

Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Friday 4th October 2024

LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

It was National Poetry Day yesterday and students and staff were encouraged to write a Haiku poem, a poem made up of 17 syllables, to mark the day. I expect that many of our students will have responded enthusiastically to this challenge, including Mr Stride who at the end of Year 11's assembly yesterday made up a poem on the spot to explain to the students how he wanted the chairs to be put away. Perhaps not the most lyrical of poems, but it certainly told them what they needed to do! As I have said many times, poetry is a passion for many students at Kendrick and as the School Birthday poem I shared with you last week showed, students find great pleasure in reading, as well writing poetry which is such a wonderful way to express their views on life and experiences, emotions and feelings. The Poets' Society and Mr Dilley, Head of English, made a video for the day which has been circulated to all students and featured some favourite, as well as original poetry. The theme of this year's National Poetry Day is Counting, and students have been invited to write a poem on this theme for a competition.

Yesterday evening we had the first of our Learning and Teaching Trust (Governor) meetings. Learning and Teaching is one of three committees that there are in the Trust Board. It is arguably one of the most relevant of the committees being the one that reports to the trustees on the learning, teaching, curriculum and assessment in school. At this time of the year, the key agenda item is the public exam results from the summer 2024. Detailed reports and analysis are presented to the Trustees that contain headline figures, year on year trends, subject by subject results, as well as subject specific reports from all Heads of Department. It was wonderful to share with our Trustees again the tremendous results we achieved at GCSE and A Level this summer. Destinations and courses that our Year 13 students have gone on to pursue were also included in the reporting, as well as details of the UCAS process, both before and after results in which our students receive personalised and detailed support. There were some new trustees at the meeting last night and I am sure they were most impressed by the data we looked at and discussed, as well as the processes and the huge work done by staff and of course students in achieving these outcomes. We will be updating the website with information about this year's results shortly.

It always amazes me the range of interests students have and their determination to try new things and collaborate with others. A few weeks ago, Wallaree in Year 13 shared with me some work students in our school have been doing with students from Reading School. Their collaboration has resulted in an online publication called Polyglot which is a series of articles on languages. Wallaree is a keen linguist who intends to study languages at university next year and is passionate about sharing her enthusiasm and love for languages with others. Please take time to read the articles [here](#).

An important article I would like to draw your attention to this week on our website is about the Sutton Trust and the acknowledgement we have received from this organisation. As part of our Widening Horizons strategic initiative, we have endeavoured over the last five years to encourage and work with a more diverse socio-economic group of students and parents to support and encourage them to apply to Kendrick. A whole range of activities are in place to enable greater access of students from local schools, including workshops at school, Inspire Club, Summer School, weekly quizzes etc. Significantly there are also adjustments included in our Admissions Policy and practice. The award from the Sutton Trust, a body which aims to improve social mobility and address educational disadvantage, has been able to examine what we have done over the last few years and award us a Gold standard. We are delighted with the award and the national recognition this gives to all that we have been doing at Kendrick to the pursue wider participation within our local area and population over the last few years. Please read the article [here](#).

I would all parents to note the term dates for 2025-26 which are [here](#). At the same time, I would like to remind parents that we do not allow holidays in term time and absence for these are coded as unauthorised.

To end this week, I would like to share one of the many poems Mr Dilley highlighted to us to mark National Poetry Day on the theme of Counting.

Calculations

I have been a non-smoker, now, for longer
than I was a smoker.

I have been a published poet almost as long
as I wasn't.

For more than half my adult years, I have earned a living
without having a job.

I have been fatherless for nearly two-thirds of my life.

In the run-up to our wedding I reflect that I will not be
a married woman for half as long as I was single.

But, if we are both alive when I am 96, I will have had
as many years with you as without you –

nearly a third of my life so far.

With luck, the fraction will grow, like evening sunlight
spreading across a field,

so the view at the end of the day is brighter and more beautiful

than I could have foreseen in the long, dark hours of the morning.

by Wendy Cope

Wishing everyone a pleasant 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

TEENAGER ROAD SAFETY

Teenagers are more at risk on the roads than they think. Most teenagers don't realise that they are more likely to be killed or injured in a road collision than any other age group. Find out how to help your teenager stay safe.

