

Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Friday 17th January 2025

LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

The mock examination period for our Year 11 students has finished and all staff involved have told me how smoothly and efficiently the two-week period has been and how well the students managed during this tense time. We will welcome students back to school on Monday to their normal timetable of lessons when they will begin to receive their exam results. Sometimes this process can also be stressful, but as the students were reminded by Dr Perry this morning, how they did in their assessments will help them identify their strengths and areas for development and what they need to work on for the summer examinations. Of course, there is still some content to be taught over the next few months and a lot of important work will be going on from now until then.

The first committee meeting for 2025 of the Kendrick Parents' Society (KPS) took place this week. We were delighted to hear that the Christmas Wishlist has exceeded its target of £4k. Thank you to all those parents who have made donations. If you have not donated yet but wish to do so, the link is [here](#). The list of departmental items that colleagues have asked for can now be purchased and an update will be provided to you via the KPS newsletter. Other fund-raising ideas were considered, as well as projects that the school would like funding for in future. These include further equipping our Music and Drama Departments, as well as some other renovations elsewhere in the school. We also discussed future events, including the drop-ins that I have been doing in recent years with parents which are scheduled to take place in the next couple of months. This year in these online meetings I will be joined by the Key Stage Leaders.

An important assembly was given to KS3 this week by Mrs Hearn and Miss Hyde. February is LGBTQ+ History month and students were given some background and history to this movement to celebrate the culture and contributions of this community and recognise the ongoing ambition to achieve equality and human rights. Certain individuals, past and present, were mentioned and the contributions they have made in the arts, science, politics and law were explained, as well as the events and occasions that are celebrated over the year, including Pride Month in June. Another important assembly and information that was given to sixth form students this week, to be shared with other students across the school in due course, was about the Bursaries and Grants that students can apply for. The deadline for these is 9th May 2025, but I suggest parents and students have a look at the information that is available on the website [here](#).

A super article you may like to read on the website this week is about [Year 13 student Dora](#) and her recent achievements.

Please continue to read the rest of the Update.

Wishing everyone a good weekend.

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/WELLBEING

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 the Designated Safeguarding Leads, Mr Simmonds, or a Deputy Safeguarding Lead.

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 800 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 well-being support in school please visit the Student Welfare Team in the General Office or Sixth Form Office or email studentwelfare@kendrick.reading.sch.uk.

SAFEGUARDING

HOW TO TALK TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS SOURCE: NSPCC

It's natural for children and young people to be curious about sex and relationships. But for some parents and carers, it can feel awkward talking about these things. You may feel embarrassed, so might they, but it's natural for them to have questions.

Children and young people have many different types of relationships at different stages of their life, including online. They may use tools like social media or [video apps](#) to stay in touch with friends or a partner. NSPCC has advice on supporting your child to have a [healthy relationship with the online world](#).

You may feel anxious or worry about your child's safety as they start to develop new relationships. NSPCC has advice to help you understand the difference between healthy and unhealthy relationships and tips on what you can do to support your child.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/sex-relationships/healthy-relationships/>



TIKTOK SOURCE [NATIONAL COLLEGE](#) Among children – and especially teenagers – TikTok boasts approximately 220 million users, providing a near-endless reel of short clips intended to entertain, educate and more. However, along with its enormous userbase comes a significant number of possible risks: Ofcom have dubbed it the most likely app on which teen users would potentially suffer harm.

With the platform reaching astronomical levels of success among the younger generation, it's vitally important for parents and educators to understand the risks it poses. The guide below lets you know about the most prominent potential dangers associated with TikTok and offers expert advice on how to safeguard youngsters who are navigating the site.

[GUIDE TO TIKTOK](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

SELF CARE – TIME AWAY FROM TECHNOLOGY SOURCE ANNA FREUD

Sometimes technology and social media can be a lifeline but sometimes they can be completely overwhelming, and it feels like notifications and messages are never ending.

When we feel like we are constantly attached to everyone and all that is happening in the wider world it can become exhausting. That's one of the reasons why lots of people find time away from social media a really important part of their daily self-care (even if it does feel weird at first!)

