

Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Friday 9th February 2024

LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

The Candidate was the theme of last night's House Drama productions which all three Houses interpreted so well. Palmer interpreted the theme as a political and social statement about the importance of girls' education, something which resonates with so many of us. Cedars chose to view the idea as a fantasy adventure with a physical representation of a dragon being slayed by the prince and his friends, making the point of the importance of support and teamwork. Sidmouth chose to explore a current and relevant issue about some of the consequences of social media and the manipulation of personal data, which at moments had the audience on the edge of their seats with suspense. The judging must have been very difficult for our invited adjudicator, Hilda Harper from the Reading Rep Theatre but her very good and balanced review of all three productions resulted in **Cedars House** being the winning play. Well done to Cedars for being House Drama winners 2024! All three houses made an outstanding effort demonstrating teamwork, creativity and enjoyment in planning and presenting such great plays. Many thanks to Miss Hyde who led and organised the event and provided such enthusiasm and inspiration to the students in their work.

An assembly to KS3 and 4 students on the topic of Young Carers has been presented in the last couple of days. This is to raise awareness of this issue and for us to know if any of our students are carers for family members at home. We have asked students to tell us if they feel their home situation requires them to be a carer so that we can support them. If parents feel that this applies to their child, please email studentwelfare@kendrick.reading.sch.uk to let us know. More information will be sent to parents about Young Carers next term. This morning an assembly was presented to Year 12 to introduce them to the process of electing the Kendrick Student Leaders 2024-25, an opportunity for a group of 18 students to take on a leadership role in school. Details of the roles available to students and the timeline of events over the next term, were clearly explained. This group of students is the essential student voice of Kendrick School, who coupled with School Council, elected students from Key Stage 3 and 4, represent the student body at Kendrick.

February is LGBT History month and to that end a super display has been put up in the library. Under the theme *Medicine - #UndertheScope*, the display celebrates LGBT+ peoples' contribution in the field of medicine and healthcare over time. Focusing on two women who had an impact in these areas, Sophie Jex-Blake and Margaret Stacey, the [display](#) highlights their contributions, as well as challenges they faced.

Popping into the [library](#) this morning, I found it, as always, very busy and active. A group of Year 9 students with their teacher were searching the shelves for books to borrow over the holiday. Scanning the display walls, these students were being directed to the information which has recently been put-up featuring book lists for the different age groups: 11 books for 11 year-olds, 12 books for 12 year-olds, up to 18 books for 18 year-olds. These books have been selected by our Librarians, Mrs Cavaciuti and Mrs Williamson, and Mr Dilley, Head of English, who have recommended age-appropriate books for students to read. I have started to look at these book lists and intend to read one from each year group over the next few months. Please look at the titles and displays [here](#) and share with other young people you know. One can never read enough and when I am asked by parents how they can help their child in their studies, my answer is always, encourage them to read, both for pleasure and relaxation, as well as for acquiring knowledge and developing understanding.

This week we have been highlighting Safer Internet Day and Children's Mental Health Week. Both events have resulted in a lot of information being sent to staff, students and parents and reiterated again in the update below. Please read and discuss with your child any matter that you think is appropriate. Based on the mental health themes,

Time to Talk and Express yourself Day, and to mark the end of another busy term, our Student Wellbeing Ambassadors put on a karaoke session in the Hall which seemed a lot of fun! Fun can come in all shapes and forms, and I was told about a fun weekend our CCF RAF group took part in. Competing in [Regional Air Squadron Competition](#) in Blandford Forum in Dorset, accompanied by Mrs White, the CCF team, composed of Kendrick and Reading School students, came second in a competition of 12 South West schools. Very well done to our students and Reading School for this achievement and for the trophy they were given. Please read the article [here](#). Two trips have gone off this week: one on Monday for Art students to the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford and one today to the British Museum for Classics students. Sometimes if parents are looking for things to do with their children in the holidays a visit to a place of interest, like a museum is always fun and interesting for everyone and there are many of these on our doorstep.

Finally, thank you to students and staff for their tremendous efforts this term. Although a short term, it has still been intense and fast paced. I hope that everyone takes time to relax and refresh and set aside schoolwork. Obviously for our Year 13 students who come back to mocks after half term this may not be the case, but I do hope everyone does prioritise some rest and relaxation over the next few days.

