

# Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2025



## LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

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I feel it has been a tumultuous week with events taking place of huge significance. An attack on a Jewish synagogue in Manchester just over a week ago left two people dead and a community once again traumatised and feeling targeted by others. On Thursday morning we woke up to what was described by our Prime Minister Sir Kier Starmer as a 'moment of profound relief' when we heard the news that a cease fire had been agreed in the Middle East. Israel said it would stop the war and Hamas agreed to release the remaining hostages and thereby ending a war which has caused huge devastation and loss. Cities, homes, communities and lives, 75 000 people dead, and many maimed and wounded have been the result of this conflict. I know that two years ago at the start of the war many of our students were disturbed by the war and made huge efforts to raise money to send to charities for humanitarian aid. I am sure those efforts have continued as people in their own way try to do things to alleviate the suffering of others. Therefore, it is indeed with profound relief that we hear that this war is about to end. However, the politics of war is never straightforward and already we are hearing that there are complications, lack of specific detail in the proposed agreement and even that the war could have ended many months ago which could have saved thousands of lives. So, one asks oneself why did all this death and destruction happen, and will it all really end?

As a History Teacher teaching exam classes in KS4 and 5, the study of war was part of all the specifications I taught – the causes, consequences and impact of war, as well as the interesting philosophical question of what is war? Both then and now, I have asked myself, as did the students I taught at the time, why do these terrible things happen in history and why is there such hate amongst people. Each conflict I have studied and taught about to students has long term causes that often bear little resemblance to the conflict being played out at the time yet distrust and dislike remain the barriers to a common purpose. In a history lesson I observed this week, the theme of 'peaceful coexistence' was discussed with students in Year 10, a term used to describe the relations between the communist east and capitalist west in the early 1960s in the period of the Cold War. Mr Haynes asked the students to write their thoughts on the U2 Crisis of 1960 from either the Soviet or West point of view. I was impressed by the way the students could get 'into the shoes' of either side showing understanding of the context, issues and views of the time; you could say they were exercising empathy. Yesterday I attended an assembly given by Mr Dilley, Head of English on the theme of empathy. Mr Dilley asked students in Years 10 and 11 to *close your eyes and without sharing it with anyone else, think of a person with whom you are currently feeling annoyed. It could be anyone – a friend, family member, or even one of your teachers.* Then he asked the students what was the reason that they were annoyed with them? He asked them to think about the other person and their perspective and how might that person be feeling about them. He was encouraging them to think what it is like to be someone else and to think and understand their point of view; to empathise. This is quite hard for any of us to do. Mr Dilley described empathy as a superpower with the potential to help us overcome the huge challenges and divisions in the world and in our own world right now. As the opposing groups in the Middle East put down their weapons and cease their warring words, I hope they will endeavour to adopt the empathy that Mr Dilley spoke about in his assembly. I hope they try to see things from other people's point of view; try to empathise with each other's position, stance or belief, something we can all try to do. This might make us more peace loving, respectful and tolerant of each other. We wish the people in the Middle East peace, and we hope and pray that they find that superpower quality of empathy to help them try to find the common ground between them and resist the differences that divide them.

It is Mental Health Day today and activities have been planned for students by our Student Welfare team and Wellbeing Ambassadors. This year's theme is 'access to services - mental health in catastrophes and emergencies'. The theme highlights the importance of people being able to protect their mental health in times of global instability. For information on how to manage feelings when global events and relentless bad news become overwhelming, please click [here](#).

I will end again with a poem this week, one that Mr Dilley used to close his assembly yesterday.

Things are as big as you make them –  
I can fill a whole body,  
a whole day of life  
with worry  
on one scrap of paper;  
yet, the same evening,  
looking up,  
can frame my fingers  
to fit the sky  
in my cupped hands.

Reminder that next Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October 4-7.00pm is the KPS Diwali Celebration in the school hall, please see details in the KPS newsletter and please support this wonderful event.

Wishing everyone a peaceful weekend.

Ms Christine Kattirtzi  
Headteacher

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## SAFEGUARDING/WELLBEING

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### WORRIED ABOUT A CHILD?