"As much as I love my phone and everything I use it for I feel like I'd be much less anxious without it. I have to be really strict with myself sometimes and just turn it off for a bit because I can get kind of addicted".

There are, ironically, a range of apps which can help you manage your use of technology if you feel you spend too much time on social media.

What young people have told Anna Freud about taking time away from Technology:

"I find that I sleep better when I stop looking at my phone earlier in the evening".

'Yes, 100%. It gives you time to do other things, be happy be calm and be technology free. its the best way to be :)

'It is so easy to get tied down to your phone or other forms of technology. By taking a break and living in the moment, you can find your brain becomes uncluttered and you feel more refreshed.'

'You may think your phone is essential and without it there is nothing to do, but just see how it feels to take yourself away from it for a bit, it doesn't have to be for long but can make a whole lot of difference.'

'I could focus on my direct surroundings, real necessities and have time and enough calm to think and reflect by myself. When connected to technology, I easily get distracted and lose focus and purpose on what I'm doing. Sometimes I even feel like killing time instead of directing it to a purposeful end.'

'It helps as you are able to detox from it - if you can just have some time on your own without friends messaging you or watching a program you can feel more uplifted. Also the accomplishment of not using your phone for a few hours can really make you feel stronger and more able.'

'Go ahead and try it for yourself; think what you use it for and how it impacts your daily activities and relationships. That might help to decide when to disconnect.'

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MANAGING STRESS - ADVICE FROM THE WELLBEING AMBASSADORS Our Wellbeing

Ambassadors have produced some very informative information on managing stress which you can access via the links below.

[Studying with Less Stress](#)
[It's fine not to be fine](#)

KENDRICK SCHOOL WELLBEING

For all our wellbeing information please click [here](#).

SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR TERM 3, 2024-25

Monday 20th January	Year 13 Mock German speaking exam GCSE / A Level Art & Textile trip
Tuesday 21st January	EPQ Exhibition KPS Year 7 Online drop in with Ms Kattirtzi, 5:30 – 6:30pm EPQ Presentations
Monday 27th January	Year 11 Rural Geography Trip Holocaust Memorial Day
Tuesday 28th January	Year 8 Careers Option Event 'People Like Me'
Wednesday 29th January	Year 10 Parents' Consultations
Thursday 30th January	Music from Around the World Workshop
Friday 31st January	Sixth Form Classics Trip
Monday 3rd February	Children's Mental Health Week Fairtrade Week
Wednesday 5th February	KPS Online Meeting, 6:00 – 7:30pm
Thursday 6th February	Time to Talk Day Year 12 & 13 French Trip Year 10 Hitler on Trial KPS Year 8 & 9 Online drop in with Ms Kattirtzi, 5:30 – 6:30pm
Monday 10th February	Year 11 GCSE PE Practicals
Tuesday 11th February	Safer Internet Day Year 13 A Level PE Practicals
Wednesday 12th February	Year 8 Parent Consultations
Thursday 13th February	Trustees P&R Committee, 4.30pm House Drama
Friday 14th February	End of Term 3

Term dates for 2024/25 and 2025/26 can be found [here](#). Please check these carefully before booking holidays and trips.

NEWS, NOTICES, COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS

ARRANGEMENTS FOR INCLEMENT WEATHER In the case of inclement weather (such as snow), parents and carers will be sent an email by 7am to outline the arrangements for the school day. The website will also be updated. **If you do not receive an email, and the website is not updated, the school is open as normal.**

STUDENTS LEAVING SCHOOL FOR PRE-ARRANGEMENT APPOINTMENTS If for any reason your child needs to leave school during the school day, for a medical appointment for example, they will need to be collected from Reception by a parent/carers. For safeguarding reasons, they will not be allowed to leave school unaccompanied. We also request written notification of such appointments via School Gateway or email to admin@kendrick.reading.sch.uk in advance of such circumstances. Thank you.

COLEY COMMUNITY DAY Local residents are invited to bring their favourite dishes to share with others as part of a fun and flavourful Community Day in Coley later this month. The Community Day takes place on Wednesday 29 January from 3-6pm at Coley Park Community Centre and encourages people to come together with neighbours to taste new dishes and celebrate the rich cultures that make the community so special. Whether you're a seasoned cook or just love trying new flavours, there is guaranteed to be something for everyone. For more information, please contact coley.parkcc@reading.gov.uk.

