

Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Friday 22nd September 2023

LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

It was a pleasure to meet Year 7 parents last night at the Information Evening, their first official event as Kendrick parents. We discussed the process of change that their children are going through as they make the transition to secondary school, which is also a process of change for parents, particularly those who are interacting with secondary school for the first time. There is excitement at the prospect of new beginnings, but also a slight level of anxiety not knowing exactly what is to come. Last night we spoke to parents about how the school supports and cares for students at Kendrick and that this feature of Kendrick is as important to us as students' academic success and progress. I spoke in detail about the support networks available to students and the safeguarding arrangements that are in place. We also talked about routines and workloads for our students in Year 7 and of course managing social media which is often a real concern for all parents. We emphasised working in partnership to achieve the best outcomes for our students.

A responsibility that all staff have in school is the safeguarding of our students. I would like to remind parents and students of key members of staff who lead in this area. Mr Simmonds, Deputy Head is the Designated Lead Officer (DSL) for safeguarding in school. Mrs Hearn, Head of 6th Form and Year 11 and Mme Hulley Head of Key Stage 3 and Year 10, plus Mrs Hackett and Mrs Shaw are all Deputy Designated officers (DDSL). We also have Safeguarding Governors and they are Ms Julia Drury and Ms Lindsey Reece-Smith. Any matters of concern regarding students, parents must contact school to speak to one of the above staff members or email studentwelfare@kendrick.reading.sch.uk. In the more detailed section of the weekly update and on our [website](#), there is always a lot of information about keeping students safe, including details of agencies and bodies that can be contacted to provide support. Some of the key themes that have become a priority for schools this year are detailed in the updated [Keeping Children Safe in Education document \(KCSIE\)](#). Staff have been informed of all these developments in the safeguarding training we had at the start of the term.

In addition, I would like to remind parents of our SEND arrangements and Coordinator. Ms Le Croisette, Assistant Headteacher, is the SEND Coordinator. Students who reach the threshold of SEND arrangements have a SEND passport which all staff are aware of and outlines their special needs and requirements. Sometime students may come to Kendrick with their special needs known, sometimes these emerge as they go through the school. In any case we want to be responsive and supportive to the special and individual needs of children and young people. For reference, Ms Le Croisette's email address is ylecrosstte@kendrick.reading.sch.uk

We have welcomed a number of new staff to the school this term; they are: Mr Dilley, Head of English, Miss Brown, Head of Physics, Miss Murphy, Geography and Business Teacher, Miss Woods, PE Teacher, Mr Calcutt-John, MFL Teacher and Dr Bowker, Chemistry Teacher. We also have some changes in roles. Mr Stride is now Head of Mathematics, and Mrs White is Second in the Maths Department. Also, Ms Fieldsend is now Second in the English Department. As of 2nd October Frau Hellwig will be Head of German to cover the maternity absence of Frau Mueller. There are also some changes in pastoral arrangements with Mrs Hearn in charge of the Sixth Form and Year 11 and Mme Hulley in charge of KS3 and Year 10 this year.

In school, clubs and societies are up and running and students are getting increasingly more involved in taking part in these at lunch breaks. We are still slightly compromised with the Cedars Block being out of action due to the repairs to the roof being behind schedule. However, we are hoping that staff and students will be able to get back into the building for their Music and Drama lessons by the start of October. I appreciate the patience of all staff and students concerned and the difficulties of not being able to teach and learn in specialist areas.

Some interesting articles on the website about adventures a couple of students undertook in the summer. Please take time to read these:

- [My German Summer Experience](#)
- [Bursary Funded World Youth Trip](#)
- [A Level Biology Trip to Dale Fort](#)

I would like to mention again our school birthday celebrations next week. Kendrick continues to thrive as it celebrates its 146th year as an outstanding school in girls' education. I don't think we should ever forget this, and this theme will be the focus of my assembly on Monday. The lighter side of the event is the mass cake baking which I am assuming will be happening this weekend amongst the designated cake bakers! I hope students have got their plans organised within their forms to bake a cake for the competition on Monday and bring these to the Horizons canteen by 8.25. The whole school assembly, picnic lunch, eating cake and gathering as a whole community is a highlight of school life at this time of the year. The reunion of former students and staff is on Friday 29th September after school from 3.30-5.30pm, please see [here](#) for more information.

Please continue to read the rest of the Weekly Update.

With best wishes for the weekend.

Ms Christine Kattirtzi
Headteacher

KENDRICK SCHOOL'S SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

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.



SAFEGUARDING/WELLBEING

WORRIED ABOUT A CHILD?

If you have a concern about a child at Kendrick School, please email studentwelfare@kendrick.reading.sch.uk or telephone 0118 9015859 and ask to speak to a Designated Safeguarding Officer.

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 will be adding 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.

