

WEEKLY UPDATE – FRIDAY 11th SEPTEMBER 2026

Letter from Mr Simmonds, Headteacher

This week the school has settled impressively quickly to the routines of registrations, assemblies, lessons and homework. A few parents of students in Year 12 commented to me last night on the speed in which school life gets going. This is just as it should be. We must remember that there are just 39 teaching weeks a year and some of these are spent on trips, exams and super curricular activity. Each week a full week represents about 3% of the year's teaching and learning. Time in school is precious.

Pastoral leaders have led excellent assemblies welcoming students to the new school year. I have been impressed with the sense of calm, enjoyment and focus that I see around school and in lessons.

Many thanks to Year 12 parents who joined us in school on Thursday to meet their daughter's tutor and hear essential information from the Sixth Form leadership team as well as a few words of introduction from myself. It was great to meet them and discuss our shared hopes and ambitions for all the amazing students starting their A level journey in Year 12.

Mr Nicholas Simmonds
Headteacher

School Notices

Admission Test Day – Friday 18th September

This is a reminder that it is admission test day for entry into Year 7 in September 2027 on Friday 18th September 2026 and students will work from home on that day. This is a normal school day for all students and remote registration will be emailed to them in the morning.

Free School Meals

Thank you to those parents that have completed the Free School Meals form. We are working on the outcome of your application and will get back to you as soon as we can. In the meantime, any child that was receiving a free school meal last academic year will continue to receive one until we have the latest information. If you have yet to complete the form and you think your child may be eligible for a free school meal, or you are unsure of the new process, please click [here](#) for more information.

Reporting a Student Absence

A reminder on how to report a student absent is below. Thank you for your support in helping us ensure all students are safe and accounted for during the school day. If further clarification is required, please email admin@kendrick.reading.sch.uk.

- **Absences** must be reported via School Gateway **before 9:00am** on the first day of absence. If an absence continues over multiple days, a daily update is required - one message to cover multiple days is not sufficient. Any student who has vomited must remain off school for **48 hours** following their last episode of vomiting.
- **Promptness** We expect all students to be inside their form room and ready to start their school day by 8.25am. Students can access their classrooms from 8am. Please ensure sufficient time is allowed for traffic, train cancellations and bus delays.
- **Medical appointments** must be reported in advance via School Gateway and a collection time arranged with the student prior to arriving at school.
- **Students in Years 7–11** must be collected by an adult if leaving during the school day. Students will not be permitted to leave unaccompanied for any reason regardless of circumstance.
- **Mobile phones** are not permitted to be used by students anywhere on the school premises during the school day. This includes using phones to notify parents of their arrival, illness, or forgotten items.
- **Students who become unwell during the day;** If a student is unwell during the day they should notify their teacher and where treatment is required, they are to report to the General Office. In circumstances where the student is too unwell to remain in school a member of staff will contact parents / carers to collect their child promptly. Please ensure we are provided with a local contact who can do this.

Safeguarding

[Safeguarding at Kendrick School](#)

[Supporting your child with new social media changes.](#) The government plans to ban social media for under-16s by spring 2027, while introducing new safety measures. Here is more about what is happening, along with advice on supporting your child.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

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

[Social Media and Mental Health.](#) Social media can have a positive impact on your mental health. But it can also make you feel anxious and overwhelmed. [Young Minds](#) advice can help you stay in control of your feed and look after your mental health online.

SEND

[Reading's SEND Local Offer.](#) The SEND Local Offer is here to help you find information about local services, support, activities and events for children and young people aged 0 - 25 years who have special educational needs or disabilities (SEND).

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 Autumn/Winter menu will be shared in due course. **Please ensure that you regularly check your child's canteen balance on their ParentPay account and settle any 'overdrafts' quickly.** Overdrafts should only be issued on an exceptional basis and not as a regular occurrence.

Latest News on our Website

School Calendar

Week A

Tuesday 15th September – Year 7 Welcome Evening, 5pm to 6.30pm

Friday 18th September – Admission Test Day, school closed to students

Student Careers and Work Experience

[Current Opportunities](#)

Vacancies

[Attendance Officer and Administration Coordinator](#) – Monday to Friday, 8am to 3.30pm, term time only.

Art and Technology Technician – 30 hours a week, term time only

ParentPay and Evolve Reminders

[Latest Reminders for ParentPay and Evolve](#)

KPS Updates

KPS has created WhatsApp groups to link parents across each year group. From this group you can also link into the individual classes' groups and class representatives. If you would like to join the group, please use the link below for your child's year group (for September 2026). KPS will manage the group on behalf of the parents as we all transition

through our child's time at Kendrick. The WhatsApp group is open to all parents and carers, however, please do not share the link outside the school community or on any other groups. Existing groups are unchanged (no need to rejoin).

Year 7 (2026-27). This group will be open to join until the end of the month, after this time permission will have to be requested to join. This is for security reasons.

[Year 7 \(26-27\)](#)

Year 8 (2026-27). This is the same as last year's group for Year 7 (2025). No need to rejoin, but permission will need to be sought to join.

[Year 8 \(26-27\)](#)

Year 9 (2026-27). This is the same as last year's for Year 8 (2025). No need to rejoin, but permission will need to be sought to join.

[Year 9 \(26-27\)](#)

Year 10 (2026-27). This is the same as last year's group for Year 9 (2025). No need to rejoin, but permission will need to be sought to join.

[Year 10 \(26-27\)](#)

Year 11 (2026-27). This is the same as last years' group for Year 10 (2025). No need to rejoin, but permission will need to be sought to join.

[Year 11 \(26-27\)](#)

The 6th form (2026-27). This merges Year 11 (2025/6) and Year 12 (2025/6). This is the same WhatsApp group for Year 11 (2025/6), no need to rejoin.

Year 13 (2026) parents will need to join. The existing 6th form group (2025/6) will be archived soon.

This new group will be open to join until the end of the month, after this date permission will have to be requested to join. This is for security reasons.

[Year 13 \(26-27\)](#)

If you are not a KPS member and would like to join KPS, please reply to this e-mail. You can also donate to the KPS charity. All funds go to support our girls, the school and facilitate events. We cannot support the school without your help.