Wishing everyone a good holiday

Ms Christine Kattirtzi
Headteacher

KENDRICK SCHOOL'S SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

Kendrick School has several social media platforms and sites. Please follow us to get the latest news and information about the school. The links are in the logos below.



SAFEGUARDING

WORRIED ABOUT A CHILD?

If you have a concern about a child at Kendrick School, please email studentwelfare@kendrick.reading.sch.uk or telephone 0118 9015859 and ask to speak to a Designated Safeguarding Officer.

If you're worried about any child or young person and you are contacting us out of hours (before 8am and after 4pm and at weekends and holidays), you can contact the NSPCC helpline for support and advice for free - call us on **0800 5000** or **contact NSPCC online**. Children can contact **Childline** any time to get support themselves. **In an emergency please call 999 or for a non-emergency call 101.**

We have created a library of resources for parents, carers and students including support avenues which you can find on our website via this [link](#). We will be adding to these on a regular basis.

[CAMHS Resources](#) - This site was created for young people, carers and professionals to pool together lots of helpful resources from across the internet that are available to help support your mental health and well-being.

For wellbeing support in school, students can visit the Student Welfare Team in the General Office or Sixth Form Office or email studentwelfare@kendrick.reading.sch.uk.

LEAVING CHILDREN AT HOME ALONE

Source: NHS Direct

There is no legal age limit for leaving a child on their own, but it's an offence to leave a child alone if this puts them at risk. Parents/carers can be prosecuted for neglect if it is judged that they placed a child at risk by leaving them home alone.

How mature the child is

It is important to consider the child's maturity. It might be acceptable to leave a mature 12-year-old alone, but not a 13 year old or older who isn't mature and may put themselves or others at risk of harm.

A child should never be left at home alone if they do not feel comfortable with this, regardless of their age. If a child has additional needs, these should be considered when leaving them at home alone or with an older sibling. The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) advises that:

- babies, toddlers and very young children should never be left alone
- children under the age of 12 are rarely mature enough to cope in an emergency and should not be left at home alone for a long period of time
- children under the age of 16 should not be left alone overnight

Preparation before leaving your child alone

If you intend leave your child home alone, you should:

- leave a contact phone number and make sure you can answer it right away
- leave a separate contact list of people you trust, in case your child can't contact you
- talk to your child before you leave about how to stay safe, and tell them not to open the door or invite strangers into the house
- make sure dangerous objects like matches and knives are out of reach, and that all medicines (drugs) and dangerous chemicals are in a locked cupboard
- leave clear instructions on and practise what to do in case of an emergency (like a fire)
- check in on your child regularly while you are out until they have built up confidence
- make sure your child knows how to be safe online while you are out
- tell them what time you will be back, and don't be late
- set some basic rules about what they can and can't do while you are out
- teach them basic first aid
- make sure they have access to adequate food and drink
- if children have the freedom to use a toaster or microwave to heat food make sure they know how to do so safely; if bread is stuck in a toaster always turn it off at the wall and never poke a knife or fork into the toaster, use wooden or plastic tongs; never place silver rimmed plates or bowls into the microwave and always look at the bottom to see if it is microwave safe, never place tinfoil or cutlery into the microwave
- make sure that the young person does not bring other friends into your house without your permission
- make sure you have no planned deliveries to the house during this time

It's important to make sure that your child is happy and safe to be left alone. If they aren't confident about being left alone, you need to make other arrangements or have someone you trust to look after them.

- [Fire safety advice for parents and child carers](#)
- [First aid](#)

Finding childcare

For information about different types of childcare, go to [Childcare](#)

More useful links

- [Blind cord safety](#)
- [Keeping children safe from burns and scalds](#)
- [Choking](#)
- [Keeping children safe from poisonous substances](#)

AVENUES OF SUPPORT

Under 25s	Over 25s	Parents
YOUNGMINDS Crisis Messenger Text YM to 85258 Open 24/7	mind for better mental health Call 0300 123 3393 9am - 6pm, Mon - Fri	YOUNGMINDS Parents Helpline Call 0808 802 5544 9:30am - 4pm, Mon - Fri
THE MIX Call 0808 808 4994 3pm - 12am, every day	SAMARITANS Call 116 123 Open 24/7	
childline Unlisted. On the Phone. AnyTIME. Call 0800 1111 7:30am - 3:30am, every day	For more advice and information visit: youngminds.org.uk/find-help	

