

# Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2025

## LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

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Welcome back to everyone and a very warm welcome to our new students and parents in Years 7 and 12. I hope everyone has had a good and relaxing holiday, enjoying a break from school and work and appreciating the summertime.

We started the year with two days of staff inset on Monday and Tuesday, and then on Wednesday it was wonderful to welcome back the students. Following a morning of admin tasks and a whole school assembly, students and staff very quickly settled into their new year timetable and lessons resumed in the afternoon.

All parents will receive email letters from the Pastoral Leaders of the cohorts across the school: Years 7-9 from Miss Hyde, Years 10-11 from Mme Hulley, and for the Sixth Form from Mrs Hearn. There is a lot of information, including important dates for the coming year, so please read these emails and note the dates that apply to your child. For parents of students in Years 7, 10 and 12, there is an invitation to a welcome evening this term to meet staff. I look forward to meeting parents at these events.

The main news since we finished in July has been our exam public results which once again, we are very pleased with. Year 13 students have secured university places of their choice, pursuing courses they want to study. We know that they are now preparing themselves for the move to their university town/city with all the excitement and trepidation this holds; we wish them well. Our GCSE students also did extremely well and most of them have returned to join us in the sixth form along with around 40 students from other schools. Together with the expanded year groups in all years, our school is the largest it has been, with a total of around 950 students and 110 staff.

As well as welcoming new students we welcome new staff to the school. Firstly, we welcome back Ms Grice and Mrs Munns from their maternity Leave. Ms Grice and Mrs Munns resume their roles as Assistant Pastoral Leaders. New staff include Miss Mendel, Maths Teacher; Dr Button, English Teacher; Mrs Mohamed, Geography and Business Teacher; Miss Rex, Physics and Science Teacher; Mr Orchard, Chemistry and Science Teacher; Mr Haynes, History and RS Teacher. We welcome them to Kendrick and know they will enjoy their time working with the staff and teaching our students.

At our whole school assembly on Wednesday, I spoke to the students about the importance of this time of the year and the wonderful opportunity it provides. Whether students have made a significant move into a new key stage to embark on GCSEs or A Levels or moving within their key stage or coming to this school for the first time, a new term is an opportunity for a new start, a renewal. I spoke of some of my expectations of them and asked them to:

- Focus on their learning: engagement and participation in lessons
- Organisation of oneself: getting to school on time, being prepared for lessons, having all the right equipment
- Getting involved in clubs, societies, competitions, House events
- Working on having healthy friendships and relationships
- Being a good friend/student/daughter/sister
- Managing one's phone use and adhering to school policies
- Doing one's best, every day

I know that staff will set their expectations of the students in their lessons and in their individual form, year group and cohort and I am sure very quickly new routines and habits will be established. Picking up on a couple of my expectations, I would like to restate our policy on phones which applies to students across the school. Phones should not be seen or used in school. Students must put them in their bags as soon as they enter school and keep them safe in their lockers. There is some discretion to this rule for sixth formers, but the expectation that phones are not seen applies to us all. We were very successful in establishing and maintaining this practice last year and I thank students

and parents for their support in this matter. I am sure we can do so this year and support our students in managing their mobile phone use so that they are focused when in school and not distracted or diverted by messages which can affect their wellbeing and mental health. Please support us in this endeavour and if you need to contact your child in an emergency, contact Reception to pass on such messages. Another matter I would like parents to adhere to is for parents to make sure any holidays planned do not spill into term time, either the beginning or end of term. A few students have been away for the start of term, and this does not help them, or their teachers, settle into the term. The government is determined that schools do all they can to tackle this problem and here at Kendrick we will be following up on those absences with individual families.

I finished the assembly on Wednesday asking students to think about the year ahead and to commit to working and supporting one another, being kind and generous to each other, appreciating the things we have in common, respecting where we have differences. Together we can create an inclusive environment where everyone feels they belong, feel they are valued, listened to and respected. To start the term in this way, our word of the week is:

**Renewal:** Definition: *A fresh start or revival of energy, purpose and routine after a break returning to school with renewed motivation, goals and a ready-to-learn mindset.*

Finally, I asked students to consider what will be their contribution to their school and community this year, what I call a 'small great thing' they will try to do that will make a difference in school at home, to themselves or others.

