

Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Friday 25th April 2025

LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

Welcome back to Term 5, I hope everyone has had a restful spring break and feels refreshed for the term ahead.

A few news items on the website this week related to activities done last term. Please take time to read and enjoy the pursuits and successes of many of our students.

- [Comic Relief Fund raising](#)
- [Macbeth Year 11 trip](#), including Faith's Porter's speech, which impressed me so much that I went to see the production at the Globe in the holidays!
- [Evie's pursuit of journalism](#) as a possible career and seeking to find a journalist to talk to and visit school to share his experience of work.

Today we started the day with a whole school assembly when I introduced the new Kendrick Student Leaders (KSL). This is a most important time in our school year when one team of student leaders takes over from the previous team. The team is made up 18 students, three students in each of the three committees and three students in each of the three Houses. They presented themselves to the school and spoke a little about their plans for the year ahead. They showed confidence and a real desire to support their school and fellow students in the plans they have. They also graciously acknowledged the work of the previous team. One of their first tasks will be to represent the school with me at next week's Open Day sessions for prospective new Year 7 students and their parents. At this event we will all talk about Kendrick School as a place for students to consider for their secondary education and often parents and their children are most interested in hearing from our students about what they say about the school. The Open Days occur in the school day when groups of parents and children are invited at specific times of the day and are given a tour of the school by our students and then receive information about the school from me, the KSL and some Year 7 students. For information about our Open Day series this year can be found [here](#).

At the assembly, I also introduced new members of staff who have joined us this term. They are:

- Mr Gua – Geography Teacher
- Mrs Goddard - English Teacher
- Mrs Moore-Bridger – Science and Physics Teacher

We welcome them and wish them well in their positions at Kendrick this year.

A new term is an important time of the year as it provides us with an opportunity to refresh ourselves and start again. At the assembly this morning, I spoke to students about a new start. All of us can benefit from a new start and doing things slightly differently, slightly better than before. I referred to an assembly Mr Stride gave last year in which he talked about marginal gains, that is doing something just that a little bit better, which can have an overall big difference. For example: leaving home just a bit earlier so that you are not late for school, adding another couple of minutes to a task/homework, concentrating that bit harder in a lesson, spending a few minutes more on exercise, eating a bit more fruit and veg, reducing screen time just a bit every day, wearing one's uniform a bit more tidily, being that bit nicer/kinder to each other, being that bit more appreciative/respectful/polite in school to staff and fellow students. Combined, all these little adjustments can help make huge gains and create the best versions of ourselves. This fits with the word of the week for next week which is Renewal (noun), defined as *the act of making something new, fresh, or strong again, often involving the restoration or revitalisation of an object, idea, or state. It can also refer to the resumption of an activity or state after a period of interruption, signifying a continuation or fresh start*. All of us can gain from some restoration, revitalisation and a new start, and this time of the year is a good time try.

Wishing everyone a great weekend, please continue to read the rest of the weekly update for important information, including details about the Kendrick Parents' Society Spring Raffle.

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 add 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

UNDERSTANDING ONLINE GAMES Online games can be a great way for children and young people to keep busy and stay in touch with friends and family, but it's important that they play safely.

Things to consider if your child games online:

- age ratings of games they play
- messaging and contact functions on the games
- in-game purchases
- trolling, grieving and scams

- how to report problems
- where they can get further support.

Also, if you have more than one child in your home, be aware that games suitable for one child to play or watch, may not be suitable for another.

Deciding if a game is appropriate

There are four main things that you can consider to help you decide if a game's appropriate for your child to play:

1. Check the content of the game and any chat function:

Content within games is regulated and rated into age groups based on elements within the game such as sex, violence, gambling, drugs, in-app purchases etc. There are lots of different age ratings around the world, such as PEGI used in the UK. Always check the age rating to help you decide to allow your child to download or play a game - this is normally visible next to the game title within gaming and app stores.

