

# Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2025

## LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

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All students received a warm welcome from their key stage leaders at assemblies this week. In each key stage, Miss Hyde (KS3), Mme Hulley (KS4) and Mrs Hearn (KS5) spoke to their cohorts and outlined the calendar for the year and what activities and events they can look forward to. They also set out their expectations of the students. All emphasised the personal side of being part of the school community: taking part in extracurricular activities, supporting and encouraging each other and being kind and generous in their interactions with one another. On the academic side, homework was discussed, organisational habits and routines, as well as factors that aid good learning: sleep, healthy eating and exercise, which help maintain good attendance and punctuality. Clear expectations are vital for everyone, and I hope all students have done their own personal reflection on the expectations they have of themselves to help make this year go well for them.

Last night we welcomed our Year 12 parents and carers to school who met the Form Tutors and the Sixth Form Leadership Team, putting names to faces, so that communication and information sharing is made easier between school and home. Embarking on A Levels is a big step for students, and I hope the experience and understanding my colleagues they demonstrated to the parents gave them confidence about this next stage of the education of their children. This was the first of the parent information evenings we have this term with Year 7 parents invited in next week and Year 10 parents the following week. It is important to us to meet parents at these key points of a student's life and for parents to meet the staff that will be with their children during their key stage.

I have heard and been told about several students who have done some amazing things over the summer holidays: educational trips abroad, competitions entered and won, music events attended and no doubt much more. I have asked those students to write an article about their exceptional activities so that I can share with you as well as put on the website. Some have interacted with international newspapers such as the Financial Times, others have written an academic article and assessed by professors at Oxford and one student has performed on television as part of her orchestra! There will be much to read in the coming weeks.

In our school calendar, you will have noticed that next Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September is our Admissions Day for Year 7 entry in September 2026. As the test day is on a school day, as last year, students will not attend school on that day. As always, we shall be testing many hundreds of students on that day, all aspiring and hoping to gain one of the 128 places we have at Kendrick. We are very aware of the huge popularity of our school locally and nationally. Our expansion over the last five years has enabled us to offer more places to students, in particular local disadvantaged students to enable some families and children to consider Kendrick in their plans for secondary education. This is part of our [Widening Horizons](#) strategic initiative which I refer to frequently and which we are very proud of. We are pleased that across all years and in the 6<sup>th</sup> Form, our student numbers have increased enabling us to provide a high-quality education and thus opportunities and choices for so many more girls/women. In addition, the work we do in Admissions has been recognised by the Sutton Trust and we have been given a Fair School Admissions Gold Award 2025-26 for the second year running, which acknowledges our work in this area.

Following on from the above, it is appropriate that I should mention the upcoming School Birthday which we will be celebrating in the week beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> September, one of the many highlights of the year for me. This is when we celebrate our school and acknowledge the importance of girls' education. More about that next week.

Wishing everyone a pleasant weekend.

**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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### VAPING

Source: [Action for Children](#)

It is common for parents to worry about their children trying smoking, alcohol or drugs as they get older. However, in recent years, more young people have been using e-cigarettes, known as vaping. Children are trying vaping younger than ever, and the risks are less well known than with other substances.

If you think your child might be vaping or you're worried they might start, it's important to understand what it is and what the risks are so you can talk to them about it. Most children and young people do not vape or smoke on a regular basis over a long period of time, but they might try it. Keeping them informed about the risks, will help them to make healthy choices for themselves.

Action for Children have published a page on the issue – please follow the link [here](#) to find out more.

You may also like to read a recent BBC article ‘Growing concern over number of young people vaping’ [here](#).

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

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### TEENAGE FRIENDSHIP ISSUES? 4 TIPS FOR PARENTS

Strong, healthy, fun friendships are such a blessing in life. Friends who know us better than we know ourselves. Friends we can count on. Friends that we share life’s rich experiences with. BUT the reality for many teenagers is the very opposite of this. Teen years so often involve varying degrees of teenage friendship issues.

The inherent competitiveness that can (unfortunately) exist amongst many teen girls – exam grades, appearance, social media likes, sports performance – can significantly disrupt friendships.

We all know how friendships play a significant role in shaping our teens’ experiences. It’s all part of growing up. The difficulties around teenage friendship issues can affect girls deeply, as well as impacting classmates and families. The tension and difficulties inevitably affect school life too and can impact girls’ progress at school.

It’s important to support our children through these times and help them navigate the sometimes complex world of teenage friendship issues.

First things first, keep the lines of communication open. Be that person your child can turn to when she needs someone to listen or seek advice. Create a safe space where they feel comfortable sharing their thoughts and experiences with you. Remember, we’ve all been teenagers once, and we know how intense friendship dynamics can get. It’s a time when emotions run high, and the smallest things can feel like a big deal.

Letting your child know that it’s normal to face difficulties in friendships during this stage of life is key.