SAFEGUARDING – EXPLOITATION, GANGS AND KNIFE CRIME AWARENESS – FREE ONLINE SESSIONS FROM THE BEN KINSELLA TRUST

Parenting children and young adults is hard, sometimes it can be scary and overwhelming with news stories and social media influencing how safe we feel our children are and the risks they may face in today's climate.

Join this FREE workshop on **Tuesday 3rd October & Tuesday 10th October (7pm-9pm)** on zoom to learn more about what is regular teenager behaviour or what might be signs that a young person in your care is being groomed or exploited.

(Both sessions to be attended)

You can book your space by clicking the link below:

<https://benkinsella.org.uk/parents-carers-workshops/>



**National
Online
Safety®**

STAYING SAFE ONLINE

WHATSAPP

WhatsApp is the most widely used messaging platform on the planet, with over two billion users (forecast to become three billion by 2025), across more than 180 countries. The majority of those people (70%) open the app

at least once a day – but what exactly are they seeing? Contact from strangers, fake news and convincing scams are all among the service's well-documented hazards.

According to Ofcom, WhatsApp is used by more than half of 3- to 17-year-olds in the UK (including one in three from the 8–11 bracket), despite its 16+ age restriction. If your child hops onto WhatsApp to stay in touch with friends or family, this updated guide from National Online Safety to the service contains the key details you'll need to support them in doing it safely.

Click [here](#) to access the guide.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING – FRIENDSHIPS

Our Wellbeing theme for Terms 1 and 2 is **Friendships**. Our Wellbeing Ambassadors will be putting together presentations to share with their forms and our Student Wellbeing Committee is enjoying putting together their first podcast, supported by Miss Hyde. We will also be holding a webinar for parents and carer in Term 2 on the topic of Friendships. More details will be sent to you in due course.

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD OR YOUNG PERSON WITH LONELINESS

Loneliness is common human experience. Loneliness is something we can all experience from time to time, throughout our lives, and will be unique to each individual. Loneliness is the negative feeling we have when there is a difference between the relationships we have and those we want.

This [guide](#) from the Mental Health Foundation gives advice and support on spotting when your child or young person feels lonely and how to support them with emotional loneliness, social loneliness and existential loneliness.

KENDRICK SCHOOL WELLBEING NEWSLETTER

For all our **Wellbeing Newsletters** please click [here](#).

WELLBEING ACTIVITIES

TEEN WRITING GROUP



Teen Writing Group
AT WOKINGHAM LIBRARY

JOIN IGNITING WRITING,
WOKINGHAM LIBRARY'S TEEN CREATIVE WRITING CLUB

FACE TO FACE SESSIONS EVERY SATURDAY
(EXCEPT SCHOOL HOLIDAYS)

SESSION FOR YEAR 6-8 9.45AM TO 11.15AM
SESSION FOR YEAR 9-13 11.45AM TO 1.15PM

THE SESSIONS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO ALL
YEAR 6 TO YEAR 13 STUDENTS

SESSIONS WILL INCLUDE:
- FUN WRITING ACTIVITIES
- USEFUL WRITING TIPS
- GROUP DISCUSSIONS ON STORY IDEAS

ALL SESSIONS NEED TO BE BOOKED IN ADVANCE
TO SIGN UP FOR SESSIONS, VISIT THE EVENTS PAGE ON OUR
WEBSITE: [HTTPS://WWW.WOKINGHAM.GOV.UK/LIBRARIES](https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/libraries)

Wokingham Borough Libraries
Igniting Writing
WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

WOODLEY UNITED FC – U12'S GIRLS



WOODLEY UNITED FC
U12's Girls Development Team

Come and Play Football

YEAR 7 IN SEPTEMBER? FRIENDLY AND INCLUSIVE
NEW TO THE GAME OR LOOKING FOR A NEW TEAM? MAKE NEW FRIENDS
INSPIRED BY THE LIONESSES? FUN, GAME BASED TRAINING
PLAY MATCHES
PATHWAY TO ADULT GAME

Come and join our brand new U12 Girls Development Team

Whether new to the game, or looking for a new team, Woodley United FC are taking on players of all abilities to give everyone who wants to play football the opportunity to do so.

Contact:
Clare on 07554 517853
Gavin on 07879 812957

WoodleyUtdFC WoodleyUtdFC

SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR TERM 1, 2023-24

Monday 25th September
Tuesday 26th September

Thursday 28th September
Friday 29th September
Tuesday 3rd October
Thursday 5th October
Friday 6th October
Wednesday 11th October

Thursday 12th October
Monday 16th October
Wednesday 18th October
Friday 20th October

Kendrick School Birthday
Bronze DofE Awards, 5pm
Year 10 Welcome Evening, 6pm (in school)
Governor L&T Committee, 4.30pm
Former Students' School Birthday celebrations, 3.30pm
Year 8 Welcome Evening, 6pm (in school)
Governor Resources Committee, 4.30pm
Year 7 Movie Night, 3.30pm
Upper School and Sixth Form Chamber Concert
Year 13 Slapton Residential (until 15th September)
Governor P&R Committee, 4.30pm
Biology Week
Oxford/Cambridge Tests (to Friday 20th September)
End of Term 1, 3.15pm

