

Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Friday 16th May 2025

LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

The messages we sent to you yesterday regarding the KPS Spring raffle have resulted in an increase in the sale of raffle tickets - thank you to everyone who responded to our urgent appeal! However, we are only a quarter of the way there so we would really appreciate if many more parents, families and friends could buy some tickets or make a donation. At the KPS meeting on Wednesday when we were informed of the state of raffle sales, I must say I was quite shocked at the low take up of this important fund raiser. Worse still I was told that the parents of Reading School students (many of whom are parents of Kendrick students) seem to be willing to buy and support the boys' school much more than us. I do not want to believe that because I know Kendrick parents and students value our school and the outstanding education we offer the students and are always so supportive. So, I would prefer to believe people have forgotten or been too busy to buy some tickets but with our reminders will be prompted to do so this weekend or next week. The draw is on Saturday 24th May. Our target is to raise £8k for sound and lighting equipment which will benefit all students in the numerous activities and events we put on over the year. The KPS committee asked me to remind parents to investigate whether their company/employer can match fund charitable contributions as this can greatly add to the overall total.

I often speak about the assemblies that students have presented to their form and or year groups and these are always a highlight of my day when I have been to one. With the support and encouragement of their Tutor and the guidance of Mr Stride who oversees assemblies, students know that their assembly, topic choice and presentation must be of relevance to the others and must also in some way relate to an aspect of our school values and ethos. A regular and most welcome topic is on a theme of women and women's achievements e.g. in sport, business, politics etc. I am always impressed by the research and detail the students can gather and present on a given theme. In the last couple of weeks, I have enjoyed an assembly from 10DW on Hidden Figures, women in history who have achieved so much but were never recognised in their lifetime or have just received a footnote in the history of that period. Then an assembly by 8ED on Suffragettes which they did for me again this morning as it is a topic close to my heart, having taught the suffrage movement for many years to students at A Level. Then earlier this week, 7AM presented an assembly on the environment in which they cleverly used the principles of our Kendrick Pledge to think about the environment- and asked us to treat the environment justly and fairly, a super assembly! Well done to all students and the assemblies they put together.

Last Saturday, our Mock Trial team of Year 9 students went to the Crown Courts in Reading for the Regional Final of the Mock Trial competition. They prepared and presented themselves very well and although they did not win the overall competition, I was impressed by the performances they gave against the opposing teams. They should be congratulated on the work they did to prepare the new case they were given to defend and prosecute. In school this week we have been focusing on [Mental Health Awareness Week](#) with activities supporting the theme of the power communities, something that resonates strongly with us at Kendrick.

Finally, some more incredible articles on the website showcasing the work of our students and staff.

- [Primary Schools' Netball Tournament](#)
- [Widening Horizons Workshops](#)
- [Science Prize Money](#)
- [Gene Therapy Treat](#)

Wishing everyone a great weekend and please buy some raffle tickets [HERE](#)

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

HELPING TO FIND SAFE ONLINE COMMUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SOURCE: [Internet Matters](#)

Finding community and building positive relationships online is a major part of many young people's lives. But how do you ensure they do this safely?

Martha Evans (Anti-Bullying Alliance), Ashley Rolfe (Kidscape) and Allen Tsui (Willow Brook School) share their insights and tips for parents in this expert article from Internet Matters.

Click on the links below for information on:

- [Benefits and opportunities for young people communicating online](#)
- [The differences between offline and online communities](#)
- [Tips for parents to support kids in safe online communities](#)

- [Examples of safe online communities for kids and teens](#)
 - [Supporting resources](#)
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MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

EXAM STRESS – REPORT FROM NSPCC Between 1 April 2024–31 March 2025, Childline delivered 1,647 counselling sessions where the young person mentioned exam/revision stress, an average of 137 counselling sessions per month.

NSPCC monthly counselling sessions about exam/revision stress peaked in May 2024 with 359 counselling sessions, which is over two and half times higher than the monthly average.

Where age was known, half (50%) of counselling sessions were with young people aged 12–15, around two fifths (39%) were aged 16–18, while 11% were aged 11 and under.

Some of the key themes that young people shared with Childline on this topic included:

- Putting pressure on themselves to do well
- Feeling pressure from parents and family members
- Struggling to balance revision and other parts of life like friends and hobbies
- Losing sleep over revision, exams and the idea of failing
- Feeling conflicted between knowing breaks can help with revision and stress, but feeling guilty for taking breaks
- Comparison to friends in how well they're doing in class/mock exams and how much revision they're doing
- Not having motivation to revise because it is hard and being convinced that they will fail regardless
- Feeling hopeless about the future if they don't do well in exams.