If you have a concern about a child at Kendrick School, please email [studentwelfare@kendrick.reading.sch.uk](mailto:studentwelfare@kendrick.reading.sch.uk) or telephone 0118 9015859 and ask to speak to the Designated Safeguarding Leads, Mr Simmonds, or a Deputy Safeguarding Lead.

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 add 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](mailto:studentwelfare@kendrick.reading.sch.uk).**

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## SAFEGUARDING

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### FAKE NEWS AND MISINFORMATION *Source: NSPCC*

Digital platforms have made it easier for anyone to share information online, and it can be difficult to determine whether something is real or false.

What a young person sees online can shape how they view the world and impact their overall wellbeing. It's important to talk to them about how misinformation spreads and how to look out for it.

False information that is spread online is known as misinformation or disinformation. These are most commonly referred to as 'fake news' or 'hoaxes'.

**Misinformation** is where false information is shared by accident without the intent to cause harm. For example, sharing inaccurate photos, quotes or dates online because you believe them to be true.

**Disinformation** is false information shared deliberately to mislead and cause harm. For example, fabricated news stories and political propagand

If you or your child comes across a hoax, scam or risky online challenge you should report it directly to the platform to try and get it removed. If you or your child has been scammed online you should report it to [Action Fraud](#).

For more information on how to spot misinformation and disinformation, and how it spreads please click [here](#).

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

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### FAKE NEWS, HOAXES AND MISINFORMATION SOURCE: CHILDLINE

Sometimes, people put views and engagement over the truth – especially on social media. So knowing what's real, and what's not, can get tricky. We want to help you spot the fakes and give you advice on what to do if misinformation is affecting you.

For more information on the following, click on the links:

- [What is misinformation?](#)
- [How to spot fake news and misinformation](#)
- [How misinformation can impact you](#)
- [What to do if misinformation has affected you](#)
- [What to do if your friend is falling for fake news](#)

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## KENDRICK SCHOOL WELLBEING

For all our wellbeing information please click [here](#).

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## SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR TERM 1, 2025-26

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<b>Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October</b>	KPS Diwali Event, 4pm to 7pm
<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Biology Week
<b>Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October</b>	Upper School and Sixth Form Chamber Concert
<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Last Day of Term 1, 3.15pm

Term dates for 2025/26 and 2026/27 can be found [here](#). Please check these carefully before booking holidays and trips.

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## SCHOOL LIFE

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### PARENT TRUSTEE VACANCY – DEADLINE FOR NOMINIATIONS 17/10/2025

I am writing to you to invite you to stand for election as a parent trustee or to nominate another parent to do so for the Kendrick School Trustee Board. We currently have two vacancies and the term of office is four years.

The Trust board and its committees work together to:

- develop a vision and strategy for the school
- hold the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school
- oversee financial performance and adhere to the DfE regulatory framework

- ensure the teaching and learning environment is fit for purpose
- engage with staff, students and parents/carers and the wider community to understand to better understand the issues as they arise and celebrate the successes of the school.

To be able to volunteer, you need to be a parent, carer or someone who has parental responsibility for a child at Kendrick School. You do not need any specific qualifications.

Every Trust Committee needs a balance and diversity of knowledge, skills and experience. A recent skills audit showed that we are particularly interested in bringing onboard trustees with knowledge and experience in finance and accountancy.

To fulfil the role, you will need to:

- Attend regular meetings (up to 9 each year)
- Visit the school on occasion
- Undertake some background reading
- Take part in induction training and ongoing development (which will be provided at no cost for you)

If you would like to apply, please complete the nomination form via this [link](#) and return it to Lisa Hillan, Governor Officer, email [lhillan@kendrick.reading.sch.uk](mailto:lhillan@kendrick.reading.sch.uk) by midday Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2025. If you are putting someone else forward for nomination, please make sure they are happy for you to do so.

If there are more nominations than vacancies, we will conduct a secret ballot. If that is necessary, voting papers and instructions will be sent to all parents and carers.

