WEEKLY UPDATE – FRIDAY 16TH OCTOBER 2026

We are already in the seventh week of term, and I am not sure where the time has flown to. In lessons I continue to be impressed by the consistently high quality of challenge and thinking that students and their teachers engage in across all subjects in the curriculum. As one Year 11 student told me in a lesson when I asked if she was thinking hard: "the work is challenging but in a good way". Certainly, I see many very happy and hard-working students everywhere I look in lessons.

I am so delighted and grateful for the collective response that the school has made to this term's food bank collection. I was there when the donation (a packed large carload) was made and I know what an extraordinary difference this will make to Reading families who are supported by the Whitley Food Cupboard.

Between lessons this week I have enjoyed watching netball matches, seeing our students supporting younger students at Refugee Club after school, watching a sheep's brain being dissected, playing chess, constructing bridges in Engineering Club and so much more. I also want to mention the highly popular author visit made last Friday when Dr Mary Chambers visited to talk about her book *The Kind Hosts of Willie Wimmera,* which tells the true story of a 10-year-old Aboriginal Australian boy who was brought to Reading in the 1850s and is buried in Reading Cemetery. In assemblies Year 7 had very valuable time exploring their 'learning to learn' and the Sixth Form met to think about how best to plan and use their study time.

Another busy and productive week. Floreat Kendrika indeed.

Mr Nick Simmonds
Headteacher

School Notices

Dropping off and picking up by car

Please remember, if you drop off or pick up your child from school by car, there is no stopping or parking **anywhere** on East Street at any time. We have also had reports of parents parking and stopping illegally on the London Road and Kendrick Road.

Thank you to those parents that do follow our guidance and park somewhere legal and safe to drop off and pick up their child.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding at Kendrick School

World Mental Health Day 2026. **Talking about mental health can feel hard**. Many of us worry about saying the wrong thing, and that can stop conversations before they begin. But these conversations matter. Download some free tips on how to talk, and listen, about mental health.

Talking about mental health - tip sheet
How to listen better - tip sheet

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Mental Health and Wellbeing at Kendrick School

Spending Time with Friends. Sometimes when we are feeling low or anxious it can be really easy to slowly stop getting out and seeing our friends as much as we used to. For some people, it can be really helpful to try and break that habit by purposefully spending more time with friends and people you get along with. Click here for some ideas of things to do with your friends.

SEND

Reading's SEND Local Offer. The SEND Local Offer is here to help you find information about local services, support, activities and events for children and young people aged 0 - 25 years who have special educational needs or disabilities (SEND).

School Fund

Please donate to our School Fund here. You can make one-off payments through your ParentPay account or complete a standing order form for more regular payments. If you are a UK taxpayer, please ensure you also complete a Gift Aid Form.

A school fund is maintained by voluntary contributions from the parents/carers of students. Its purpose is to provide an additional source of funding for the provision of facilities and educational resources for the benefit of students. We use our School Fund to support so many activities **in and out of** school that have now become essential to school life.

Canteen

The Autumn/Winter menu can be found here. **Please ensure that you regularly check your child's canteen balance on their ParentPay account and settle any 'overdrafts' quickly.** Overdrafts should only be issued on an exceptional basis and not as a regular occurrence.

Latest News on our Website

Widening Horizons – Gold Award from Sutton Trust
The Kind Hosts of Willie Wimmera
National Poetry Day 2026

School Calendar

Week B

Monday 19th October	Year 10 and 11 Latin trip to Bath
Tuesday 20th October	KPS Online Meeting, 6pm – 7.15pm
Wednesday 21st October	Upper School and Sixth Form Chamber Concert

Student Careers and Work Experience

CAREERS TALK - Meteorology: including Laura Tobin from Good Morning Britain – 11th November 2026 5pm to 6pm at The Abbey School in Reading

- Laura Tobin - Broadcast meteorologist and scientist, weather presenter on ITV's Good Morning Britain and
- Professor Andrew Charlton-Perez OBE - Climate Scientist, Professor of Meteorology at the University of Reading.

This event is open to all students in the area. If you are interested in attending please complete this Eventbrite link. Please note this event is not affiliated with Kendrick School.

Vacancies

Exams Assistant closing date 2nd November 2026

ParentPay and Evolve Reminders

Latest Reminders for ParentPay and Evolve

KPS Updates

Please see the latest KPS newsletter here.