2. Consider who your child could have contact with whilst using the game:

Consider any communication channels and if there are settings to turn off or limit chat functions. There can be different types of communications, e.g. group chat or private chat. Communication in a game can increase the risk of bullying (sometimes referred to as being 'griefed' within gaming), being contacted by people they don't know and potentially groomed or exploited. Many games have a means of communication which includes private messaging and private chat. Look out for:

- words like 'whisper' or 'private' next to messages if your child is playing in multiplayer games (especially if they are playing with people they don't know offline)
- and any suggestion of taking the conversation to other messaging platforms.

3. Does the game affect your child's behaviour?

The behaviour of your child could be affected by some games, it can include bullying or 'griefing' others, trolling or other inappropriate behaviour. Very intensive games can result in short-term bad behaviour such as poor temper or 'ragequitting', which is getting so upset they stop playing immediately. Ensuring a game's suitability can help, as can limiting playing time.

4. Does the game have in-app purchasing?

In-app purchases normally enhance the game or gameplay, for example skins (design of the character or weapon) or loot boxes (treasure chests, but you don't always know what is in them). There can often be considerable pressure on children to be unique within their games (new skins) or to be better than others (purchasing power-ups). You should consider settings to turn off in-app purchases, or set a spending limit on the device or app.

Children need to be aware of scams involving free in-game currency (e.g. V-Bucks in Fortnite, or Robux in Roblox). Scam text messages, forum posts and videos may have content advertising free in-game currency. But they're often scams, designed to coax the player into revealing their gamer tag (username) and password in return for currency. This is known as a 'phishing' scam.

CYBER PROTECT WEBINARS

ROCU
SOUTH EAST
REGIONAL ORGANISED CRIME UNIT

The Digital Dilemma: Keeping Children Safe Online

Sessions in April, May and June
available to book NOW!

TICKETS ONLINE:
Eventbrite: Police - South East Cyber

FREE WEBINAR FOR PARENTS & CARERS

run by Police Cyber Protect teams

Hints and tips to secure your family
online, covering cyber risks and scams in:

Gaming

Social Media

Email

TO BOOK YOUR SPACE:

Click [here](#), scan the QR code
or search online for "eventbrite police southeast cyber"

DON'T LET IT BE GAME OVER

LEVEL UP YOUR ONLINE SECURITY

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK 2025 – POWER IN COMMUNITIES

Mental Health Awareness week takes place from Monday 12- Sunday 18th May 2025. This year the theme is **Power in Communities**.

Imagine a world where everyone feels supported with their mental health at home, school, and work. This Mental Health Awareness Week, Mental Health UK is working to make that vision a reality by showcasing the power of community in helping us all take care of our mental health.

In a time when the high cost of living is impacting families across the UK, stress and burnout are affecting many, and millions of young people are seeking mental health support, connection is more important than ever. There has never been more awareness of mental health, yet there is more work to do. We believe that everyone has a part to play in creating a supportive network that promotes good mental health.

MHUK has seen the impact of community firsthand—their [young people's programmes](#) helped over 100,000 young people last year, 98% of clients showed improved well-being through our [Into Work programme](#), and their [Mental Health & Money Advice service](#) helped people gain over £7 million in total financial advice. These stories are just the beginning. In 2025, MHUK committed to showing that together, we can all support each other's mental health.

Please click on the links below for some conversation guides. Starting a conversation about mental health can make a real difference. These guides will help you navigate important conversations about mental health with confidence, compassion, and care.

[Talking to someone about mental health](#)

[Talking to a friend about their mental health](#)

[Talking to a young person about mental health](#)

SUPPORT FOR THE EXAM SEASON

Looking after your wellbeing is always important but especially so during the busy exam season. We have gathered a few useful guides on our website for students with tips for keeping calm, some ideas for self-care and also guidance for parents on how to support their child.

Please remember that school is here to help you, talk to your teachers or contact the Student Welfare Team, studentwelfare@kendrick.reading.sch.uk, for support.

