

Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Friday 17th October 2025



LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

It is the penultimate week of term and everyone is feeling very tired after seven weeks of school. In addition, illness amongst staff and students has resulted in absence and some lessons having to be covered and students doing set work. We still have one week to go before we have a week off and I hope everyone can pace themselves so that we can get there and enjoy a bit of time off.

Whatever week of term it is, Kendrick is still a very busy place with so much going on every day. So many clubs and activities that the students take part in during breaks and after school. A couple lunch times this week I have seen so many students on the courts playing netball with Miss Woods, other students in the hall practising for the concert next Thursday with Mrs Cooper and today I know that the newly formed Bridge Club is having a visitor, expert in the game, joining them. The range and variety of what is available to students is immense and available to all.

Tomorrow, 18th October, is the Kendrick Parents' Society Diwali Celebration which is taking place in the school hall from 4-7.00pm. The posters and information have been circulated many times to parents and again today, so please give some time to this event and come along. There will be display of performances by our students, and, as always, some delicious food from stall holders that have been invited to be part of the event. I hope many students and their families will attend. What a wonderful preparation this will be for Diwali itself next Monday.

A meeting with a Kendrick Student Leaders earlier in the week added even more to the calendar of Kendrick. The Community Committee is planning the Fringe Fortnight which comes at the end of November and early in December; a Kendrick Thrift Week – a kind of swap shop marketplace, as well as the usual preparations for Christmas including a Toys for Teens collection and Christmas Boxes for children. The Wellbeing Committee is focused on recruiting Wellbeing Ambassadors to support students across the school. The House Captains are planning for House Music in Term 2 and House Darma in Term 3. Finally, the Curriculum and Current Affairs Committee is putting together a Newsletter so that everyone is informed of everything that is going on. This part of school life is such an important part of the education and experience students have at Kendrick. As well as providing them with fun activities to take part in, the activities allow for students across years to get to know each other. Younger students are socialising and getting to know older students, and this allows for role modelling which is such an important part of school life. Without realising it students are learning from each other, seeing behaviours that they wish to aspire to or emulate which adds to their personal development and a more rounded education.

An annual event that happens at this time of the year is Biology Week which attracts such interest amongst students. As well as a Sixth Form trip to Longleat yesterday, a lot of activities have taken this week highlighting the wonders of Biology. A popular activity is the dissection of a sheep's head! My colleagues in Biology manage this practical experiment with ease and confidence and my observation of students that go to watch and to hear the commentary associated with the process is that they are fascinated and eager to attend. This event has been postponed until next week.

On the website this week are the following articles for you to read.

[Competition entry and winner](#) [Year 13 English Trip to Stratford Upon Avon](#)

Please read the rest of the Weekly Update not only for key messages on mental health and wellbeing, but also regarding parking in East Street. Also, there is an important message for parents whose children attend the LAMDA run sessions, an after-school activity organised by an outside provider.

Wishing everyone a pleasant weekend and please take some time out of your Saturday to come to the KPS Diwali event tomorrow.

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 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.

SAFEGUARDING

MESSAGE FROM THAMES VALLEY POLICE – KEEPING FAMILIES SAFE FROM COURIER FRAUD IN THE THAMES VALLEY



The Independent charity Crimestoppers and Thames Valley Police are working together to stop a type of scam called courier fraud—and we need your help to protect children, parents, grandparents, and the whole community.

What Is Courier Fraud?

Courier fraud is when a scammer pretends to be a police officer or bankworker and tricks someone into handing over money or valuables. Here's how it works:

- They call and say there's a problem with your bank account.
- They call and ask for assistance in an investigation.
- They ask for private details like your PIN or bank card.
- They tell you to take out money or buy expensive items.
- Then they send a courier or taxi to collect it.
- Once they have it—they disappear

Crimestoppers.
0800 555 111
100% anonymous. Always.

This can happen to anyone, but scammers often target older people or young people who may not know it's a trick.

More information is available at [Crimestoppers Campaign](#).

Why Families Should Talk About This

Detective Inspector Duncan Wynn from Thames Valley Police says:

“Fraudsters use pressure and fear to trick people. But by talking about it at home and in schools, we can stop these crimes before they happen.”

Here’s how you can help:

- [Talk to your children, friends, peers and family especially grandparents](#) about scams.
- [Look out for unusual behaviour](#)—like someone suddenly withdrawing lots of money or being secretive about phone calls.
- [Encourage young people](#) to speak up if they’re approached online or in person to “help” with money transfers or deliveries.

