

WEEKLY UPDATE – FRIDAY 25th SEPTEMBER 2026

Letter from Mr Simmonds, Headteacher

This week we celebrated the school's 149th birthday. In a school assembly we reflected on some of the mottos that the school has adopted over the years. We ask everyone associated with the school to lead everyone to grow and contribute; inspire staff students and parents to have a voice and shape the future; and make a difference to people's lives and the wider community. In 1909 a group of Kendrick mistresses and sixth formers sought out John Kendrick's motto inscribed on his memorial in St Mary's church: Dum Spiro Spero, (while I breathe, I hope). This motto stayed with the school for many decades and reminds us all that growth, learning and improvement remain possible as long as we keep trying.

Many thanks to any parents who have contributed to School Fund. Already this week I have had multiple requests to draw on school fund for a wide range of resources and activities; these additional funds really do mean everything to us in school.

Finally, the House captains and vice captains have run House assemblies this week and they have launched preparations for House Drama which this year has a theme based on a piece of art: Banksy's Girl with a Balloon.

Floreat Kendricka, long may our Lion roar.

Mr Nicholas Simmonds
Headteacher

School Notices

Dropping Items off at Reception

As previously communicated, our Reception Team are unable to contact students during the school day to collect items dropped off for them. Please remember that our Reception staff are here to assist and support students, staff, parents and visitors to the best of their ability in a very busy environment. We expect all members of our school community to communicate with staff in a respectful and considerate manner. We do not tolerate confrontational or disrespectful behaviour towards any member of staff. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

School Birthday Own Clothes Day

We hope your child enjoyed marking our School Birthday on Monday, 21st September. In return for the privilege of wearing their own clothes on Monday, we asked you for a donation for each student. If your child chose the non-uniform option and you have not yet made your donation, we would be grateful if you would remember to do this soon. A dedicated **Own Clothes Day payment item** on ParentPay has been set up, through which you can make the **suggested £2.50 donation** per student to the School Fund.

Safeguarding

[Safeguarding at Kendrick School](#)

Kendrick School Webinar Series:

- **Episode 1 – Teenagers and Social Media: Risks, Realities and Relationships** - [KSWS Episode 1 Teenagers and Social Media](#) - Explores the role social media plays in young people's lives, considering both its benefits and potential risks. The episode looks at online relationships, behaviour and some of the challenges families may face when supporting young people in an increasingly digital world.
- **Episode 2 – Seeing Me: Body Image and Identity** - [Seeing Me: Body Image and Identity](#) - Considers the pressures young people can experience surrounding body image and identity. The webinar explores some of the influences that can shape how young people see themselves and considers how families and school can support the development of healthy attitudes and positive self-image.
- **Episode 3 – Beyond the Rainbow: Building True LGBTQIA+ Inclusion** - [Beyond the Rainbow](#) - Explores what meaningful LGBTQIA+ inclusion looks like within a school community. The episode considers language, identity, allyship and the importance of creating an environment in which all students feel respected, understood and able to be themselves.

- **Episode 4 – Staying Safe over the Summer - [Staying Safe over the Summer](#)** - Focuses on helping young people stay safe during the summer months, when they may have greater independence and spend more time away from the routines of school. The episode provides families with information to support conversations around making safe and informed choices.

Each webinar lasts approximately **30 minutes** and can be watched at a time that is convenient for you and all four episodes can be accessed through the **Kendrick School Webinar Series page: [Full webinar series](#)**

Mental Health and Wellbeing

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

[Goal Setting](#). Goal-setting can give you some extra motivation and encouragement, if you feel you need it. It may also help with your daily routine, giving you something to work towards to get you through the day.

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

Thursday 1st October 2026 – National Poetry Day

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

We will shortly be advertising for an Evening Caretaker and a Science Technician.

ParentPay and Evolve Reminders

[Latest Reminders for ParentPay and Evolve](#)

KPS Updates

Please see the latest KPS newsletter [here](#).