SUMMARY OF SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION

[Term 1 2023-24](#)

[Term 2 2023-24](#)



**National
Online
Safety®**

STAYING SAFE ONLINE

MONKEY With Omegle finally shutting down in late 2023, the top spot among deo chat services is up for grabs – and Monkey has its eyes set on the crown. Randomly matching its users for 15-second conversations, the platform's developers claim to have created a dynamic online space for people to make new connections and, potentially, even some new friends.

Despite these innocuous-sounding intentions, however, Monkey has been criticised for moderation which may not be comprehensive enough to defend against the obvious dangers that unregulated, random video calls pose to the younger element of the site's userbase. This #WakeUpWednesday guide tells trusted adults what they need to know about Monkey.

[Parents and Carers Guide to Monkey](#)



MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

This week is **Children's Mental Health Week** and the theme is **My Voice Matters**.

My Voice Matters is about empowering children and young people by providing them with the tools they need to express themselves. This week we will be sending students top tips and resources throughout the week on how to use their voice to look after their own mental health and wellbeing.

Click [here](#) for what children and young people told Place2Be that they needed from their parents/carers to support them with their mental health and wellbeing and some ways to start a conversation with your child or young person about their mental health.

For more resources and information on supporting your child's mental health from Place2Be, please click [here](#).

INFORMATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND CHILDREN

Below is link to a short film with Roman Kemp talking to young people who have been through difficult struggles with their mental health and featuring Tom Grennan. This was recorded ahead of Children's Mental Health week.

[Here4You - No young person should ever feel alone](#)

Here4You believe that connecting with others can be life changing. They are there to make sure you get the support you need, through practical tips and advice from their charity partners, as well on information on getting the support you need.

[Shout](#) – here for you 24/7 with [resources and tips](#) to support you when you are feeling anxious, low, stressed or overwhelmed.

[The Mix](#) – understanding Mental Health can be tricky but The Mix is there to make sure you don't have to do it alone. [The Mix Counselling service](#) offers short-term help with mental health and emotional wellbeing for anyone aged 25 and under.

[Young Minds](#) – can help you find the right support for you. From looking after your mental health to understanding medication, they are lots of [useful links](#) to all kinds of advice and guidance.

[Mind](#) – Mind understand mental health and wellbeing. They are there for you if you are finding things hard. They help everyone understand mental health problems, so no-one has to feel alone.

KENDRICK SCHOOL WELLBEING NEWSLETTER

For all our **Wellbeing Newsletters** please click [here](#).

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

The world is difficult, and we are all breakable. So just be kind." Caitlin Moran

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND)

PARENT/CARER AUTISM ONLINE WORKSHOPS FROM THE AUTISM TRAINING NETWORK

Whether your child is awaiting a diagnosis or has already been diagnosed, these workshops are a great opportunity to learn more about Autism & ask questions within a supportive group of other parents & carers.

- **Monday 12th February - Communication**

Identifying what communication is and the different communication methods that may be helpful for Autistic children.

- **Monday 19th February - Sensory Processing**

Explaining the 8 sensory systems, how the environment can impact on a child with sensory processing differences/challenges and strategies to meet an individual's sensory needs.

- **Monday 26th February - Pathological Demand Avoidance**

A look into the interesting subject of PDA, how this may present and what is the best approach to take to avoid conflict.

Workshops will be held 7:30-8:30pm via Zoom

£25 per workshop for each family.

To book your place...Email enquiries@theautismtrainingnetwork.com



RFF's Annual SEND conference: children's social care



**Tuesday 5th March 9:30-14:30: The Pavilion, 143-145
Oxford Rd, Reading, RG1 7UY**

For parents and carers of children with additional needs and
service providers.

Guest speakers to be announced.

An opportunity to find out more about children's social care and
ask questions!