[WELLBEING SUPPORT FOR THE EXAM SEASON](#)

KENDRICK SCHOOL WELLBEING

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

SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR TERM 5, 2024-25

Saturday 26th April

Monday 28th April

Tuesday 29th April

Wednesday 30th April

Thursday 1st May

Monday 5th May

Thursday 8th May

Monday 11th May

Pre-Loved Uniform Shop, 9am-11am

Start of Exam Season

Open Day Sessions

KPS 6th Form Online Drop-In Sessions 5.30pm-6.30pm

Open Day Sessions

Junior Maths Challenge

Trustee L&T Committee, 4.30pm

Lower School Chamber Concert, 6.30pm

Bank Holiday

Year 11 Study Leave begins

Trustee Resources Committee, 4.30pm

Mental Health Awareness Week

Tuesday 12th May	Year 13 Study Leave begins
Wednesday 14th May	KPS Meeting, 6pm-7.15pm (online)
Friday 16th May	Start of Year 10 Exams
Saturday 17th May	KPS Raffle Closes
Monday 19th May	Year 8 Bushcraft depart
Thursday 22nd May	Trustee P&R Committee, 4.30pm
Friday 23rd May	Curriculum Day
	End of Term 5, 3.15pm
Monday 2nd June	Start of Term 6. 8.25am

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

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEND) NEWS

SPRING SEND LOCAL OFFER NEWSLETTER The [spring](#) edition of the new look SEND Local Offer Newsletter 2025 is now available. It's packed with lots of information including:

- Blog – Lara Patel, Executive Director Children's Services
- Blog – Carly Price, Strategic Lead for SEND Brighter Futures for Children
- News items, what's on/events available throughout the Easter holidays
- Early years – updates from the sector
- What's on, events and workshops
- Preparing for adulthood – updates for 16–25-year-olds
- Short breaks, support services and much more...

Remember, this newsletter is just a snapshot of the wealth of information found on the www.readingsendlocaloffer.org.

NEWS, NOTICES, COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS

LOWER SCHOOL CHAMBER CONCERT – THURSDAY 1ST

MAY 2025 Our Lower School Chamber Concert will feature remarkable performances from students in Years 7-9. There will be a diverse range of music to listen to from throughout musical history, both vocal and instrumental, which will feature soloists and small ensembles. This event is a celebration of the talent we have in our Lower School and is not to be missed! We expect the concert to finish at approximately 8:30pm.

There will also be some lovely refreshments provided by KPS both before the concert (from 6pm) and during the interval. Doors will open at 6.05pm and we ask the performers to sit on the left and the rest of the audience to sit on the right.

Arrangements for between the end of school and the concert: students are encouraged to go home between the end of school and the concert itself. However, where this is not possible, they may go to the library or conservatory until 5pm. Hereon after, they must go to M1 and let a member of staff know they are there. They will then remain there until 5.45pm. Following this all students will be taken over to the Hall and meeting room (L). All other areas of the school are prohibited without a member of staff between 3.30pm and 5.45pm. Students must not wait outside

FACE Easter Timetable	
all sessions delivered live online via zoom £24 each 90 minutes long book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk	
Facing Defiance	7 April 7pm
Anxiety Based School Avoidance	8 April 10am
Understanding Anger	8 April 7PM
Anxiety Explained	14 APR 10am
Cannabis & Ketamine Awareness	14 APR 7pm
What is ACT	15 April 10am
Introduction to OCD	15 April 7pm
Supporting Healthy Sleep	22 April 10am
Understanding the Teenage Brain	22 April 7pm
FREE Responding to Angry Behaviour	24 April 7pm
Improving Family Communication	28 April 10am
Autism Improving Communication	28 April 7pm
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	29 April 10am
Supporting a Child with ADHD	29 April 7pm
Anxiety Based School Avoidance	6 May 7pm

the school gates, particularly as there are external hirers on site from 4pm, but also in order for us to know who is and isn't on site at any one time.

Please may we remind you that no parking is available on the school site unless you have a disability. If this is the case, then please contact Reception ahead of the event.

This is a free event and we will therefore not be selling tickets for this concert; instead, we will kindly request a donation which will be collected at the end of the evening. All monies donated will be used to buy equipment/resources for the Music Department. Information about concerts and other Arts-based events later in the year will be available in your programme. We look forward to seeing many of you at the concert.

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.