I am sure that in the coming weeks and months I will be able to report to you many *small and big great things* our students will do as they embark on this new academic year.

**Ms Christine Kattirtzi, Headteacher**

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## KENDRICK SCHOOL'S SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

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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.



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## SAFEGUARDING/WELLBEING

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### WORRIED ABOUT A CHILD?

If you have a concern about a child at Kendrick School, please email [studentwelfare@kendrick.reading.sch.uk](mailto: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](mailto:studentwelfare@kendrick.reading.sch.uk).**

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## SAFEGUARDING

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### TRAVELLING TO AND FROM SCHOOL Source: [NSPCC](#)

- Make sure your child knows their address and your telephone number by heart, in case they get lost or have to navigate home from somewhere new.
- If they have a mobile phone, remind them to fully charge it before leaving the house, and make sure they have all your contact numbers saved.
- Talk to them about road safety. They should always look both ways before crossing the street and never be on their phone whilst crossing a road.
- Remind them never to accept a lift from someone they don't know or let a stranger into the house. They should never give personal information away – in real life or online.
- Remind them that if they feel unsafe or uncomfortable at any time, they can call you or a trusted adult.
- If they ever feel like they're in immediate danger, they should call the police straight away on 999. If something has happened to your child on their way home from school, please call the police immediately on 101 to report the incident. Please also let the school know the next day by emailing [studentwelfare@kendrick.reading.sch.uk](mailto:studentwelfare@kendrick.reading.sch.uk)

### USING PUBLIC TRANSPORT

If your child has not previously used public transport on their own, these are points you might like to discuss with them:

Where is the bus stop or the train station?

What is the number of the bus they need to catch?

Which platform does their train leave from?

How do they buy a ticket, if they need to?

What time does the train/ bus leave in the morning and in the afternoon? • Where should they cross the road after getting off a bus?

What should they do if the bus or train is late or cancelled?

Can they read a bus or train timetable?

Who can they ask for information?

How they should behave on the bus or the train.

Which is the safer route to walk to and from the bus stop or the station?

Do they have any concerns about travelling by public transport?

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

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**RETURNING TO SCHOOL AFTER THE HOLIDAYS** School is a big part of life, so it is important to feel happy there. Going back to school after the holidays can bring up lots of feelings. You may be happy to go back! But if you're scared or anxious, there are things you can do to make it better.

Click [here](#) for the Returning to School after the Holidays newsletter.

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## KENDRICK SCHOOL WELLBEING

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

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# SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR TERM 1, 2025-26

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Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 12 Welcome, 5pm to 6.30pm
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 7 Welcome, 5pm to 6.30pm
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> September	Admission Test Day, school closed to all students
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September	School Birthday
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> September	Y13 English Trip to Stratford
	Year 10 Welcome, 5pm to 6.30pm
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> October	L&T Trustees Meeting, 4.30pm
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	National Poetry Day
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 13 Slapton Geography Residential (to Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> October)
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> October	Resources Trustee Meeting, 4.30pm
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	World Mental Health Day
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Biology Week
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Upper School and Sixth Form Chamber Concert
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Last Day of Term 1, 3.25pm

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

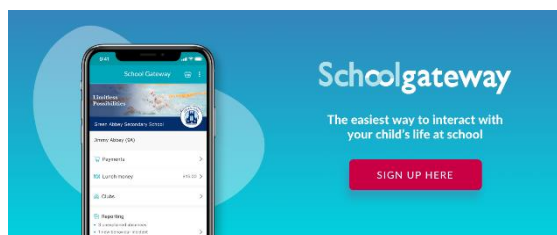
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## SCHOOL LIFE

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Below are some reminders of how to report a student absence, travelling to and from school, and using Parentpay and Evolve.

### SCHOOL GATEWAY AND REPORTING A STUDENT ABSENCE



Please download the [School Gateway app](#) via the links below.

