

Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Friday 16th September 2022

LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

As we end the second week of our return to school this academic year, I am pleased to say that students and staff have quickly settled down to the routines of school life. The lack of covid restrictions is welcome although we are still maintaining good hygiene practices around the school.

We started the term with our usual whole school assembly and as the school population expands, our 874 students plus staff, filled the sports hall. Our expanded cohort has reached Year 9 and we also have many students joining us in Year 12. It was wonderful to welcome everyone back to school. We will be gathering again as a whole school on Monday 26th September for our annual School Birthday celebrations, when we will be marking 145 years of Kendrick School. We are planning several initiatives to celebrate this milestone in our history, including a whole school photograph which we do every five years. The assembly will also contain a tribute to the late Queen Elizabeth.

As always, I started the new academic year by restating our values which promote the ethos and vision of our school. Underlying all we do is the [Kendrick Pledge](#) which is ingrained in the life of the school; it is a standard by which we can measure and see ourselves as members of the Kendrick Community. In our Pledge, as many of you know, we talk about kindness, friendship, tolerance, understanding and justice for all; these are words that demonstrate our intent, a guide by which I would like us all to live and work in school. Alongside our Pledge, we have a [Relationships and Behaviour Policy](#) in which we explain how we expect our behaviours to be towards each other. We will respond to behaviour when it falls short of our expectations through a therapeutic and supportive approach. Our Kendrick Pledge supports British values, which as a school we teach students about in PSHCE lessons. These values include democracy, individual liberty, the rule of law, mutual respect and tolerance of others' beliefs and faiths and a commitment to equality of all citizens regardless of their gender, race, age, disability, pregnancy and maternity, marital status, sex and or sexual orientation, religion or beliefs. These have been discussed recently in the tributes made about the late Queen Elizabeth.

At our assembly at the start of term, and on all the occasions when we meet as a whole school, I remind everyone of the wonderful opportunity we all have of a new beginning. For everyone, students and staff, a new academic year enables us to start again, it is a chance to do things differently, possibly better. As clubs and societies resume and our activities are less restrained, everyone has an opportunity to take part in the life of the school, expand their experiences and enrich the community.

Over the next few weeks, I will talk about our school's ambitions, plans and activities and report to you all the great things that go on in school every day.

Wishing everyone very best wishes for the new academic year.

Ms Christine Kattirtzi, Headteacher

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.

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 **0808 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 – SPORTS, CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL

Source: [NSPCC](#)

Sports, clubs and other activities are a great way to learn new skills and make new friends. Whether it's a drama class or martial arts club, arts and crafts or band practice, hobbies and activities can be an important part of growing up and learning to be more independent.

It's important to make sure your children are safe and happy, wherever they are. NSPCC has got advice to help keep your children safe at their club, sport or activity, so they can focus on training, learning and having fun.

Please click [here](#) to read the information provided by the NSPCC.

WELLBEING – SPORT

Source: [Anna Freud](#)

If you can, finding a sport that's right for you can be a great way to get fresh air, keep fit or meet new people.

Playing sport can also help you sleep better, take your mind off any stress or anxiety, and release endorphins to improve your mood. You might find the idea a bit scary, and that's perfectly okay – it's normal not to be very 'good' at first! The important thing is not to put too much pressure on yourself.

Some people prefer playing with others, like on a football or basketball team, whilst others might find that playing an individual sport helps them the most, like tennis or swimming. Remember that, no matter what level of ability you're at, you always deserve to participate in something you enjoy; good sports teams or facilities make things fully accessible for everyone.

'I was really nervous to start playing softball, but everyone made me feel comfortable to join in. Sometimes you play well, sometimes you play badly – that's just life! It's the sense of achievement I get from it and the improved confidence that really matters.'

'Sport, I feel, is really really important for your physical well being. it has definitely helped me a lot.'

'Sport, rather than just exercise, often involve playing in a team and this allows you to make really strong friendships because you work together for the same goals. Also Endorphins are really really important to help make me feel energised and happy.'