Help protect your child

You could talk to your child and reinforce road safety messages to help keep them safe:

- stress the need to concentrate and be careful at all times
- warn of the dangers of distractions - personal stereos, texting, phoning or even chatting to friends while walking are big distractions
- keep talking about the dangers of traffic
- point out people who are endangering themselves
- encourage your teenager to practice judging the speed and distance of approaching vehicles on busy roads and identify safe gaps in the traffic
- stress that your child should never lose concentration and follow others blindly into dangerous situations

Cycling

It is a good idea to:

- buy and encourage your teenager to wear a cycle helmet, and something fluorescent and reflective to improve their visibility
- encourage your child never to take lifts on the back of a friend's bike
- ask your child never to listen to music while they are cycling
- make sure your child knows that cyclists must obey all traffic signs and traffic light signals



Bus safety

Your teenagers probably take the bus to school and back all the time, maybe even every day. In fact, they're probably so used to it, they do it without paying much attention. But not paying attention could cost them their lives. It only takes a moment's lapse of concentration to cause death or serious injury.

So your children should always expect the unexpected and never take risks going to and from the bus or crossing roads nearby. You should remind them:

- just because they're not small children does not mean they should not use The Green Cross Code
- just because their friends are chatting doesn't mean it's safe for them
- most school bus related collisions happen to students before they get to or after they leave the bus

Reinforce their skills

Talking to your teenager often about road safety will keep it fresh in their minds. You could ask your child where the risks for example hidden entrances are on their route, or play games guessing what speed cars are travelling. You could also talk about the routes your child takes regularly, and ask questions about what is on the route to see if they take notice of their environment.

Peace of mind

For your peace of mind, have routines that you can both stick to.

You could try discussing the following points and finding an answer for each of them:

- What will they do if they miss the last bus home?
- Do they have a mobile (fully charged), a phone card, money or know how to reverse the charges if they need you?
- What should your teenager do if they have to stay behind at school?



National Online Safety **STAYING SAFE ONLINE**

WHATSAPP

WhatsApp is the most widely used messaging platform on the planet, with over two billion users (forecast to become three billion by 2025), across more than 180 countries. The majority of those people (70%) open the app

at least once a day – but what exactly are they seeing? Contact from strangers, fake news and convincing scams are all among the service's well-documented hazards.

According to Ofcom, WhatsApp is used by more than half of 3- to 17-year-olds in the UK (including one in three from the 8–11 bracket), despite its 16+ age restriction. If your child hops onto WhatsApp to stay in touch with friends or family, this updated guide from National Online Safety to the service contains the key details you'll need to support them in doing it safely

[GUIDE TO WHATSAPP](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING



SELF-CARE: LISTENING TO PODCASTS Listening to podcasts can be helpful for self-care in a number of different ways. Like listening to music, they can provide a distraction from difficult thoughts or feelings. You can just put on your headphones and take some time out listening to something that you enjoy or that interests you, whether you're in your room or on a train, walking in a park or just needing 5 minutes break from your day.

There are podcasts on many different topics, including mental health. Some podcasts might make you laugh or feel different emotions, which might help you feel that you're not on your own, especially if you're experiencing certain difficulties. You may even find that podcasts help connect you with other people who have shared interests or like the same podcast series. They are also a good way to discover new interests and learn about new things, or to find inspiration and motivation.

'Gave me something to think about that isn't stressful.'

'I listen to podcasts whilst travelling to and from school and helps with my anxiety and to focus. There are so many types of themes for podcasts so you're bound to find one that helps you.'

There are podcasts on every topic so you are certain to find something you will like. Here you can find a [list of podcasts](#) focussing on wellbeing put together by the University of Warwick.