The school calendar for the academic year can be found [here](#). For the Term Dates for 2023-24 please click [here](#)

NEWS, NOTICES, COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS

TRAVELLING TO AND FROM SCHOOL

Members of staff and the general public have reported some very frightening and irresponsible behaviour from some of our students when crossing the roads around the school, particularly the London Road and the IDR by the Oracle. **Please speak to your child about the importance of following the traffic light instructions** and always be aware of their surroundings, particularly when wearing earphones.

If you are bringing your child to school by car do not park or stop anywhere on East Street. This includes the hatchings outside of our London Road gate. You must not park in any part of the private residential car park opposite the school (including the driveway). Please be considerate of 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. Again, we have seen some very irresponsible behaviour of parents just stopping in East Street, and their child running across the road without even looking for traffic. Please be responsible and be mindful of our students' safety at all times.

REMINDER: HOW TO REPORT A STUDENT ABSENCE

Attendance at Kendrick School is excellent. We actively discourage term time holidays; however, if you there is a reason to take your child out of school, please email admin@kendrick.reading.sch.uk with the reasons. This will be passed to Ms Kattirtzi for consideration, and you will receive a reply via email. Unless there are exceptional extenuating circumstances, time taken off in term time will be recorded on your child's attendance record as **unauthorised** and the Attendance Support Officer (ASO) at Brighter Futures for Children will be informed. You may be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice as outlined in the attached information. Please see the [Term Dates](#) on our website before booking your holiday.

Reporting a Student Absence: Please report an absence **before 9am**.

Via School Gateway App: You can report a student absence due to illness through the School Gateway App. Please see the guidance below:

- Click **Notify** at the top right of the Attendance screen
- Type your message, including the date of the absence and the explanation
- Click **Send** at the top right of the screen
- School Gateway will update once your school confirms your notification and updates the system.

Via Email: If you are unable to use the App, please email admin@kendrick.reading.sch.uk Please give your child's full name and form, and the reason for the absence.

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.

Planned Medical Appointments: If your child is missing school for a medical appointment, please use the School Gateway app to inform us. If you are unable to use the App, send an email to admin@kendrick.reading.sch.uk giving as much notice as you can. These absences will always be authorised. Please note that students **must** be collected from school by a responsible adult for appointments that take place during school hours.

Participating in Drama, Music, Sport, Events : We are happy to support students participating in drama, music, sport etc. out of school and if your child needs time off for any of these reasons please email admin@kendrick.reading.sch.uk in advance, explaining the reasons. This will be passed to Ms Kattirtzi for consideration.

SEND - SEND GUIDE FOR PARENTS/CARERS

A quick and easy guide for parent carers of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Updated by Brighter Futures for Children (BFFC) August 2023.

This guide has been put together with parent carers, in partnership with other services, to help families access information on local SEND services for children, young people with additional needs.

Please find attached the updated guide here - [Reading Directory | SEND Guide for Parent Carers](#)

[SEND Local Offer Newsletter - Summer 2023](#)

VACANCIES

We have a vacancy for a **Biology Teacher for 0.8-full time** to join us in January 2025 to cover a maternity leave. More information will be posted on our website next week.

Kendrick School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any successful applicant will be required to undertake an Enhanced Disclosure check by the Disclosure & Barring Service. Kendrick School is an Equal Opportunity employer.

KENDRICK PARENTS' SOCIETY (KPS)

KPS AGM

Our Annual General Meeting is planned on **1st November from 6pm to 8pm**. We will appoint a new body of parents who will work as a committee to achieve the objectives of KPS. There are statutory roles to be filled and we are looking for parents to join the committee. Here are the roles:

- Chairperson
- Secretary
- Co-treasurer
- Membership Secretary

If you are willing to be connected to the school and feel committed and dedicated to make a difference to you and the school, then please email at KPSChair@Kendrick.reading.sch.uk.

Y7 MOVIE TIME

We invite the Y7 students to an after school movie time screening in school on **Friday 6th October from 3:30pm to 6pm**. Students can bring in their onesies and a sleeping bag to watch the movie with their friends and other classmates. Students get a complimentary bag of popcorn and a drink when they purchase a ticket and they can buy more refreshments on the day. In order to achieve this, we are looking for parent volunteers to get together and make it happen. Please email at KPSChair@Kendrick.reading.sch.uk if you can help, otherwise we may not be able to pursue this plan. More details to follow.

KPS volunteers will be serving the new Y7 parents/carers at the welcome evening next Thursday, if you would like to join KPS, please fill this [online membership form](#).

KPS TEAM