For advice from NSPCC for students on dealing with exam stress and information for parents and carers on supporting their child through the exam period, please click [here](#).

Kendrick School has also 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

Monday 19th May

Thursday 22nd May

Friday 23rd May

Monday 2nd June

Year 8 Bushcraft depart

Trustee P&R Committee, 4.30pm

Curriculum Day

End of Term 5, 3.15pm

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

YOUNG VOICES Young Voices is a group of young people from across Reading who come together to discuss and share issues that matter to us. They also work with decision makers across Reading to help the voices and experience of young people to be heard and influence the decisions they make. By participating in different social action projects, you will be awarded AQA Unit Award Certificates.

They are always looking for more people to join Young Voices! Find out more express your interest via <https://no5.org.uk/outreach/young-voices/>

CURRICULUM DAY – FRIDAY 23RD MAY 2025 Our annual curriculum day is taking place on Friday 23rd May 2025, the arrangements for year groups are as below:

Students in:

Years 7 - 9 Do not attend school. Students are not required to register online, and no work will be set.
Year 10 will be in school according to their exam schedule.
Year 12 will be on study leave (further communication will follow on this)
Year 11 and Year 13 will continue with their public exams.

ART SESSION AT READING SCHOOL Are you a budding artist? Do you enjoy calm and creative experiences?

Join local Rangoli and Mandala artist, Ms Sushma Nagendranath on Saturday 31st May from 9.30 am – 12.30 pm where participants will get to design and keep their own unique mandala artwork.

Participants will learn the techniques of drawing a mandala from basics and also create a design on a wood circle to take away.

Whether you're looking to:

- Tap into your creativity (no art experience needed)
- Explore mindfulness through art
- Learn about the ancient symbolism of mandalas
- Unwind and reduce stress
- Take home something beautiful made by yourself

...then this workshop is for you!

Date: Saturday 31st May

Location: Reading School, Art Class 1

Time: 9.30 am – 12.30 pm

Cost: £20 (all materials provided)

To book: email sush.mn@gmail.com

See examples of her work & past workshops: Instagram: @sush_rangoli_art

Facebook: SushRangoliArt

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK: "And every day, the world will drag you by the hand, yelling, 'This is important! And this is important! And this is important! You need to worry about this! And this! And this!' And each day, it's up to you to yank your hand back, put it on your heart and say, 'No. This is what's important.'" — Iain Thomas

WORD OF THE WEEK: Resilience (Noun)

Definition: Resilience is the ability to recover quickly from difficulties or setbacks. It involves mental toughness and the capacity to adapt to challenging situations.

Example: 'As students prepare for and sit their exams, resilience is important. When faced with challenging subjects or unexpected obstacles, those who demonstrate resilience learn from their mistakes, seek support amid setbacks, and persevere to achieve their goals.'

Etymology: The word 'resilience' originates from the Latin word 'resilire', meaning 'to leap back' or 'to rebound'. It first appeared in English in the early 17th century, initially referring to the ability of materials to return to their original shape after being bent or compressed. Over time, the term has evolved to encompass the broader concept of emotional and psychological recovery in the face of adversity.

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.

SIXTH FORM: 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**

VACANCIES

We have the current vacancies at Kendrick School:

[History Teacher with Religious Studies \(RS\)](#) to cover a maternity leave – September 2025. Closing date for applications 9am Friday 16th May 2025.

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)

KPS SPRING RAFFLE

Spring Raffle is open for the last 3 weeks and so far we have only reached 1/3rd of our target £8000. Every ticket you buy isn't just a chance to win something amazing – it's a chance to support the Music Department for the benefit of our students.

Kindly support the initiative either buying tickets or donating here - <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/83533?>

Thanks for those who bought tickets and/or donated, your involvement and help much appreciated.

If someone can support corporate match funding, please contact us - kpsraffle@kendrick.reading.sch.uk or kpschair@kendrick.reading.sch.uk.

UPCOMING KPS COMMITTEE MEETING

This week we had our KPS meeting on **Wednesday, 14th May 2025** from **6pm to 7:15pm**.

Thanks for those attended and the minutes will be shared shortly.

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