[Apple iPhone users, download the app here: \[schoolgateway.co.uk/iosdownload\]\(https://schoolgateway.co.uk/iosdownload\)](#)

[Android phone users, download the app here: \[schoolgateway.co.uk/androiddownload\]\(https://schoolgateway.co.uk/androiddownload\)](#)

All school related communication, newsletters, reports, timetables, attendance figures, and school reports go through School Gateway – it is the central hub of information for our parents – so to stay up to date with what's going on at school make sure you download the app for free. This app is also where you will report any absences. If you cannot use the School Gateway App, please email [admin@kendrick.reading.sch.uk](mailto:admin@kendrick.reading.sch.uk)

Please report an absence before **9am**. If your child is absent from school, and we have not been informed, we will send a message via School Gateway. We will ask you to contact the school to give the reason for their absence. If we do not receive a response enquiry will be made to ascertain the students' safety, and the absence will be recorded as unauthorised. The Attendance Team monitor the attendance and punctuality of all students, and will work with any students, and parents, to offer any support needed to ensure students achieve their full potential by being in school every day on time. Cases of persistent absence and lateness will be escalated as appropriate.

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**PARENTPAY AND EVOLVE** Kendrick School use two online payment systems: ParentPay and EVOLVE. In the interest of student safety and administrative efficiency, the school no longer accepts cash and cheques.

Both systems comply with the highest level of data security and website accreditation to protect your payment card transactions and ensures full compliance with UK data protection laws, security and accessibility.

Both systems allow parents/carers to make credit or debit card payments at their own convenience. Transactions are handled securely, quickly, and reliably with settlements directly into our school bank accounts.

All payments through both systems are specific to an individual student and payment item. Parents/carers are informed of trip or event details via a Schoolcomms letter. Parents/carers will need to set up both a ParentPay account and an EVOLVE account to ensure that they have access to all the events, activities and opportunities available at Kendrick School throughout the course of their school life.

**Parent Pay:** ParentPay is Kendrick School's method of payment for printing services, canteen facilities, payments to School Fund and other charities, voluntary contributions and replacement of lost equipment. Access to the site to make payments or view a history of payments is made using a username and password which will be provided to you.

**EVOLVE:** EVOLVE is Kendrick School's method of payment for all trips, ticketed events via EVOLVEshop, Work Experience and purchases of textbooks and individual bills such as Music lessons.

For more information or any queries please contact the Finance Team on [finance@kendrick.reading.sch.uk](mailto:finance@kendrick.reading.sch.uk).

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**TRAVEL TO SCHOOL** Students enter and exit Kendrick School through the school gates in East Street. Students are reminded to take care crossing the busy roads that surround the school and always follow the instructions at traffic lights. Students should be aware of their surroundings at all times, particularly when wearing earphones.

**IMPORTANT:** Students in Years 7-11 cannot leave the school site during the school day unless they have a pre-arranged appointment. A responsible adult must always collect the child from school. Students will need to sign out at Reception.

**BY CYCLE:** Students that wish to cycle to school should collect a Cycle Permit form from Reception. There are a number of conditions that the student must agree to when signing the form, including wearing a cycle helmet.

**BY CAR:** Please do not park or stop anywhere on East Street when dropping off or picking up your child. You must not park in any part of the private residential car park opposite the school, including the driveway. Please consider our neighbours at all times. You should find somewhere safe and legal to park your car and your child can then walk to school from there.

For information from Reading Buses as to which buses students can get to and from school, please click [here](#).

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## VACANCIES

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We have the following vacancy. Click on the link for more information and an application form.

[School Administrator and Student Welfare Assistant](#). 28 hours a week, Monday to Thursday, 8am to 3.30pm, job share considered. Closing date for applications **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September, 9am**

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## PARENTPAY AND EVOLVE REMINDERS

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*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

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 7 instruments lesson – June/July 2025

Year 12 UCAS Discovery Day – April 2025

The Crucible – The Globe Theatre – April 2025

GCSE Drama trip to The Globe – May 2025

Year 7 Wheelie Fun Challenge – May 2025

Year 10 World of Insights programme – June 2025

Year 12 Work Experience - June 2025

Year 11 A GCSE English Literature set texts (purchase ready for September 25)

Year 13 A level English Literature set texts (purchase ready for September 25)

Year 13 Geography residential, Slapton – October 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

Poets Society 2025 Anthology: Movement

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## KENDRICK PARENTS' SOCIETY (KPS)

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### PRE-LOVED UNIFORM SHOP

The Pre-Loved School Uniform shop will be open from 9-11am tomorrow morning, Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September, in the conservatory, with parking available in Cedars car park. We would also welcome any new donations of outgrown uniform if parents have had a sort out over the summer.

### 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.**