To book, please email kira@readingfamiliesforum.co.uk

SPORT TOGETHER BERKSHIRE CIC - FESTIVAL OF INCLUSIVITY 16TH FEBRUARY 2024

Save the Date: 16th February 2024

A great day of activity, including: Football, Rugby, Cricket, Hockey, Art & Crafts, Sensory Room, and much more....

Bookings from January 2024 – Times to be advised. sporttogetherberks@gmail.com

<https://sporttogetherberks.co.uk/> Further information can be found here [Reading Directory](#) | [Sport Together Berkshire CIC - Festival of Inclusivity 16th February 2024](#) [SEND Local Offer Newsletter Winter 2023](#)

SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR TERM 4, 2023-24

Monday 19th February

Start of Term 4, 8.25am

Start of Year 13 Mocks

Tuesday 20th February

Year 9 KPS Drop-in with Ms Kattirtzi

Wednesday 21st February

Sixth Form Consultations for External Applicants

Monday 26th February

KPS Raffle Launch

Wednesday 28th February	Year 9 Option Event, 6pm
Thursday 29th February	Hitler on Trial Trip – Year 10 Poetry Live Trip – Year 11
Monday 4th March	Free Trade Week
Tuesday 5th March	Year 9 Parent Consultation
Thursday 7th March	Year 10 KPS Drop-in with Ms Kattirtzi
Monday 11th March	Trustee Learning & Teaching Committee, 4.30pm
Wednesday 13th March	Comic Relief Week
Thursday 14th March	Year 12 Geography Coasts Trip
	Year 10 Parent Consultation
	Trustee Resources Committee, 4.30pm
Tuesday 19th March	Year 12 Maths Show at the Hexagon
Wednesday 20th March	Year 11 KPS Drop-in with Ms Kattirtzi
Thursday 21st March	Profiling Day
Friday 22nd March	Air Ambulance Concert, 6.30pm
Monday 25th March	Year 9 KPS Disco
Tuesday 26th March	Neuro-Diversity Awareness Week
Thursday 28th March	Lower Chamber Concert, 6.30pm
	End of Term 4, 3.15pm

The school calendar for the academic year can be found [here](#). For the Term Dates for 2023-24 and 2024-25 please click [here](#)

NEWS, NOTICES, COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS

YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE OPEN DAY

Reading's [Youth Justice Service](#) is holding an open day for community neighbours, to introduce the services on offer and show how the team work together with young people and their families. The open day is being held at Katesgrove Community Hub (RG2 0BN) on Thursday 22 February from 3-7pm.

DFE GET INTO TEACHING EVENT

The University of Reading is hosting a [DfE Get into Teaching event](#) on Thursday 29 February from 5-8pm. Held at the University of Reading (RG1 5AQ), guests will have the opportunity to meet teaching providers from across the south east of England and have one to one conversations or attend information presentations.

RESILIENCE WORKSHOP 22/02/2024: 3– 5:30PM.

FREE IN PERSON. VENUE: ST JOHNS PRIMARY SCHOOL, 121-147 ORTS RD, READING RG1 3JN .

“Prepare the child for the road, not the road for the child”. It’s the ability to adapt well to adversity, trauma, threats or stress. It is difficult and distressing but parents can help children and young people to be more resilient in managing day to day challenges and more difficult situations. **To book or for more information email**

Wilma.Williams@brighterfuturesforchildren.org

UNDERSTANDING AUTISM & ANXIETY WORKSHOP – 27/02/2024 9.30 - 12.00pm.

FREE ONLINE SESSION VIA MS TEAMS. FOR PARENTS/CARERS OF READING PUPILS AGES 6 -16.

A 2.5 hour workshop targeted towards parents/carers of children with a diagnosis of autism or those who may be awaiting a diagnosis. It looks at common drivers for anxiety in those with autism, especially in relation to coping with uncertainty and not knowing what might happen. The workshop gives parents a chance to share their

experiences and to learn strategies and approaches to manage anxious feelings. **To book or for more information email Wilma.Williams@brighterfuturesforchildren.org**

PLEASE NOTE:

This is an interactive workshop and whilst we encourage attendees to participate in discussions this is of course optional. There will however be an expectation that cameras are on during the workshop and just to make you aware at the beginning we would like you to introduce yourself to the group and your child, giving a brief idea of what you would like to gain from the course.

