

Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Friday 6th September 2024

LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

Welcome back to everyone and a very warm welcome to our new students and parents in Years 7, 10 and 12. I hope everyone has had a good summer, enjoying a break from school and work and now looking forward to the new term and a new start.

As always it has been a very busy week. After two days of staff inset on Monday and Tuesday, it was wonderful to welcome the students back on Wednesday. Following a morning of admin tasks and a whole school assembly, students and staff very quickly settled into their new year timetable and lessons resumed in the afternoon.

All parents will receive email letters from the Pastoral Leaders of the cohorts across the school: Years 7-9 from Miss Hyde, Years 10-11 from Mme Hulley, and for the Sixth Form from Mrs Hearn. There is a lot of information, including important dates for the coming year and for Years 7, 10 and 12 an invitation to a welcome evening to meet staff. Please may I ask parents to read the communications we send to you and note the important dates for their year group or cohort.

The main news since we finished in July has been our exam results which once again, we are very pleased and proud of. Most of our Year 13 students have secured university places of their choice, with some trading up offers because of the greater availability of courses this summer and others pursuing courses they had not originally considered. We wish them well. Our GCSE students also did extremely well and most of them returned to join us in the sixth form along with over 50 students from other schools. Together with the expanded form groups in all years, our school is the largest it has been, with a total 937 students and over 100 staff. This is something we are very proud of, and I will talk more about in subsequent updates.

At our whole school assembly on Wednesday, I spoke to the students about the importance of this time of the year and the wonderful opportunity it provides. Whether students have made a significant move into a new key stage to embark on GCSEs or A Levels or moving within their key stage or coming to this school for the first time, a new start is available for everyone to plan and shape as they wish. All staff have started to set out their expectations of the students in their form time and in their lessons and this year we are emphasising routines and good habits for us all to try to adopt. To that end we have made some adjustments to how we manage our mobile phones in school so that we minimise the distraction and activity that phones have on people's work, mental health and wellbeing. I hope that parents will support us in this approach and should messages need to be delivered to students of an urgent nature, parents may call Reception and the message will be passed on.

I finished the assembly on Wednesday asking students to think about the year ahead and to *'to commit to working and supporting one another, being kind and generous to each other, appreciating the things we have in common, respecting where we have differences, but always endeavouring to create an inclusive environment where everyone feels they belong, feel they are valued, listened to and respected. A new beginning gives us all a chance to refresh and reshape our plans and ourselves for the future'*. Finally, I asked students to consider what will be their contribution to their school and community and what *small great thing* will they do to make a difference in school and to themselves this year.

I am sure that in the coming weeks and months I will be able to report to you many *small and big great things* our students will do as they embark on this new school year.

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

TRAVELLING TO AND FROM SCHOOL Source: [NSPCC](#)

- Make sure your child knows their address and your telephone number by heart, in case they get lost or have to navigate home from somewhere new.
 - If they have a mobile phone, remind them to fully charge it before leaving the house, and make sure they have all your contact numbers saved.
 - Talk to them about road safety. They should always look both ways before crossing the street, and never be on their phone whilst crossing a road.
 - Remind them never to accept a lift from someone they don't know or let a stranger into the house. They should never give personal information away – in real life or online.
 - Remind them that if they feel unsafe or uncomfortable at any time, they can call you or a trusted adult.
 - If they ever feel like they're in immediate danger, they should call the police straight away on 999.
-

KNIFE CRIME AND VIOLENCE INFORMATION SESSION A free online information session for parents/carers and family members on knife crime and how we can keep our young people safe is being held on Wednesday 25 September from 6.30-8.30pm. The session will be delivered by The Ben Kinsella Trust and is part of the [Stay True to You campaign](#). The aim is to raise awareness of these issues and to give parents the confidence of signs and symptoms to look out for, tips on how to build stronger relationships and to have those difficult conversations.



**National
Online
Safety®**

STAYING SAFE ONLINE

TOP TIPS FOR USING AND REVIEWING PARENTAL CONTROLS

Like a lot of digital services, live streaming really found its niche during the pandemic. With most children today having their own phones, computers and other devices, it's vitally important that parents and educators know how to keep

young people protected while using them. Between targeted adverts, age-inappropriate content, and other online safety concerns, it can sometimes feel overwhelming to keep on top of.

Parental controls, present on most devices and several apps, can make this job significantly easier – but a certain amount of knowledge is required to use them effectively. This online safety guide will provide you with the information you need to activate and maintain parental controls on children and young people's devices.

[TOP TIPS FOR USING AND REVIEWING PARENTAL CONTROLS](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

RETURNING TO SCHOOL AFTER THE HOLIDAYS School is a big part of life, so it is important to feel happy there. Going back to school after the holidays can bring up lots of feelings. You may be happy to go back! But if you're scared or anxious, there are things you can do to make it better.

Click [here](#) for the Returning to School after the Holidays newsletter.

