

Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Friday 11th October 2024

LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

Yesterday evening we had the second of our trustee committee meetings, the Resources meeting. The Resources Committee oversees the resources of the school, namely staffing, buildings, facilities, Health and Safety, IT provision and infrastructure, energy, etc. Reports are presented to the trustees covering all these key areas and the trustees are informed, track and review previous and future spending plans. This meeting also has an eye on future trends, funding streams and government plans. As an academy our funding comes directly from central government and as an expanding school this funding has increased year on year since 2020 to reflect the increase in numbers of students at the school. However, in a particularly strange funding quirk which applies to all schools, funding for schools is calculated on retrospective figures, so for the last four years we have been funded on the number of students we had in school in the previous year rather than the number of students currently in the school; this is known as lagged funding. Next financial year, 2025-2026 will see the school being fully funded for all the students at the school.

I am sure there are many parents who work in business organisations and understand how finances work and those who work in the public sector will appreciate the perpetual squeeze on finances, including inflationary concerns, the impact of the pandemic, staff shortages and many other factors. Despite these pressures and constraints, I believe we do a great job at Kendrick, through careful and prudent management of our finances, to balance our budget and provide a fully functioning school, well-resourced at all levels. Most of our funding goes into staffing, as one would expect, given that learning and teaching is our core business. We also seek grants and bursaries where we can add to the income of the school, and we let our facilities to hirers in the evenings and at weekends which brings in some income. However, we always need more funding which I will often mention to parents when I meet them. I am most grateful to parents who can make donations in terms of their time or money to support the school for example through KPS. School Fund is also an important source of funding for us, and I speak about our School Fund to parents when they join the school and at all the Information events we have. We ask our parents to make voluntary donations monthly or annually during their child's time at Kendrick to help us support some of the initiatives and enhancements we wish to have in school. For example, maintaining the school minibus, improving facilities, financing competitions and scholarships that students can apply for. Last night at the Resources meeting it was noted that the athletics additions to the front lawn – shot put, long jump and in due course high jump facilities, have enabled our PE Department to provide weekly athletics lessons to our students in KS3 rather than take the students in coaches to Palmer Park. This has greatly helped the PE curriculum and experience for the students. The installing these new facilities on the front lawn last year cost was around £10k, money raised by KPS and supplemented by School Fund. There are many other such examples where funding and donations have made a real difference to what we can offer our students in school. If you have not been aware or as new parent you have not quite understood or realised we have a School Fund and would like to make a donation, however big or small, I urge and encourage you to read the information [here](#) and commit to a donation to the school if you can.

A few things that have taken place this week that has made life at Kendrick fun and exciting for students. Firstly, we have had Biology Week. Interesting experiments, demonstrations, discussions and competitions have been going on in the lunch breaks led by staff. Today I went to the biology labs to find Mr Hodge, Head of Science and Mrs Kenward, Head of Biology dissecting a sheep's head to groups of students. Although not something I am very used to or comfortable with myself, the students present were fascinated and totally engaged in the dissections and the discussion about the eye and brain of a sheep which they were quite happy to examine and handle. Thank you to the staff in the Biology Dept for their enthusiastic efforts in putting this week-long programme of activities together for the students. Elsewhere in the school there was an activity led by the Community Committee of the Kendrick Student Leaders in the Hall called the Weakest Link Game Show Fundraiser, raising money for the Foodbank we support locally.

There was also painting in The Base for those students who might like a quieter and calmer lunch break. And after school today there is Film Night for Year 7 students, who I know have been excited and looking forward to this event all day. Never a dull moment at Kendrick!

In place of a live information event, Year 8 parents received a video presentation this week from our Year 8 pastoral leaders, led by Miss Hyde, Head of Key Stage Three. This presentation completes the information events that we have for students and parents across the school at the beginning of the school year. Other year group parents who we have not spoken to yet have their key events coming up with Year 11 looking forward to a Post 16 Conference and Open Day for the Sixth Form at Kendrick next month. Information about these events has gone to Year 11 parents and students this week and our [website](#) has been updated with information about the event. Year 9, have their important information evening in the spring of next year when they focus on GCSE choices and Year 13 students are currently engrossed in the UCAS process, A Levels and their plans post Kendrick.