To book or for more information email Wilma.Williams@brighterfuturesforchildren.org.

WORK RELATED LEARNING AND CAREERS

A 'DAY IN THE LIFE' AT AWE

Wed 14 Feb | 10:00 - 15:00

A Taster Day Like No Other!

Are you in Year 12 – 13 wanting to get a taste of what it could be like to work with the UK's largest defence researching facility?

Then AWE would like to invite you to their head office in Aldermaston so you can experience life behind the scenes and get the juice from their current apprentices! With apprenticeship levels spanning from Level 2 – Level 6 Degree Apprenticeships there should be something of interest here for every aspiring apprentice!

Event Highlights:

- Intro to AWE, their apprenticeships & opportunities for young people
- Discover the juice behind the scenes by speaking with AWE's current apprentices about their journeys.
- Be prepared for your future apprenticeship applications by working in teams inside a mock assessment centre task.
- Ask any burning questions to the Early Talent team and have fun networking around the room!

Event Details: Wed 14 Feb | 10:00 – 15:00 at AWE Aldermaston Site | Reading

Register Here: <https://pathwayctm.com/event/a-day-in-the-life-awe/>

Spaces are limited so please register ASAP to avoid disappointment!

KPMG INSIGHT EVENING

- Thursday 22nd February, 5pm – 7:30pm
- At the KPMG office in Reading
- Open to all Y12 and Y13 students
- Workshops, panel discussions and networking opportunities
- Application Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8TTDYZB>

VACANCIES

We currently have the following vacancies. Please click on this [link](#) for more information and please forward to friends and family who may be interested.

Mathematics Teacher for September 2024 – *shortlisting taken place; interviews on Friday 2nd February*
Invigilators for the Summer 2024 exam season

Kendrick School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any successful applicant will be required to undertake an Enhanced Disclosure check by the Disclosure & Barring Service. Kendrick School is an Equal Opportunity employer.

VACANCIES AT READING SCHOOL

Teacher of Geography - deadline for applications **9am, Monday 26 February 2024** - click **here** for further details.

Associate Staff Vacancies

Exams Officer - deadline for applications: **9am, Friday 23 February 2024** - click **here** for further details.

Student Support Assistant - deadline for applications: **9am, Friday 1 March 2024** - click **here** for further details.

Cover Supervisor - deadline for applications: **9am, Monday 4 March 2024** - click **here** for further details.

PARENTPAY REMINDERS

We would like to bring to your attention the following ParentPay items, please login to your ParentPay accounts for details.

School Fund Donation

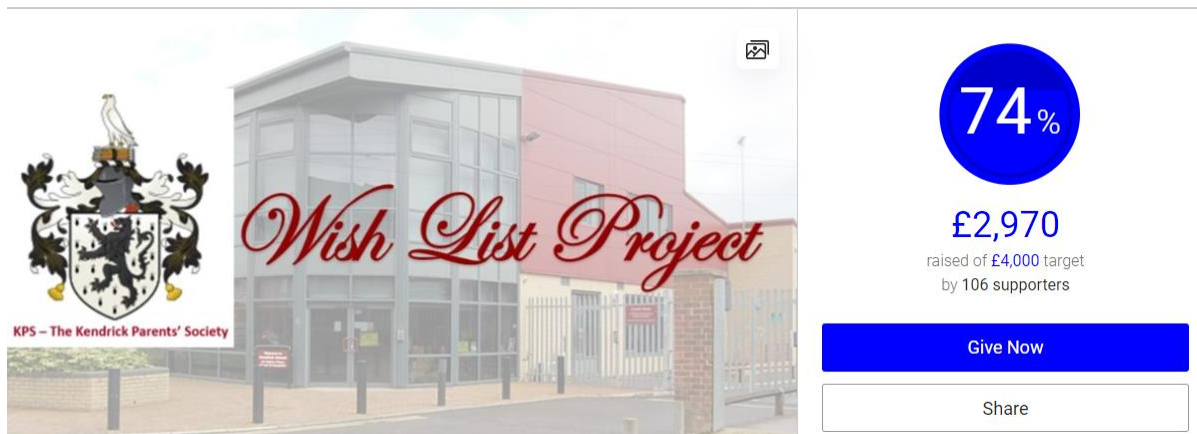
Whitley Community Food Cupboard – cash donations
Year 10 GCSE Drama- set text: The Crucible by Arthur Miller
Year 9 and Year 10 French Play – March 2024
Year 9 and Year 10 German Play – March 2024
Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award 2024
Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award 2024
Year 10, Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 English set texts
Year 7, 8 and 9 Food and Technology voluntary contributions
Year 10 and Year 11 Art and Textiles voluntary contributions
Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 English set texts
KPS non uniform day – 19th January 2024