KENDRICK SCHOOL WELLBEING NEWSLETTER

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

SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR TERM 1, 2024-25

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

MESSAGES FOR STUDENTS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY The new mobile phone policy is bedding in well and we are pleased with how the students are responding to the new guidelines. However, there has been an increase in the number of phone calls from parents to our Reception Team asking for messages to be given to students during the school day. **We can only pass on messages to students that are critical and urgent** – such as a family emergency or a last-minute medical appointment. If your child has forgotten their lunch, they can always get something from the canteen, and if you need to let your child know you will be late or early picking them up, please remind them to always check their phone as soon as they leave the school gates. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

DROPPING OFF STUDENTS AT SCHOOL We are still receiving regular reports of students being dropped off by car on East Street and parents parking dangerously and inconsiderately in East Street, South Street, the London Road and Kendrick Road. As well as resulting in slow moving traffic, this causes issues for residents and businesses who are having their access affected, and results in students running across the road which is very dangerous. This week we had a phone call from a concerned, and angry, member of the public who very nearly drove into the back of a car of parent who stopped suddenly on the zebra crossing at the bottom of Kendrick Road to drop off their children. Please be considerate at all times and find a safe and legal place to drop off and pick up your child from school.

Please do not pull into the hatchings outside the staff gates on the London Road. This is a no parking and stopping area and causes delays and disruption for staff coming into the school. It is also used by the emergency services if they need to come into the school.

FLU VACCINE The Berkshire Immunisation Team will be visiting Kendrick School on Wednesday 13th November to offer the flu vaccination to students in Years 7-11. Please see the email sent on 30th September for more details. If a consent form has not yet been completed for your child (stating either yes or no), please could this be done. The school code is **BK136448**. The link for the consent form is <https://www.berkshireimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu>. If you wish your child to have the injectable porcine free vaccine instead of the standard nasal spray, please complete this consent form instead: <https://www.berkshireimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/FluIM>. Full details of the difference between the two vaccinations are available on our previous communication.

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.

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.

INTERVIEWS TAKING PLACE ON WEDNESDAY 9TH OCTOBER.

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.

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 REMINDERS

School Fund Donation

Whitley Community Food Cupboard – cash donations

A level Maths graphical calculator

Trips

Year 12 Wokingham Waterside Centre September 2024

Year 12/13 French and History trip October 2024

A level Biology trip to Longleat October 2024

A production of 'The Duchess' at the Trafalgar Theatre October 2024

KENDRICK PARENTS' SOCIETY (KPS)

KPS COMMITTEE MEETING First KPS Committee meeting of this year was held on 25th Sept Wednesday and we had very enthusiastic participation. Thanks for all those taken time to attend and contribute. In the Committee, we recapped last year activities and then discussed this year plan. We will continue to support the school and children for the betterment and welcome more support from parents and carers.

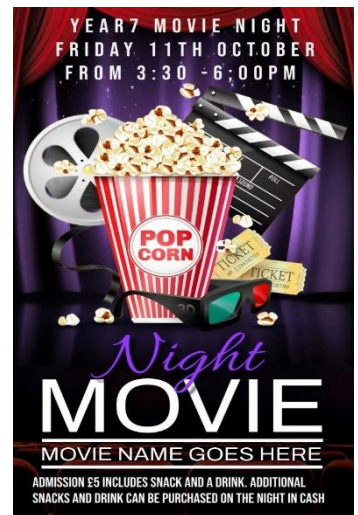
YEAR 7 MOVIE NIGHT Our first event of this year is the 'Movie Night' for Year 7 students. It's scheduled on 11th Oct Friday, straight after the school – between 3.30pm to 6pm. The school has initiated a poll to select the favourite movie and it's ending today (04/10/24).

In the meantime, we have created link where tickets can be purchased. Movie name will be updated once the polling is complete.

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/events/landing/69489?>



VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES AT KPS

Are you looking to get more involved in our school community? Please see below on how to get involved. Your involvement is greatly appreciated!



Refreshment Helpers Does your child participate in music or drama performances at the school? We need volunteers to help serve refreshments during these events. This is a great way to be part of the school activities and support our students.

Please note, your help is needed only when your child is performing. To join our team of Refreshment Helpers, please join the WhatsApp group using this link: [Refreshment Helpers Group](#)

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: [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.

KPS Team