evidence of a link between poor attendance at school and low levels of achievement. Students and parents should be aiming for an attendance level of 96% and above to have the best chance of success. Each week your child's tutor will encourage them to review and record their attendance.

We use the following traffic light system for our attendance.

If you have any concerns about your child's attendance and the impact it may be having on their progress, please contact our new attendance officer, Mrs Oliver who will be happy to discuss this with you.

Mrs Oliver took over from our previous attendance officer Mrs Wallace at the beginning of April.

We're proud of you!

WELL DONE.

You are giving yourself the best chance of success now and in the future.

We're worried!

YOU NEED TO IMPROVE QUICKLY.

Attendance below 96% reduces your chance of success now and in the future.

We're worried!

YOU ARE IN A SERIOUS POSITION.

If you do not improve your attendance immediately, it will not only have a serious impact on your education outcomes but will also reduce your life chances in the future.

Hello everyone,

I just wanted to introduce myself as the new attendance officer. I took over from Jayne Wallace at the beginning of April. Before starting this role I was running a charity in Newcastle where I worked in many schools throughout the area. I look forward to supporting you and your child's education, anything you need please feel welcome to contact me.

Emma Oliver Attendance Officer



100% ATTENDERS FOR SPRING TERM 2019

YEAR 7

Dina Ramin	7E
Aiden Easton	7G
Charlie Graves	7G
Brooke Phillips	7G
Elliott Wilson	7G
Rebecca Wraith	7G
Ellie Henderson-Arkless	7I
Amy Richards	7I
Bobby Roy	7I
Brooke Sharp	7I
Philippa Tate	7I
Owen Clarke	7K
Saran Magassouba	7K
Zahra Muneer	7K
Emily Betts	7M
Angelo Senta	7N
Lily Brown	7S
Alfie Collins	7S

YEAR 8

Lewis Brown	8E
Hud Collace	8E
Holly Gardner	8E
Trinity Ikuero John	8E
Katie McKenry	8E
Grace Sutton	8E
Daniel Brown	8G
Charlie Carroll	8G
Katelyn Dickson	8G
Jake Meek	8G
Kye Banks	8I
Scott Kane	8I
Brad-Lee Joicey	8K
Amelia Rose McNichol	8K
Kiera Thompson	8K
Ryan Castle	8M
Elif Celikay	8M
Ruben Da Silva	8M
Alfie Keane	8M
Jack Mackereth	8N
Aidan Blench	8S
Nuh Collace	8S
Ruth Hart	8S
Ebony Lawson	8S
Daniel Peart	8S

YEAR 9

Jesse Barnes	9G
Alexander Dickson	9G
Zhalian Faraj	9G
Skye Forster	9G
Ricky Mckay	9G
Ellie Clark	9I
Karmella Fletcher	9K
Sarah Hassan	9M
Alexandra Kyrio	9N
Georgia-Mai Stephenson	9N
Joe Wright	9N
Mama Magassouba	9S
Nathaniel Ohimor	9S
Chantelle Pownceby	9S

YEAR 10

Luke Robson	10I
Antoneta Senta	10I
Eleanor Robson	10K
Beyza Sahin	10K
Leo Shalgosky	10K
Jay Shepherdson	10K
Paris Eastland	10M
Matthew Rocks	10N
Katie Campbell	10S
Max Glistner	10S
Lewis Sewell	10S
Alice Snee	10S
Charlotte Stephenson	10S

YEAR 11

Harry James	11G
Dillon Moore	11G
Aimee Wiggins	11G
Cameron Mason	11I
Jason Cousins	11K
Callum Starling	11K
Tiegan Watson	11K
Jasmine Wilson	11K
Sonny Collace	11M
Tamsin Mitchell	11M
Cameron Potts	11M
Mongezi Sibanda	11M
Cain Brunning	11N

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.