Trips

Year 12 local Geography field trip – 12th January 2024
Year 11 Rural Villages Geography trip- 22nd January 2024
Year 8 Careers Event – 30th January 2024
GCSE and A level Art trip to Oxford – 5th February 2024
Year 12 and Year 13 Classics trip – 9th February 2024
Year 11 Poetry live event at The Hexagon Reading – 29th February 2024
Year 10 Hitler on trial exam workshop – 29th February 2024
Year 12 Geography Field trip – 13th March 2024
Year 12 Maths Inspiration at The Hexagon Reading- 14th March 2024
Year 8 Bushcraft- May 2024
Year 10 French and German trips - June 2024

KENDRICK PARENTS' SOCIETY (KPS)

For the latest KPS newsletter please click [here](#).



<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/kps-wishlist-project>.

A big thank you to all those who supported this wonderful initiative! We were able to **raise 74%** of the target money, but **with Gift Aid, we reached 91%**, which is a fantastic achievement! The JustGiving page wind-up activity has been initiated.

KPS DISCO UPDATE

Year 7 & 8 Disco – We had a successful event on February 2nd. The children enjoyed it, and we had great support from parents and volunteers.

Year 9 Disco – The event is scheduled for Friday, 22nd March, and details will be announced shortly.

Any queries, contact Shree at KPSTreasurer@kendrick.reading.sch.uk.

DROP-IN SESSIONS WITH MS.KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

Year 7 and 8 sessions have concluded so far with well-attended sessions. Our sincere thanks go out to all parents, carers and Ms. Kattirtzi.

Next Drop-In Session

Year Group: Year 9

Date: Tuesday 20th February

Time: 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm

Google meeting link: To join the video meeting, click this link:

<https://meet.google.com/usv-wnrt-ynn> Otherwise, to join by phone, dial +1 405-433-4120 and enter this PIN: 887720908#

The protocols for the sessions will be explained before the meeting starts. Please take advantage of this opportunity.

The dates for other year groups are as follows:

Year 10: Tuesday 5th March

Year 11: Tuesday 19th March

6th Form: Tuesday 16th April

KPS OWN CLOTHES DAY UPDATE

During the Own Clothes Day held on Friday, January 19, the school **raised £704 toward Chromebooks!** Thank you for all your kind donations.

The Parent Pay link will remain open over **half term**, and it's an opportunity for those who did not get a chance to donate £2. **Thank you again** for your kind support.

KPS MEETING

This week we had a KPS meeting on **Monday, 5th February**, and thanks to those who attended and participated in valuable discussions. **Next meeting** is planned for **Wednesday, 6th March** and details will be circulated nearer the date.

SPRING RAFFLE

The Spring Raffle event will be **launching soon!** It's an exciting opportunity to support a great cause and win prizes! **The raffle begins on February 26, 2024, and entries will be accepted until March 23.** The lucky winners will be drawn on the following day. Stay tuned for more details and don't miss out on your chance to participate!

Please contact us by emailing kpsraffle@kendrick.reading.sch.uk if you are able to donate a prize or arrange matched funding.

JOIN KPS

Since KPS operates as a registered charity, we invite you to become a part of our community by joining us. Connecting with your daughter's school through KPS is a simple process.

Please take a moment to complete our [online membership form](#) making your involvement seamless and effortless. Your participation is highly valued, and we look forward to welcoming you to the KPS family.

KPS FACEBOOK CLOSED GROUP

KPS runs a closed Facebook group where we provide details of upcoming events and other important information. To join this group, search for the **"Kendrick Parents' Society"** group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1514675551882470/>) and ask to join – **once we have confirmed that you are a member of the KPS, we will approve your request.**