Kind regards

Charles Ramsden  
Chair of Trustees

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## CAREERS AND WORK EXPERIENCE

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### YOUNG PROFESSIONALS: PARENTS AND CARERS INFORMATION EVENING

*The event below is not affiliated to Kendrick School and we are only passing on the information to you. If you have any queries on the event please contact [Dan.Miller@young-professionals.uk](mailto:Dan.Miller@young-professionals.uk)*

Young Professionals UK invite to an exclusive online parent/carer event designed to provide valuable insights into how you can support your child in making informed career choices when they leave school/university.

This is a fantastic opportunity for you to learn how to help your child gain a foothold in the world of work with the many major brands (mentioned below) from various sectors who will be joining us for the event.

This event will touch upon applying to corporate roles and the application process, commercial awareness and how young people can develop these skills as well as highlighting degree apprenticeships, what they are and key deadlines to make applications.

There will also be breakout room sessions with sector-specific panels and workshops that you and your child can participate in throughout the evening. Please note that to join the breakout rooms, you will need the Zoom app on your laptops or phones.

#### **Event Details:**

**Date:** Thursday, 16th October 2025

**Time:** 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

**Location:** Zoom

**Employers Involved:**

- **Law:** Mishcon de Reya, Clifford Chance, A&O Shearman, University of Law
- **Business/Finance:** KPMG, PwC, BDO, CIMA, RSM
- **STEM:** Wates, RAF, The Army, National Grid

This event will provide you with an in-depth understanding of the career and work experience prospects for your child in sectors such as Finance, Data, Technology, Law, Engineering, and different Corporate Functions.

The whole session will be led by the direct hiring managers at these global firms, so you'll learn from the very best on how to support your child as they transition from education to the professional world with leading brands.

We would encourage you to join this event with your child to get the most out of this session.

**Sign up below to secure your place:**

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Childs\\_Future\\_25](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Childs_Future_25)

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**DYSON ENGINEERING CLUB**

*The event below is not affiliated to Kendrick School and we are only passing on the information to you. If you have any queries on the event please contact Dyson.*

Dyson's Engineering Club is a virtual series of workshops for future engineers covering topics such as design and innovation, mechanical engineering, software and coding, renewability, and sustainability.

Sessions are held each month from October to June on Zoom, and are hosted by one of Dyson's Institute Graduates. Students can stay updated, access past sessions, and download activities via our Engineering Club portal to earn participation certificates.

These sessions are designed to cover GCSE and A-Level curriculum and meet many of the Gatsby benchmarks that support students' careers education.

[Students register here](#)

Dates for this year's Engineering Club, held online 16:30 - 18:00

Wednesday 8th October

Monday 3rd November

Thursday 4th December

Tuesday 13th January

Wednesday 4th February

Thursday 5th March

Monday 13th April

Tuesday 12th May

Monday 1st June

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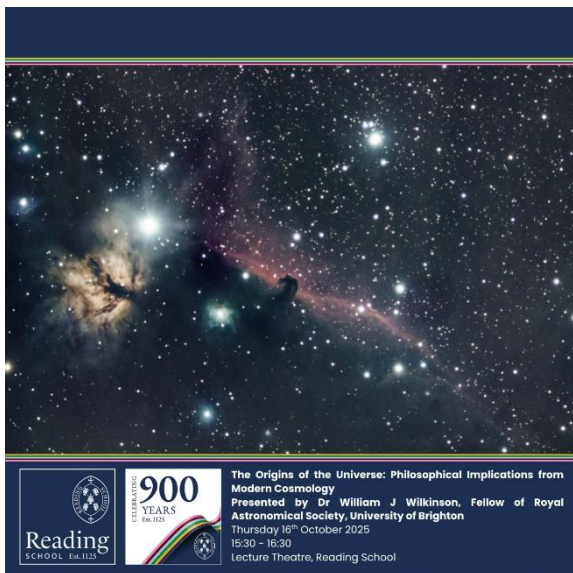
**FAITH AND REASON LECTURE - THE ORIGINS OF THE UNIVERSE: PHILOSOPHICAL IMPLICATIONS FROM MODERN COSMOLOGY**