*If you are successful in gaining a place to an opportunity and it is in school time, you **must** request absence from Mrs Hearn. If granted you should then ensure you notify attendance@kendrick.reading.sch.uk, your form tutors and the teachers of the lessons you are missing.*

INTERNATIONAL LAW FIRM UNDERGRADUATE BURSARY PROGRAMME If you are in Year 13 and hold an offer to study law at a UK university, you could be eligible to apply for Sidley's Undergraduate Bursary programme!

As part of our commitment to increasing diversity at Sidley and within the legal profession, we are proud to introduce our bursary programme to support talented law students from less advantaged backgrounds.

What the bursary offers:

- ✓ Financial support throughout your undergraduate law degree
- ✓ Guaranteed work experience at Sidley
- ✓ Mentoring opportunities from legal professionals
- ✓ A chance to focus on your studies without financial concerns

Applications will open on 24 March 2025 and will close on 17 May 2025

MEET PWC: READING COMMUNITY INSIGHT EVENING

Date: Tuesday 06 May | Time: 17:30 – 19:00 | Venue: 3 Forbury Place, 23 Forbury Road Reading, Berkshire RG1 3JH

For students near Reading considering a future in accountancy. This event is perfect for all students Years 10-13, parents, and teachers in the community eager to discover how PwC is shaping industries and supporting career growth for ambitious students. Join them for an inspiring session hosted by PwC, a global leader in professional services. Discover the Flying Start Accountancy Apprenticeship Programme and how it can fast-track a career in accountancy.

For more information visit the webpage: [Meet PwC: Reading Community Insight Evening - Pathway CT](#)

OXFORD SOMALI ACCESS CONFERENCE Wednesday 21st May 2025, for Somalis in Year 12
<https://forms.gle/M4BUxRyzzRCgg1oL7>

VACANCIES

At the present time we have no vacancies at Kendrick School.

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 10 and 11 GCSE English set text contributions

Year 12 and 13 A level English set text contributions

Year 10 2025 MFL trip to France or Germany instalments

Sponsored run and sponsored swim fundraiser

EVOLVEPAY

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

Year 11 Rural Villages Geography field trip – January 2025

Year 8 Bushcraft -May 2025

Year 12 Hengistbury Head – March 2025

Year 12 Work Experience - June 2025

Year 12 UCAS Discovery Day – April 2025

GCSE Drama trip to The Globe – May 2025

A – Level Biology – Sutton Courtenay – June 2025

EVOLVESHOP

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

GCSE Drama set text (The Crucible, Arthur Miller)

Year 8 Careers Event – January 2025

Year 9 and Year 10 French and German plays

German set text

KENDRICK PARENTS' SOCIETY (KPS)

YEAR 8 & 9 DISCO – SOLD OUT!

Today's disco event is fully sold out and thanks to parents and students for enthusiastic response. We are excited to provide an electrifying night filled with music, dancing, laughter, and unforgettable memories.

Here are the details:

Date: Friday, 25th April 2025

Time: 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm (Please note that gates will open at 6 pm)

Location: Kendrick School, Main Hall

Drop-off & Pick-up: East Street Entrance (please note parking is not available onsite)

Parents Meet and Mingle: In conservatory

Snacks & treats available for purchase. Cash and cards are accepted at both the disco and the parents meet and mingle.

Looking forward to an evening full of fun and dancing!

Any queries, please reach out to KPSTreasurer@kendrick.reading.sch.uk or KPSChair@kendrick.reading.sch.uk

PRE-LOVED UNIFORM SHOP

Our next opening will be on this Saturday 26th April 2025, 9am - 11am in the Conservatory. Parking is available in the Cedars car park. Please note that donation point has been moved to the outside of library.

KPS SPRING RAFFLE

Preparations are now underway for this year Spring Raffle and we want to make it a huge success. This year, fund raising will be to support Music Department enhancements, which will benefit students directly.

We need your support in getting some more amazing prizes and if anyone can and/or know others who can donate something – big or small – it would be really helpful. You can email kpsraffle@kendrick.reading.sch.uk or kpschair@kendrick.reading.sch.uk.

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES AT KPS

KPS Events and Refreshments Volunteers

As you are aware, we run many events and 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