

WEEKLY UPDATE - FRIDAY 19TH DECEMBER 2025

Letter from Ms Kattirtzi, Headteacher

We finish term today and I know that everyone in the school community is ready for a break. Finishing quite close to Christmas means we have more days after the festive period returning to school on Monday 5th January for staff, and Tuesday 6th January for students.

Articles on the website this week are [here](#), please take some time to read them and perhaps peruse the other articles that highlight school life this term.

[Amnesty's International's Write for Rights Campaign](#)
[Fringe Fortnight Fund Raising](#)
[Year 10 Pantomime Performances](#)

The Christmas Concert was the finale event of this term and in our usual style, Year 7, finished the concert with their Christmas song, Feliz Navidad by Jose Feliciano, which was wonderful! There were many new parents who were attending a Kendrick concert for the first time and delighted to see and hear the talent and ability of our students. I hope everyone who came to the concert enjoyed it and the parents of younger students can begin to imagine what their child will be able to do in future Kendrick concerts as they grow older and more mature in their music abilities and confidence. As always thank you to our staff Mrs Cooper, Mrs Rohweder, Miss Rodrigues and Mr Dilley for preparing and organising such a super concert.

We finished the term altogether in a whole school assembly at the end of the day. We reflected on the term and the work and activities that students and staff have been part of, and we listened to some lovely music. As well as Year 7's Christmas song, we were treated to the professional performance of Olivia, a Year 12 gifted Harpist who played a piece she performed earlier in the year, 'Etude de Concert in E flat minor' by Felix Godefruid. We also listened to some poems and contributions from staff, Mr Dilley, Head of English and Mr Hodge, Head of Science. I always appreciate the contributions of our staff to everything they do in school and speaking to the whole school about important themes that affect all of us, can be a very powerful way to communicate with our students. Mr Dilley spoke about the theme of Empathy and Mr Hodge about the theme of Forgiveness; both closely related to the Christmas story. We also heard reports from students from the Kendrick Student Leadership Teams, as well as contributions from a Year 11LW who delivered an impressive assembly to their cohort only yesterday, charting what has happened in 2025. Finally, I concluded the assembly with some moments of reflection considering this time of year and how it can be a time of fun, presents and parties for some, but it can also be a time of great sadness and loneliness for many people who may be on their own or without a loved one at this time of the year.

The Christmas story is the reason why we have this holiday. The messages from it are universal and relevant to us all. In his usual way Mr Hodge explained the Christmas in one of his carefully thought through, funny yet serious, videos which we asked staff and students to watch this week. In the busyness of the week, perhaps it has not been watched by all. So, I ask parents, students and staff who may not have seen it yet, to watch it over this holiday. It can be found [here](#) on our website. It takes 13 mins to watch the video and is worth your time and thoughtful consideration.

My thanks to everyone in the Kendrick Community: staff, students, parents, KPS and Trustees for your hard work and efforts this academic year so far. Your support of us enables us to be the exceptional school we are. In the midst of terrible things happening around us: the war in Ukraine, continued conflict in the Middle East and elsewhere and the terrible tragedy of the killings of innocent Jewish people on Bondi Beach in the middle of their Chanukah celebrations, the Jewish Festival of Light, it is hard to make sense of the world. So, as this season suggests let's think of themes of peace, reconciliation, forgiveness as conveyed in the Christmas story and try to have a peaceful and relaxing and holiday. I look forward to welcoming everyone back in January 2026 to a new term and year.

I will finish again with a poem we listened to in our assembly today.

SOMETIMES by Sheenagh Pugh

Sometimes things don't go, after all,
from bad to worse. Some years, muscadel
faces down frost; green thrives; the crops don't fail.
Sometimes a man aims high, and all goes well.

A people sometimes will step back from war,
elect an honest man, decide they care
enough, that they can't leave some stranger poor.
Some men become what they were born for.

Sometimes our best intentions do not go
amiss; sometimes we do as we meant to.
The sun will sometimes melt a field of sorrow
that seemed hard frozen; may it happen for you.

Ms Christine Kattirtzi
Headteacher

School Notices

We are pleased to announce the launch of the first episode of the **Kendrick School Webinar Series**. This series aims to inform, support, and strengthen understanding between students, school, and parents by exploring shared perspectives and addressing topics that can sometimes feel challenging. Our hope is that these webinars will foster greater insight, mutual support, and more open dialogue within our school community.

The webinars will run throughout the course of the year, with each session lasting approximately **30 minutes**, allowing families to engage with the content in a flexible and accessible way.

KSWs Episode 1: Teenagers and Social Media – Risks, Realities and Relationships is now live and can be accessed at any time via the link below:

[KSWs - Episode 1: Teenagers and Social Media](#)

We hope you find this webinar informative and engaging. Should you have any feedback or questions, please do not hesitate to contact shyde@kendrick.reading.sch.uk.

Safeguarding

[Safeguarding at Kendrick School](#)

[Avenues of Support for the Christmas Holidays](#)

Wellbeing

[Mental Health and Wellbeing at Kendrick School](#)

[Christmas and Mental Health](#)

SEND

You are not alone drop in for January A free monthly online drop-in for parents and carers.

School Fund

Please donate to our School Fund [here](#). You can make one-off payments through your ParentPay account or complete a [standing order form](#) for more regular payments. If you are a UK taxpayer, please ensure you also complete a [Gift Aid Form](#).

A school fund is maintained by voluntary contributions from the parents/carers of students. Its purpose is to provide an additional source of funding for the provision of facilities and educational resources for the benefit of students. We use our School Fund to support so many activities **in and out of** school that have now become essential to school life.

Canteen

The menu for Autumn/Winter can be found [here](#). The menu is subject to change dependent on food availability.

Latest News on our Website

[Amnesty's International's Write for Rights Campaign](#)

[Fringe Fortnight Fund Raising](#)

[Year 10 Pantomime Performances](#)

School Calendar

Week commencing 5th January 2026

Anti-Bullying Week

- Monday 5th January - INSET day.
- Tuesday 6th January - Start of Term 3, 8.25am; Year 11 Mocks
- Thursday 8th January - Year 12 Geography Trip
- Saturday 10th January - KPS Pre-Loved Uniform Shop

Student Careers and Work Experience

[Current Opportunities](#)

Vacancies

Caretaker for January 2026. 4.30pm to 9.30pm Monday to Friday

ParentPay and Evolve Reminders

[Reminders on Friday 19th November 2025](#)

Kendrick Parents' Society (KPS)

[Weekly News - 19th November 2025](#)