CALENDAR FOR TERM 1, 2022-23

Saturday 17th September	Admission Test Day for September 2023 Entry
Tuesday 20th September	Year 7 Welcome Evening, 6pm
Tuesday 27th September	Year 10 Welcome Evening, 6pm
Thursday 29th September	L&T Governor Meeting, 4.30pm
Tuesday 4th October	Year 8 Welcome Evening, 6pm
Thursday 6th October	Resources Governor Meeting, 4.30pm
Sunday 9th October	MFL Trip Leaves (to Friday 14 th October)
Wednesday 12th October	Year 13 Geography residential (to Sunday 16 th October)
Thursday 20th October	Upper School and Sixth Form Chamber Concert, 6.30pm
Friday 21st October	End of Term 1, 3.15pm

The school calendar for the academic year can be found [here](#)

For the Term Dates for 2022-23 please click [here](#)

NEWS, NOTICES AND EVENTS

MONDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER

As the State Funeral of Her Majesty The Queen will take place on Monday 19th September 2022, this day has been declared a bank holiday. Kendrick School will therefore be closed to staff and students on that day. The school will operate as normal throughout the national mourning period, other than the bank holiday, and normal attendance is expected.

For more information about the mourning period please visit the [Palace website](#).

Our tribute to Queen Elizabeth II can be found on our website [here](#).

CIVIC MEMORIAL SERVICE, NATIONAL MOMENT OF REFLECTION AND FUNERAL

A Civic Memorial Service for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is being held at Reading Minster, in St Mary's Butts, Reading town centre, on Sunday 18 September. The service starts at 2pm and will be led by the Bishop of Reading and attended by the Mayor of Reading and High Sheriff of Berkshire. All are welcome and are asked to be seated by 1.45pm.

Later that evening. A National Moment of Reflection has been called to mourn the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II and to reflect on her life and legacy. Reading's Council Leader and Mayor will lead a minute's silence outside the Civic Offices in Bridge Street at 8pm.

On Monday 19 September, the council is screening the funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth II in Forbury Gardens. This will be a free ticketed event and residents can secure their place at: <https://whatsonreading.com/venues/forbury-gardens/whats-on/reading-screening-hm-queen-elizabeth-ii-funeral>.

You can find more details of these three events on the council's news webpage at: <https://www.reading.gov.uk/news/>

HOSPITAL FOCUS GROUP FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Special United is holding a Hospital Focus Group meeting at the Royal Berkshire Hospital (RBH) on 21 September, 5.30-6.30pm. Kate Eggington, Associate Director of Nursing, and Niall Norbury, Campaigns and Marketing Manager at RBH, have been working on the Children and Young People Strategy to improve services at the hospital for children and young people with SEND. They would like to ask young people for their thoughts and feedback. Places can be booked by email to: lisaharry14@aol.com by 20 September.

READING CLIMATE FESTIVAL AND YOUTH FAIR

The third Reading Climate Festival will run from Saturday 24 September to Sunday 2 October, concurrently with the UK-wide Great Big Green Week. Its aim is to inspire and encourage positive action on climate change, supporting Reading's commitment to being a net zero, climate resilient town by 2030.

One of the new additions to the festival is a dedicated [Reading Climate Festival Youth Fair](#) which will be taking place at **Reading School on Saturday 24 September, 10am-4pm**. The Youth Fair aims to inspire young people to tackle the climate crisis. The Youth Fair will have an array of stalls, workshops, films, music and presentations. It is aimed at young people aged 12-18 years old and parents are welcome.

EXPLORING CYBER CAREERS

The Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport has launched a free interactive learning platform for 11 to 14-year-olds offering insights into how digital, computing and cyber skills can lead to exciting careers. The learning content in Cyber Explorers has been developed by experts and heighten student awareness around online safety and encourages broader thinking around how to make better choices. Find out more on the [Cyber Explorers](#) website.

PARENTPAY REMINDERS

Please ensure that your child has enough money on their dinner money account every day. 'Overdrafts' should be in emergency situations only and not a regular occurrence. If your child is issued with an overdraft please ensure you pay this back promptly through their ParentPay account. Thank you.

VACANCIES

Kendrick School currently has the following vacancies. Please click on this [link](#) for more information.

Art & Technology and Performing Arts Technicians – 2 roles for 25 hours and 10 hours a week respectively or full time if you are interested in 35 hours a week. To start as soon as possible. Early application is advised as we will close the application process early if a suitable candidate applies and is appointed.

KENDRICK PARENTS' SOCIETY (KPS)

Kendrick Parents' Society had a very engaging committee meeting this week. We are pleased to let you know that we are organising the following events:

- Movie night for Year 7s on 14th October, straight after school until 6pm
- Quiz night for the whole school on 8th October from 6 to 7pm
- School wide an extravaganza event by end of this year on 3rd December (more details to follow). Please let us know if you can help us coordinate this event.

We also have our **AGM scheduled on 17th October** and we are looking for new volunteers to join. All the positions are open to apply. If you have a financial background, we are eager to hear from you to fill in the Treasurer role on an urgent basis.

Please email KPSChair@kendrick.reading.sch.uk for any queries.