**Thursday 16th October 2025**

**Lecture Theatre**

**3:30 PM - 4:30 PM**

Click here to RSVP: [The Origins of the Universe: Philosophical Implications from Modern Cosmology - Thursday 16th Octob...](#)



The Reading School Chaplaincy Team is delighted to host the first termly Faith and Reason Lecture, exploring the relationship between science and religion. This lecture will be presented by **Dr William J Wilkinson, Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society and Lecturer in Mathematics at the University of Brighton**, whose academic interests span physics and cosmology.

Dr Wilkinson will consider modern cosmological insights into the origins of the universe and reflect on their wider philosophical and theological implications, offering an engaging perspective on how science and faith intersect in addressing some of life's most profound questions.

Light refreshments will be served after the lecture.

Organised by Dr L Dowle (Head of County House, Assistant Chaplain and Teacher of Mathematics) and Society Office.

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## VACANCIES

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We have the following vacancies. Click on the links for more information and an application form.

[School Business Manager](#), 52 weeks, full time, permanent position. Closing date for applications 5pm Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2025. *Interviewing Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2025.*

[Head of French](#). Permanent, full time (a minimum of 0.8FTE would be considered). For January 2026. Closing date for applications 9am Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2025

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## PARENTPAY AND EVOLVE REMINDERS

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*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

School fund Donation

Whitley Community Food Cupboard – cash donations

**EVOLVEPAY** *Payment can be made via trip payment emails or a myEVOLVE account if you have set this up.*

Year 7 Profiling Day skills workshop

Year 11 A GCSE English Literature set texts

Year 13 A level English Literature set texts

GCSE Drama Workshop – voluntary contribution

GCSE Music Anthology

Year 12 A level Classical Civilisation set texts

Year 12 A level Graphical Calculator

Year 13 Geography residential, Slapton – October 2025

Music Tour to Belgium 2026

Year 12 Longleat Student Conference – October 2025

### EVOLVESHOP

*Purchase can be made via payment links or a myEVOLVE account if you have set this up*

Poets Society 2025 Anthology: Movement

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# KENDRICK PARENTS' SOCIETY (KPS)

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## KPS DIWALI EVENT



**After a gap of few years, Diwali festival** celebration event is back! Looking forward for your kind support and participation in making this event successful.

Join us in celebration and expect a sparkling evening of live cultural performances, tasty festive food, and fun stalls.

**Tickets can be purchased here:**

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/94755>

**Want to hold a stall, email the KPS Treasurer at**

[kpstreasurer@kendrick.reading.sch.uk](mailto:kpstreasurer@kendrick.reading.sch.uk)

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## JOIN THE KPS COMMITTEE – AGM 2025

Are you looking for a way to get more involved in the school community? Now's your chance! The KPS Committee is gearing up for its Annual General Meeting (AGM), and we're excited to welcome new members who want to make a positive impact.

AGM Date: Thursday, November 6th

Time: 6pm to 7:30pm

Location: Kendrick School main hall

At the AGM, we would love to see some fresh faces join the team! Whether you have a passion for organizing events, fundraising, or supporting the school community, there's a role for everyone.

Why Join the KPS Committee?

- Help shape and support school activities and events
- Meet other parents and work closely with the school
- Share your skills, ideas, and expertise
- Make a difference in the lives of our students

There are multiple different roles available within the committee, and you can view all the job descriptions on the KPS section of the school's website for more details or email for more information. Please email us at [KPSChair@kendrick.reading.sch.uk](mailto:KPSChair@kendrick.reading.sch.uk) to express your interest or ask any questions.

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## VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES AT KPS

### KPS Events and Refreshments Volunteers

As you are aware, we run many events and support school activities like music or drama performances during the year. We need volunteers to help these events even if for few hours. To join our team of enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers, please join the WhatsApp group using this link: [KPS Events and Refreshment Volunteers](#)

### 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: [Kendrick 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.**