KENDRICK SCHOOL WELLBEING NEWSLETTER

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

SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR TERM 1, 2024-25

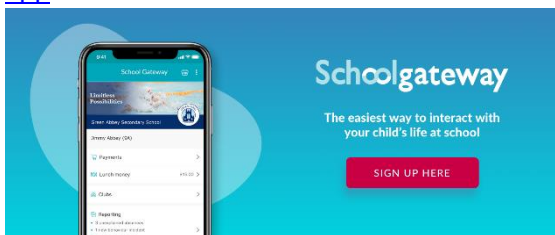
Saturday 7th September	KPS Pre-Loved Uniform Shop, 9am to 11am
Thursday 12th September	Year 12 Welcome Evening, 5pm to 7.30pm
Tuesday 17th September	Year 7 Welcome Evening, 6pm
Friday 20th September	Admission test day, school closed to all students
Thursday 26th September	Year 10 Welcome Evening, 6pm
Tuesday 1st October	Year 8 Welcome Evening, 6pm
Wednesday 2nd October	Year 13 Slapton residential (to Sunday 6 th)
Thursday 3rd October	Trustees L&T Committee, 4.30pm
Thursday 10th October	World Mental Health Day Trustees Resources Committee, 4.30pm
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

DINNER MONEY – PARENTPAY This is a reminder to please ensure that you check your child's ParentPay account regularly to ensure they have enough money on there to purchase their lunch or snacks in the canteen. We never allow a child to go hungry and will always provide them with an overdraft for purchase their food that day, but please ensure that you pay back this money through ParentPay as soon as possible. Thank you.

SCHOOL GATEWAY AND REPORTING A STUDENT ABSENCE Please download the [School Gateway app](#) via the links below.



[Apple iPhone users, download the app here: schoolgateway.co.uk/iosdownload](#)

[Android phone users, download the app here: schoolgateway.co.uk/androiddownload](#)

All school related communication, newsletters, reports, timetables, attendance figures, and school reports go through School Gateway – it is the central hub of information for our parents – so to stay up to date with what's going on at school make sure you download the app for free. This app is also where you will report any absences. If you cannot use the School Gateway App, please email admin@kendrick.reading.sch.uk

Please report an absence before **9am**. If your child is absent from school, and we have not been informed, we will send a message via School Gateway. We will ask you to contact the school to give the reason for their absence. If we do not receive a response enquiry will be made to ascertain the students' safety, and the absence will be recorded as unauthorised. The Attendance Team monitor the attendance and punctuality of all students, and will work with any students, and parents, to offer any support needed to ensure students achieve their full potential by being in school every day on time. Cases of persistent absence and lateness will be escalated as appropriate.

BEAT THE STREET The Beat the Street initiative returns to Reading from 25th September to 6th November. The activity challenges children to see how far they can walk, cycle, run, scoot and wheel in six weeks. There are opportunities to earn points for their teams and to win prizes. The free project is all about getting physically active, spending time with family and friends and enjoying the great outdoors. This is part of the [Move More](#) campaign to encourage children to be more active. Find out more about Beat the Street at: <https://beatthestreet.me/>



WORLD OF EMOTIONS PARENT WORKSHOP Brighter Futures for Children is delighted to offer parents/carers the opportunity to attend World of Emotions, an online workshop, from September 2024. These workshops run monthly and last 3 ½ hours. To access the workshop parent/carers can either complete the MHST referral form themselves online, or school staff can do it on their behalf (with their consent). Please put 'WoE' in the referral reason on the form. <http://www.brighterfuturesforchildren.org/MHST-referral-form>

If you would like us to refer you, please email studentwelfare@kendrick.reading.sch.uk.

World of Emotions is not a parenting course, but rather an opportunity for parents/carers to gain more skills to understand and support their child/young person's wellbeing. It covers a range of emotions and difficulties (e.g. low mood/depression, anxiety, self-harm, disordered eating, challenging behaviour towards others etc). Parents/carers, and anyone else who may be closely involved in the child's life, e.g. grandparents/close family friend, is welcome to attend. We would just need to know in advance 'household' numbers. Children/young people should not attend.

if you have any questions please email MHST@brighterfuturesforchildren.org

COFFEE MORNINGS The new MHST coffee morning timetable for autumn term 2024 is available on the Brighter Futures for Children website). Coffee mornings are an opportunity for parent/carer(s) to learn about mental health in a relaxed and informal setting, understand how mental health might affect their child and learn practical tools to help them support their child through any mental health difficulties they may experience, whether short or long-term. These informal coffee mornings are run by Amanda Mavunga (Reading MHST CAMHS Senior Clinician at BFFC). Amanda will deliver a presentation followed by an opportunity to ask questions. Parent/carer(s) can attend any session, even if their child does not attend the hosting school. Places are on a first come, first served basis.

[Autumn-term-MHST-Coffee-Mornings-at-Reading-Schools-Sept-2024-April-2025.pdf \(brighterfuturesforchildren.org\)](#)

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.

English Teacher to cover a maternity leave (for November 2024)

Caretaker (for as soon as possible), full time

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

Library Resource Coordinator – 22 ½ hours a week, alternate weeks - 8am to 12.30pm; 12.30pm to 5pm.

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.

KENDRICK PARENTS' SOCIETY (KPS)

The **pre-loved uniform shop** will be open tomorrow **Saturday, 7th September 2024, 9-11am** in the Conservatory. Parking is available in the Cedars car park.

If you have any donations of uniform or sports kit you can drop it off at Reception or the students can leave it in the donation box by the servery.

Thank you very much to everyone who supports our pre-loved uniform shop by either donating items or using the shop.