CAREERS GUIDANCE AND EVENTS

Please note that whilst we are happy to share these opportunities with you, we are unable to endorse or recommend them.

APPRENTICESHIPS AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

BCH, in collaboration with ASK, is hosting a series of community roadshows to provide valuable information about Apprenticeships and Technical Education to students and their parents/carers. Each roadshow will take place in a different local authority but is open to everyone, allowing attendees to choose a date and location that best suits their schedule.

The next roadshow will be held at:

Earley Crescent Resource Centre
Friday, 17 January 2025
15:30 – 17:00

UNIVERSITY OF HERTFORDSHIRE ONLINE EVENTS

Thursday 23 January, 16:30 – Mental Health Nursing Masterclass: Therapeutic Communication in Mental Health

Tuesday 28 January, 16:30 – Sport Taster Lecture: Learning Musculoskeletal Anatomy for Sports Courses

ORACLE WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP AND TECHNOLOGY | VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE | 17-19 February | 10am-3pm | Age 16-19 / [Young people apply here by 30/01/25](#)

Are you looking to explore career paths and gain real insights into the tech world? Oracle is the 3rd biggest software company in the world with over 160,000 employees across 75 different countries. This unique experience is tailored to help you explore your future career options in tech—whether you've thought about it before or are just curious. Discover diverse roles in areas like marketing, design, social impact, and engineering—there's so much more behind the scenes of a tech company than you might think. Our programme is delivered by Oracle interns from prestigious universities, many not much older than you! They've built a program that addresses what they wish they'd known at your age. You'll walk away with an experience you can talk about on your CV and through interactive workshops, we'll equip you with the skills to talk about it well. This experience is designed for anyone interested in exploring diverse career paths—no technology background required! Just bring your curiosity and an open mind, and we'll take care of the rest.

STUDY IN THE NORTH: WEBINAR AND LIVE Q&A

Universities of Sunderland, Newcastle, Lancaster and Sheffield talk through the benefits and opportunities that come from studying in the North of England. You can also ask your questions to a selection of current students!

When: Monday 10 February, 2025

Time: 17:30 - 18:30

Location: Online

Register via the link [here](#).

ARCH EVENT ON WEDS 22 JAN

Broadcaster Jenni Falconer will be speaking about her career to date in radio, tv and podcasting. Sign up is via the [eventbrite page](#)

The Abbey School, 5.30-7.30

Details:

1715 - Arrivals

1730 - In conversation with Jenni Falconer, followed by Q&A.

1830 - Refreshments

1850 - 'Live' Podcast with a Cake episode

1930 – End

VACANCIES

We have the following vacancies at Kendrick School. More information on each of the roles can be found by clicking on the roles below. Please pass on this information to family and friends.

[Geography Teacher with Business and/or Economics](#). To join us in September 2025. Deadline for applications 9am Tuesday 28th January 2025.

[Governance Officer](#). To join in April 2025. 200 hours over the academic year. To be worked flexibly in school and at home although applicants must be able to attend pre-arranged meetings which take place after school, remotely or face to face. Deadline for applications 9am Monday 27th January 2025.

[Attendance Officer and Student Welfare Assistant](#). To join us in January 2025. 35 hours a week. Monday to Friday. 8am to 3.30pm. Deadline for applications 9am Monday 13th January 2025 **INTERVIEWING ON MONDAY 20TH JANUARY 2025.**

[Exam Invigilators](#). We are looking for Invigilators for the 2024/25 exam season. If you are interested in this role, then please visit our [website](#) or email exams@kendrick.reading.sch.uk for an informal chat. Please note that Year 11 parents would not be able to invigilate GCSEs and Year 13 parents would not be able to invigilate A Levels.

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.