To finish, I would like to remind everyone of our Upper School Chamber Concert which is next Wednesday 16th October at 6.30pm. I do hope many parents will be able to join us and support and encourage our students and their music making.

Wishing everyone a good 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

SOCIAL MEDIA – UNDERSTANDING THE PLATFORMS YOUR CHILD USES (SOURCE NSPCC)

Children and young people use many different social media apps and sites. The most popular are Facebook and Instagram, with many others such as Snapchat, TikTok and Twitter.

There are lots of benefits to social networking. Children can stay connected to friends and family. They can also learn many different things, from make-up or gaming tutorials to making slime, or how to create their own videos.

Like most things, there can be negatives too. For children and young people there are risks that you should be aware of, to help keep your child safe on social media.

To read this useful guide to social media for parents and carers from the NSPCC please click [here](#).



National
Online
Safety®

STAYING SAFE ONLINE

SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

Behind video-sharing platforms (like YouTube) and streaming TV shows and movies, gaming is the third most popular online activity for children in the UK. In fact, according to recent data from Ofcom, an overwhelming 89% of

children aged 3 to 17 play video games. Of those, more than one in five (22%) talk to other players online who they don't know outside the game.

The risk of contact from strangers is just one of the reasons that many parents are concerned about their child's gaming: increased screen time, inappropriate content and in-game spending also figure among the most frequent fears. Agreeing on some rules around your child's gaming activities can certainly help, and this guide has some useful tips for establishing these boundaries.

[GUIDE TO SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

INTRODUCING OUR NEW STUDENT WELLBEING AMBASSADORS Thursday was **World Mental Health Day** and the theme this year was '**Workplace mental health**'. The theme highlights the importance of addressing mental health and wellbeing in the workplace (or schools, colleges and universities) for the benefit of people, organisations and communities. At Kendrick School we are committed to promoting positive mental health and emotional wellbeing to our whole community.

One of the ways we do this is through our **Student Wellbeing Ambassadors (WBAs)** and we are delighted to announce our new WBAs for the next academic year.

The role of a WBA is to:

- Champion positive mental health and wellbeing across the whole school.
- Share learning around mental health and promote the importance of self-care.
- Encourage others to talk and challenge their feelings about mental health.
- Provide feedback on what is working well and highlight any gaps in how Kendrick School approaches wellbeing.

Our new Wellbeing Ambassadors are:

Madhu	7AM
Erin	7HW
Mishka	7AM
Pranika	7HW
Blossom	7WM
Sana	7HW
Umaimah	7CS
Husna	7CS

Nayonekaa	8ED
Sree	8JP
Neha	8ED
Aadya	8JP
Riya	8JP
Maeve	8SF
Aashi	8SF
Adhvika	8EG
Aapti	8EG
Samaria	8EG

Chloe	9BW
Tanishka	9BW
Aasritha	9BW
Raghad	9PB
Imogen	9PB
Anagha	9PS
Eliza	9PS

Jo	10DW
Nainika	10DB
Zaynah	10DB
Arwa	10RR
Zainab	11CJD

The WBAs are supported by the **KSL Wellbeing Committee** who are **Aparajita, Amelie** and **Zora** and all the Wellbeing Ambassadors from last year who are now **Wellbeing Mentors**.

The Wellbeing Ambassadors will be working on various wellbeing and mental health initiatives and themes over the coming year and will be sharing these with you through newsletters, assemblies, emails and, of course, at the Wellbeing Games in the summer term!

The Student Welfare Team are also available for students if they need someone to talk to, together with nurse/counsellor support and form tutors.