How Young People Can Be Involved

Scammers sometimes trick [teenagers](#) into becoming part of the scam without realising it. They might:

If something feels wrong - [it probably is](#). Always check with a trusted adult.

Who Else Can be used to facilitate this crime?

Courier fraud can involve:

- [Taxi drivers](#) unknowingly picking up scam packages.
- [Shops and jewellers](#) selling high-value items to victims.
- [Currency exchange bureaux](#) used to move money.

If you work in these areas or know someone who does - please share this message.

How to Report (Anonymously)

If you see something suspicious or know someone who might be involved, you can report it 100% anonymously:

- Call Crimestoppers free on 0800 555 111
- Or use their online form - [Crimestoppers Online Form](#)

You can report:

- Names or descriptions of people involved
- Apps or websites used to recruit young couriers
- Suspicious behaviour in shops or taxis

Need Support?

If you or someone you know has been affected:

- [Contact your bank immediately](#)
- Report it to [Action Fraud](#) at actionfraud.police.uk or call [0300 123 2040](tel:03001232040)
- Emotional support is available from [Victims First](#) on [0300 1234 148](tel:03001234148)

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

WORRIES ABOUT THE WORLD SOURCE: CHILDLINE

Life can feel big sometimes with things happening in the world leaving us feeling scared, confused or unsafe. You’re not alone! Everyone has moments where they feel like this. It’s OK to feel this way, and Childline is here to help.



Coping with anxious feelings

Hearing about things that are happening in the world can leave us feeling out of control and overwhelmed with big emotions. This is natural and happens to everyone at some point so Childline has come up with some simple steps you can follow to feel in control again.

Click [here](#) for those simple steps and more information including advice pages on how to navigate a changing world.

KENDRICK SCHOOL WELLBEING

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

SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR TERM 1, 2025-26

Saturday 18th October

Monday 20th October

Thursday 23rd October

Friday 24th October

KPS Diwali Event, 4pm to 7pm

Biology Week

Upper School and Sixth Form Chamber Concert

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.

SCHOOL LIFE

LAMDA – IMPORTANT SAFEGUARDING MESSAGE

If your child attends LAMDA on a Tuesday at Kendrick School, please remind them of the following important safeguarding information:

4PM CLASS Students must either wait in the Horizons canteen at the end of the school day OR leave school and return at 3.55pm and go straight to the LAMDA class.

5PM CLASS Students must either wait in the Horizons canteen at the end of the school day until 4pm and then move to the Library until 5pm OR leave school and return at 4.50pm at the earliest and go straight to the LAMDA class.

Students are not allowed to leave the school and go to the local shops and return before those times. This is because we need to know who is in school for safeguarding and health and safety purposes.

We would strongly recommend that students attending LAMDA classes stay in the school for their own safety and wellbeing. Students are allowed to bring a snack and eat this in the Horizons canteen at 3.30pm supervised by LAMDA staff.

Therefore, please ensure that you are aware of your child's whereabouts between the end of the school day and attending their LAMDA class. LAMDA is not a Kendrick School initiative and therefore the attendance and safeguarding of participants is the responsibility of LAMDA. We are happy to supervise the students in school until they attend the LAMDA class, however, if they leave the school, the responsibility is on the parent to ensure they know where their child is.

PARKING – PLEASE READ

Please be reminded that **there is no parking or stopping anywhere on East Street**. This includes the flats opposite the school **which is private parking only, including the drive up to the parking area**. The residents are becoming very irritated and upset by parents parking here and are now considering taking more serious action, which could include clamping. Please be considerate of our neighbours and also the safety of the students. Please do not stop along East Street for your child to get out of the car. This is extremely dangerous for the child getting out of the car and also holds up the traffic. Please find somewhere safe and legal to drop off and collect your child away from East Street and the London Road.

CAREERS AND WORK EXPERIENCE

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

VACANCIES

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 2nd October 2025. Interviewing Friday 10th 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 13th October 2025

PARENTPAY AND EVOLVE REMINDERS

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

KENDRICK PARENTS' SOCIETY (KPS)

KPS DIWALI EVENT



One day until the Diwali event!

Join us on Saturday, 18th October 2025, from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM at Kendrick School for an evening filled with joy, colour, and celebration.

Enjoy a spectacular line-up of performances by our talented students and there will also be exciting stalls, featuring delicious food, beautiful decorations and jewellery.

Link to book Tickets: [Booking link](#). There will tickets at the door as well

- Children – Free Adults – £2.50
- KPS Members – 20% Discount

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 to express your interest or ask any questions.

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.**