PARENTPAY AND EVOLVE REMINDERS

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

PARENTPAY

School fund Donation

Whitley Community Food Cupboard – cash donations

Year 7 Profiling Day – November 2024

Year 10 and 11 GCSE English set text contributions

Year 12 and 13 A level English set text contributions

A level Geography Slapton – October 2024

A Level Sociology in Action conference – November 2024

Year 10 and Year 11 GCSE Drama trip to Oxford November 2024

The Legacy of East Germany in film – 12th December 2024

Year 10 2025 MFL trip to France or Germany instalments

EVOLVEPAY

Payment can be made via trip payment emails or a myEVOLVE account if you have set this up.

Year 11 Geography Rural villages trip – January 2025

GCSE and A Level Art trip to London – January 2025

A Level Classics Trip to Warwick University – January 2025

Year 12 and Year 13 French BFI visit – February 2025

Year 13 Spanish BFI visit – February 2025

Year 11 English Macbeth trip – March 2025

EVOLVESHOP

Purchase can be made via payment links or a myEVOLVE account if you have set this up

GCSE Science revision guides/bundles

GCSE Drama set text (The Crucible, Arthur Miller)

KENDRICK PARENTS' SOCIETY (KPS)

YEAR 2024-25 WISH LIST PROJECT

*We did it! Thanks to your amazing support, we've smashed our target of £4,000! This incredible achievement wouldn't have been possible without your generosity, dedication, and belief in our shared goal. Every contribution, big or small, has made a real difference, and we are beyond grateful for the wonderful community we have.

Together, we've turned the wish list into a reality! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!



Match Funding Opportunity: If your employer offers match funding, we'd love to hear from you! It's a fantastic way to double the impact of your donation. Kindly reach out to us via this email if you are interested -

KPSChair@kendrick.reading.sch.uk

DROP-IN SESSIONS WITH MS KATTIRTZI

Popular 'Drop-In Sessions with Ms. Kattirtzi' are launching next week! This year, the Head of the Key Stage, or Assistant Head of Key Stage, will also be joining the sessions. We believe this addition will provide even greater value for parents, offering an informal and engaging opportunity for discussing a variety of topics related to school life.

Year Group: Year 7

Date: Tuesday 21st January

Time: 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm

Google meeting link: To join the video meeting, click this link <https://meet.google.com/msd-bkhg-yzb>

The protocols for the sessions will be explained before the meeting starts. We look forward to meeting with everyone. Please take advantage of this opportunity.

The dates for other year groups are as follows, meeting links will be circulated nearer the date:

Year 8 and year 9: Thursday 6th February with Ms Kattirtzi and Miss Hyde

Year 10 and Year 11 : Tuesday 4th March with Ms Kattirtzi and Mme Hulley

6th Form: Tuesday 1st April with Ms Kattirtzi and Mrs Hearn

YEAR 7 DISCO @ READING SCHOOL

The Reading School Parents Association is organising the annual Year 7 Disco, and we would like to warmly invite the Kendrick School Year 7 group to join the boys to embrace their new journey into secondary school life and welcome the new year with their grooves and moves.

It is a great opportunity for the Year 7's from both schools to socialize, build fond memories, and meet and greet.

Date: 24th January 2025

Time: 7 pm to 8.30 pm

Location: Reading school (Refectory Hall)

Link to buy a ticket: Reading School Year 7 Disco Booking - <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/73564>

KPS COMMITTEE MEETING 15TH JAN 2025

We had successful KPS meeting this week on **Wednesday, 15th January 2025**. Thanks for the participation and we will circulate the meeting minutes in the coming days.

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES AT KPS

KPS Events and Refreshments Volunteers

As you are aware, we run many events and also support school activities like music or drama performances during the year. We need volunteers to help these events even if for few hours. To join our team of enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers, please join the WhatsApp group using this link: [KPS Events and Refreshment Volunteers](#)

Pre-loved Uniform Shop Volunteers

Are you available on Saturday mornings? We're looking for volunteers to help run our pre-loved uniform shop. This initiative not only helps raise funds for the school but also supports environmental sustainability by reusing uniforms. It's a fantastic way to provide great value to parents while ensuring students have access to quality uniforms at reduced prices

Join our team by clicking on this WhatsApp group link: [Kendrick Uniform Shop Volunteers Group](#)

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.**

KPS Team