KENDRICK SCHOOL WELLBEING NEWSLETTER

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

SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR TERM 1, 2024-25

Wednesday 16th October	Upper School Chamber Concert
Thursday 24th October	Sixth Form French/History trip to Paris
Friday 25th October	End of Term 1, 3.15pm

The school calendar for the academic year can be found [here](#). For the Term Dates for 2024-25 please click [here](#)

NEWS, NOTICES, COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS

KENDRICK SIXTH FORM - OPEN EVENT

YEAR 11 PARENTS/CARERS AND STUDENTS

We would like to remind you about some significant events for Year 11. Our annual **Post 16 Conference** will take place on **Tuesday 12th November**. This event will take place throughout the day, students will receive information about post-16 choices and expectations of the universities and industry. Students will also hear about the subjects available at Kendrick School and life in Kendrick's Sixth Form.

The **Sixth Form Open Evening** will take place on Thursday 14th November and will allow students and parents a chance to speak with departments about their potential A-level choices. The event will take place between **4pm and 5.30pm** and this session will be for Kendrick students and their parents only. The subject areas will be open between 4pm and 5pm and there will be a talk in the Hall at 5pm from Ms Kattirtzi, Headteacher, Mrs Hearn, Assistant Head

and Head of Sixth Form and some current Kendrick Sixth Form students. **Tickets are not needed for this event.** Students should meet with their parents outside of school and re-enter and register for the event via the East Street entrance. The subject areas will close promptly at 5pm in order for the talk to start on time, so please allow plenty of time to visit all the subjects your child is interested in. Each student can have up to two adults with them, however, unless there are exceptional circumstances (for example, a single parent), for health and safety and capacity reasons, we ask that younger siblings do not attend this event.

Y11 Parents' Consultation will be held online on **Thursday 5th December**. The timings of all of these events have been deliberately organised so that we can support both the students and parents/carers in the decisions to be made about options post-16. In **December 2024**, the students will be asked to indicate subject preferences and from these, option lines will be drawn up and presented to the students at the end of **January 2025**. Students will be expected to confirm whether they will stay on at Kendrick to attend the Sixth Form in **March 2025**.

EXTERNAL APPLICANTS

Kendrick School welcomes new students into its Sixth Form. Prospective entrants into Year 12 for September 2025 are invited to attend our Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 14th November 2024.

Session 2: 5.00pm to 6.30pm for external Year 11 students and their parents. The first hour is a tour of the school and a chance to visit the subject departments. The session will finish with a talk from the Headteacher, Head of Sixth Form and current Sixth Form students. No tickets are required for Session 1. Kendrick students must wear their school uniform. Entry for Session 2 is by ticket only and will be available on our website from Eventbrite from **Thursday 17th October 2024 at 9am**.

Before booking tickets please read the Frequently Asked Questions [here](#).

VACANCIES

We have the following vacancies at Kendrick School. More information on each of the roles can be found on our website [here](#). Please pass on this information to family and friends.

School Administrator and Student Welfare Assistant – 28 hours a week, Monday to Thursday, 8am to 3.30pm.

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.

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 REMINDERS

School Fund Donation

Whitley Community Food Cupboard – cash donations

A level Maths graphical calculator

Trips

Year 12 Wokingham Waterside Centre September 2024

Year 12/13 French and History trip October 2024

A level Biology trip to Longleat October 2024

A production of 'The Duchess' at the Trafalgar Theatre October 2024

KENDRICK PARENTS' SOCIETY (KPS)

UPCOMING KPS COMMITTEE MEETING AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) 2024

Please mark your calendars for our next meeting, which also includes this year AGM. This is a in person meeting and would encourage everyone to come along for the meeting to meet the KPS team and hopefully becoming a part of the team!

AGM Date: Wednesday, November 6th 2024

Timing: 6pm to 7.30pm

Location: Kendrick School main hall

We will be sharing further details and the agenda for the meeting nearer the time.

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES AT KPS Are you looking to get more involved in our school community? Please see below on how to get involved. Your involvement is greatly appreciated!



Refreshment Helpers Does your child participate in music or drama performances at the school? We need volunteers to help serve refreshments during these events. This is a great way to be part of the school activities and support our students.

Please note, your help is needed only when your child is performing. To join our team of Refreshment Helpers, please join the WhatsApp group using this link: [Refreshment Helpers Group](#)

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: [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.

KPS Team