#### **1. Encourage girls to value themselves as individuals.**

All our relationships start with the one we have with ourselves. It’s crucial we value who we are as individuals, and all the unique qualities we have. Encourage your child to recognise their unique qualities and embrace their own uniqueness. When they reach out to you for support regarding their teenage friendship issues, encourage and support them to see their own worth and qualities, building their feelings of self-belief. This will lead to a more positive outlook on her friendships.

#### **2. Understanding we can’t control other people.**

One crucial lesson in navigating teenage friendship issues is understanding that we can’t control other people. Help your child grasp this concept and focus on becoming aware of, and then managing, their own thoughts and behaviour. By shifting the focus inward, they can develop a healthier approach to relationships.

As a parent, you can guide them by encouraging self-reflection and helping her understand the impact of their reactions and actions in their friendships.

#### **3. Recognise and address unhealthy behaviours.**

Teenage friendship issues often involve unhealthy behaviours. It’s important for your child to recognise that they have choices in their relationships and understand the difference between healthy and unhealthy behaviour. Encourage them to pay attention to how she feels about herself when they are with a particular person. If their answer is negative, it’s a clear sign of unhealthy behaviour.

A helpful question to ask teens to guide them to start to recognise healthy or unhealthy behaviour in relationships is: “How do you feel about yourself when you’re with this person?”

If the answer is negative, then that’s a strong signal to that what they are experiencing is unhealthy behaviour. And then they have a choice of what to do next.

#### 4. Supporting teens to build their confidence improves teenage friendship issues.

When girls feel more confident in themselves, it helps to reduce teenage friendship issues. When girls value themselves through embracing their own uniqueness and all the wonderful qualities they possess, they come from a position of strength.

Added to this, encouraging girls to become aware of and develop their own inner dialogue – “self-talk” – is key. Asking girls whether what they say to themselves they would say to their best friend is a useful way to bring awareness to their self-talk.

Many girls have a grumpy, critical inner voice, and by evolving this being supportive and compassionate self-talk can really make a difference to how they feel about themselves and so build their confidence.

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

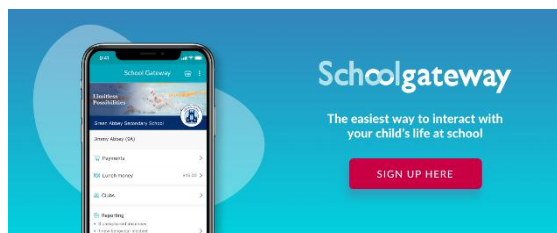
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## SCHOOL LIFE

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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 vacancies. Click on the links for more information and an application form.

[School Business Manager](#), 52 weeks, full time, permanent position. Closing date for applications 5pm Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2025

[School Administrator and Student Welfare Assistant](#). 28 hours a week, Monday to Thursday, 8am to 3.30pm, job share considered. *Interviewing Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025*

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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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### WELCOME TO THE SCHOOL YEAR 2025-26

Welcome back! We look forward to build a supportive and engaging environment for the school, students and parents/carers. We seek your active participation and encouragement by becoming KPS members, supporting volunteering and funding.

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### WHATSAPP GROUPS

Early this week, we circulated details of Whatsapp group for each year group parents and hope you have already became members. If not yet, kindly join using the below links:

- Year 7 (2025). This group will be open to join until the end of the month, before permission will have to be requested to join. This is for security reasons.  
[https://chat.whatsapp.com/Jltvm5oou9tBF8xoTGBRxc?mode=ems\\_copy\\_c](https://chat.whatsapp.com/Jltvm5oou9tBF8xoTGBRxc?mode=ems_copy_c)
- Year 8 (2025). This is the same as last year's link for Year 7 (2024). No need to rejoin.

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/EnM7swB8lQQDzkBpo0Lhyw>

- Year 9 (2025). This is the same as last year's link for Year 8 (2024). No need to rejoin.  
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/FDitvq6bkRAADjtDtIY69I>
- Year 10 (2025). This is the same as last year's link for Year 9 (2024). No need to rejoin.  
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/CgZPcu3ULTIKxyNHk6HOj5>
- Year 11 (2025). This is the same as last years' link for Year 10 (2024). No need to rejoin.  
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/FPAjKP4cxr84iJVAqJWxSv>
- 6th form (2025). This merges Year 11 (2024) and Year 12 (2024). This is the same link for Year 11 (2024). Year 12 (2024) parents will need to join. The existing 6th form (2023) group will be archived soon. This group will be open to join until the end of the month, before permission will have to be requested to join. This is for security reasons. <https://chat.whatsapp.com/E1wRjx8GFjCLVjpoM2AAVv>

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## MOVIE NIGHT FOR YEAR 7 AND 8

This is an important event we organise during start of the year for year 7 and year 8 students at the school. We will be announcing details of Movie Night shortly and hope to make it a memorable event for students providing an informal but safe environment with an entertainment.

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## 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.**