

Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Friday 3rd October 2025

LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

It was National Poetry Day yesterday and the English Department provided us with ideas of how we could inspire the students with poetry using this year's theme of Play. It was suggested to teachers to read a favourite poem to their classes; share a poem related to the topic being studied; ask students to summarise what they have learnt in the form a poem. In addition, other activities have been planned, including an opportunity to buy the Poets' Society's superb "Movement" poetry anthology a poetry competition linked to this year's theme of 'Play' and the return of the five-minute haiku competition, a poem that has just three lines and 17 syllables! I am looking forward to hearing and listening to some of the entries. Mr Dille, Head of English, with members of the English Department also prepared an assembly for the students to watch in their registration times this week [here](#). I hope you enjoy watching the video and joining in celebrating the wonderful form of writing that poetry is.

On the website this week there are several articles reflecting the business of school life and our students. Please take time to read the following:

- [An article on journalism , a club started last year by a group of sixth formers](#)
- [A student's experience as part of the National Youth Orchestra who played at the proms this summer](#)
- [A student's entry into an international competition/challenge with the Financial Times](#)

So many of our students are talented and able and it is a joy to see them thrive and pursue their passions in and outside of school. It is so important to encourage students to take part in extracurricular activities to complement their academic studies. I know most parents are forever taking their child here and there to activities outside of school, but there are also many activities in school to take part in. Every year more activities are added to the list. Extracurricular activities enable students to experience thoughts, ideas and activities beyond the curriculum, making social and intellectual connections with others, as well as having fun! This year's clubs and societies are [here](#).

Another very important area of school life is the work we do with our [Trustee Board](#). A Board of Trustees is made up of a group of volunteers including parents and the Headteacher and has very important functions regarding a school. The role of a Trustee board is 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

Our first meeting of the year was the Learning and Teaching Committee meeting on Wednesday this week. This is often a long but enjoyable meeting where we share attainment and achievement reports with the Trustees. We focus on GCSE results and A Level results, the destinations and courses our students have gone off to after they leave Kendrick. the Trustees ask us many questions and interrogate the data we provide them. Although a long meeting it is always great pleasure to demonstrate the work of the teachers and staff at this meeting, as well the great achievements of the students. We always look at where we can improve and make things better and this year we talked more the strategies we can use to improve attendance and attainment in some areas. Currently the Trustee Board has two vacancies for Parent Trustees. If you are interested in joining the Board of Trustees, please look at the information and nomination form [here](#).

I would all parents to note the term dates for 2026-27 which are [here](#). At the same time, I would like to remind parents that we do not allow holidays in term time and therefore any absence for holidays in term time will be coded as unauthorised.

Please read further into the Weekly Update to find excellent information on mental health and NHS links. Also, please read the updates from KPS, including the Diwali Celebration event on 18th October. Volunteers to help set up

the event are required, and we hope many people will attend. Please support KPS and the school in this first event of the academic year.

To finish, and marking National Poetry Day yesterday, I would like to share our poem of the week with you. Enjoy!

Seasons

by Nishika Nandakumar

Buds blooming thriving high.
Always on the ground they lie.
Sun gleaming as it smiles,
Shining down at the River Nile.
Natures leaves bright as gold,
Rightly sized just to hold.
Leaves fallen,
As my heart is frozen.
What happens next, I don't know;
Let's just wait while we play in snow!

Wishing everyone a pleasant weekend.

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 **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 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

WHAT PARENTS AND CARERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT EA SPORTS FC 26 *Source: National College*

With new kits, updated squads and refined gameplay, EA FC 26 brings the thrill of top-tier football to living rooms once again. While it continues to offer family-friendly fun in modes like Kick-Off and Career, the ongoing popularity of Ultimate Team – where players spend money to build fantasy squads – brings a mix of excitement and risks.

Children can encounter issues such as gambling-like mechanics, voice chat with strangers, and potential exposure to scams. This guide breaks down the game's most important features, highlights the key risks to be aware of, and shares practical advice for helping young players stay safe while gaming and interacting online.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

MANAGING FEELINGS OF OVERWHELM – WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY 10th OCTOBER 2025

SOURCE: MENTAL HEALTH FOUNDATION

World Mental Health Day takes place every year on 10 October. It's a reminder of the importance of good mental health and the need to prioritise and invest in good mental health.

Poor mental health is not inevitable, and World Mental Health Day is an opportunity for us all to consider how, together, we can help everyone have better mental health.

This year the focus is on the mental health impact of repeated exposure to news coverage of crises and conflicts. **The theme is: Overwhelm: when global events and relentless bad news become too much.**

The world is going through a tough time right now and even if you're not directly affected by events, it can still feel like a lot to cope with. It's okay to ask for help, no matter what you, or anyone else is going through. [Read our advice on managing feelings of overwhelm.](#)

We may not have the power to influence or change everything we'd like to on a global scale. But there are things we can do to protect ourselves and others from feeling overwhelmed and hopeless in the face of current events. [Read the tips on managing your news consumption and the impact of doomscrolling](#)

KENDRICK SCHOOL WELLBEING

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

SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR TERM 1, 2025-26

Wednesday 8th October
Thursday 9th October
Friday 10th October
Monday 20th October
Thursday 23rd October
Friday 24th October

Year 13 Slapton Geography Residential (to Sunday 12th October)
Resources Trustee Meeting, 4.30pm
World Mental Health Day
Biology Week
Upper School and Sixth Form Chamber Concert
Last Day of Term 1, 3.25pm



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

SCHOOL LIFE

PARENT TRUSTEE VACANCY

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 by midday Friday 17th 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

CAREERS AND WORK EXPERIENCE



VIRTUAL NHS ENGLAND SOUTH EAST ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS INSIGHT EVENT

Are you a student, parent/carer or teacher, or considering a change in career?

Join this event to hear about all the roles within allied health professions (AHPs) and the career and educational pathways available, including apprenticeships

There will be a diverse panel of speakers, talking about different settings an AHP could work in, sharing their insights and experiences

LIVE Q&A SESSION



Scan the code or click this link - [HERE](#)

Thursday 16 October 2025 6:00 – 7:00 pm

For more information contact:
england.southeastapprenticeships@nhs.net



VIRTUAL NHS ENGLAND SOUTH EAST HEALTH CARE SUPPORT WORKER INSIGHT WEBINAR

Are you a student, parent/carer or teacher, wanting to learn more about a career in Health or Care?

Join this online event to learn more about the role of the Health Care Support Worker, including different opportunities and potential career progression in Health and Care settings

There will be a diverse panel of speakers, talking about a typical day of a Health Care Support Worker and the different areas and specialities they work in and professions they work alongside

LIVE Q&A SESSION



Register by scanning the QR code
Or by clicking [here](#)

THURSDAY 9th OCTOBER
6PM – 7PM

For more information contact:
england.southeastapprenticeships@nhs.net

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)

MOVIE NIGHT FOR YEAR 7 AND 8 – FRIDAY 10th OCTOBER

Our first event of this year is the 'Movie Night' for Year 7 students. It's scheduled on **11th Oct Friday, straight after the school – between 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.

Here is the ticket link to buy your ticket –

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FJNQ>



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.

Look out for further communication on ticket links in a day or two.

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.**