

WEEKLY UPDATE – FRIDAY 4th SEPTEMBER 2026

Letter from Mr Simmonds, Headteacher

This week I had the great privilege of welcoming staff back to school for two highly productive INSET days before greeting all 950 students as they arrived on Thursday morning. Later that day, I shared my hopes and ambitions for the year ahead during our first whole-school assembly.

It was wonderful to see so many happy, confident and enthusiastic students coming through the gates, ready for a new school year. Any first-day nerves quickly seemed to disappear as students spent time with their form tutors and reconnected with friends. We even managed to fit in two lessons during the afternoon. On Friday morning, I emailed parents to welcome them back and to express my hope that I will have the opportunity to meet as many of them as possible over the coming year.

The school is looking fantastic. Our site team has worked incredibly hard over the summer to ensure that the grounds and buildings are clean, tidy and welcoming. As a school community, we have all committed to doing our part to keep them that way.

Some of the improvements completed during the summer are not immediately visible, particularly the significant work carried out on the school's IT network. Other developments are much easier to spot, including our expanded and refurbished medical room, which is already proving to be a valuable addition to the school.

The summer also gave us the opportunity to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our Year 11 and Year 13 students. Both cohorts achieved excellent examination results, and our Year 13 students were particularly successful in securing university places and other post-18 destinations. We look forward to welcoming many of them back in December for our A Level Certificate Presentation Evening.

The new term has begun with real energy and purpose, and there is a genuine sense of excitement across the school. With talented and dedicated students, exceptional staff and the unwavering support of our families, I am confident that this will be another successful and memorable year for Kendrick.

I wish everyone a happy, productive and enjoyable term ahead.

Mr Nicholas Simmonds
Headteacher

School Notices

Free School Meals

Thank you to those parents that have completed the Free School Meals form. We are working on the outcome of your application and will get back to you as soon as we can. In the meantime, any child that was receiving a free school meal last academic year will continue to receive one until we have the latest information. If you have yet to complete the form and you think your child may be eligible for a free school meal, or you are unsure of the new process, please click [here](#) for more information.

Messages to Students during the School Day

We would like to remind parents and carers that we are unable to deliver messages to students during the school day. This includes medical or dental appointments, so please do not make an appointment for your child that they are not already aware of.

This also means that Reception is unable to contact students to ask them to come to Reception to collect forgotten items, such as PE kit, lunch, books, glasses, homework, Food Tech products or other belongings. We appreciate that from time to time students may forget something, but with the size and organisation of the school, it is not possible for staff to locate and contact individual students during the school day. Please therefore encourage and support your child with organising themselves to ensure they bring everything they need with them each morning.

Thank you for your understanding and helping us keep Reception running efficiently for all students, parents and visitors.

Reporting a Student Absence

Please remind yourselves on how to report a student absence [here](#). Before booking a holiday, please ensure you have checked our term dates [here](#). Unless there are exceptional extenuating circumstances, time taken off in term time will be recorded on your child's attendance record as **unauthorised** and the Attendance Support Officer (ASO) at Brighter Futures for Children will be informed.

Signing up to School Gateway

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. Just search *School Gateway* in your App store and download. For information on how to sign up to School Gateway, please click [here](#).

Safeguarding

[Safeguarding at Kendrick School](#)

[Back to School – Travel Safety and Modern Stranger Awareness](#). As we welcome students back for the new academic year, their safety and wellbeing remain our absolute priorities. To help you support your child as they transition back to school routines, please see some key advice on travel safety and modern stranger awareness [here](#).

Mental Health and Wellbeing

[Mental Health and Wellbeing at Kendrick School](#)

[Back to School Wellbeing: Tips for Parents and Children](#)

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 will be shared in due course. **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

- [A Level and GCSE Results 2026](#)

School Calendar

Week B

Thursday 10th September - Year 12 Welcome Evening

Student Careers and Work Experience

[Current Opportunities](#)

Vacancies

[Attendance Officer and Administration Coordinator](#) – Monday to Friday, 8am to 3.30pm, term time only.

ParentPay and Evolve Reminders

[Latest Reminders for ParentPay and Evolve](#)