

Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Friday 24th October 2025



LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

What a lovely way to end the first term of this academic year by attending the Upper School and Sixth Form Chamber Concert last night. Those of us who were able to be there with our students were treated to a delightful evening of eclectic musical items organised, hosted, arranged and performed by GCSE Music students. It was a joy to be there and was such a tonic to anyone who is tired and ready for a break from school and work. The programme ranged from classical items -Mozart - to a beautiful Harp solo performed by a student in Year 12, Olivia, who is performing at a professional standard and has recently been appointed Principal Harpist with the National Youth Orchestra, an incredible achievement and accolade. We heard some much-loved pop song renditions of Whitney Houston's signature song, sung by Ameya, an Adele song, sung by Mudra and a few rock songs sung by our emerging and very popular rock bands singing classic songs by Radiohead and Arctic Monkeys. This was certainly a programme to meet all tastes and interests. Well done to the students and thank you to the staff who support and encourage the students to do these things – Mrs Cooper, Mrs Rowheder, Miss Rodrigues, Mr Dilley.

In term 1 of the academic year, I spend some time getting to know new teachers and how they are settling into school life at Kendrick. One way I do this is by popping into their lessons, getting to see how they teach and interact with students. Almost always, I am inspired by what I see and therefore what our students are receiving in their lessons. We are still very fortunate at Kendrick that we can attract the best teachers, who are passionate about their subject and love teaching young people. I would therefore like us all to consider and appreciate the amount of work it takes to make lessons interesting, engaging, and purposeful for students where they are challenged as well as supported in their learning. This is not easy and takes hours of careful thought, discussion and planning. So, as we come to the end of this first term of the academic year, I would like parents and students to reflect on what they receive from everyone at Kendrick and appreciate the quality of education there is in this school. As staff we certainly appreciate the students that we have to teach.

I would like to thank KPS again for their endless efforts to encourage us all to support activities that raise money for the school as well provide social interaction. The Diwali event on Saturday afternoon was superb. A selection of stands offering food, clothing, jewellery etc., were available complemented by the stage performances of students who sang, danced, and gave us information and insight about the purpose and importance of the Diwali Festival, making it another joyful and inspiring event. The presentation the students gave which you can find [here](#) emphasised the common themes present in most religions - *the victory of good over evil, light over darkness, and hope over despair*. Colleagues in school also treated us to samosas yesterday at lunch time and reminded us that the values of Diwali – kindness, unity and renewal align so well with our own Kendrick Pledge. At the KPS committee meeting on Wednesday evening, KPS agreed to give the school a donation of £10k to buy and update more PCs for the IT rooms. Supporting KPS efforts really matters and makes a difference.

There is so much else that has gone on at Kendrick in this first term and so much more to come next term. At all levels and across all years something important has happened for students. From Year 7 students settling into Kendrick to Year 13 students busily completing UCAS applications plus a lot in between. We return after half term to our [Sixth Form Open event](#), the preparation for which started this week when the A Level Options process was introduced to Year 11 by Dr Perry, Assistant Headteacher. This event is also open to students from other schools and one thing everyone is interested in who considers our sixth form is our results and the destinations of our students after they leave Kendrick. Our Results and Destinations for 2025 can be found [here](#).

To finish this week, I would like to end with a couple of inspirational pieces. Firstly, I am a fan of a radio programme called Desert Island Discs where a person is featured who talks about their life, education, career path alongside musical choices that have meant a lot to them at different points in their journey. Often the show features some extraordinary women and recently one such person was Professor Dame Carol Robinson, whose path to where she is now did not follow a traditional route. Through the encouragement of teachers and mentors, as well as her own determination and resilience, Professor Robinson has become an extraordinary person in the world of spectrometry and was the first female to be the President of the Royal Society. If you have some time, parents and students, do listen to her story, it is an inspiration to us all. The link is [here](#).

Finally, to finish the term, I include again a poem I read in the English Department's Weekly Digest this week. The poems chosen are always appropriately selected for the moment or occasion. Please read and note the beautiful last four lines which sum up the season and so much more.

One Good Wind
by James A. Pearson

It's October so, yes, the world
is dying but I always think
I have another month
at least, maybe two,
to marvel in the middle
of fall's kaleidoscope,
walking this fractal trance
of kindergarten yellows and
(somehow!) iridescent pinks.
But then one good wind
comes in off the distant Pacific
and trees that just yesterday
dripped with dazzle
stand skeletized, stripped
of their abundance
for the promiseless months to come.
I guess what I'm trying to say is:
Don't save up your praise.
Luxuriate fully in what you love
because the winds come quickly

Wishing everyone a relaxing and refreshing half term. Please read the rest of the Weekly Update.

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

HOW TO KEEP CHILDREN SAFE THIS HALLOWEEN

Halloween can be an exciting time of year for children, dressing up and going out after dark. But, whilst Halloween is supposed to be spooky there are some horrors that families will want to avoid.

So, here are top tips from the Child Accident Prevention Trust for a safe Halloween that you can remember for all the right reasons.



Remember Halloween costumes are highly flammable

Many fancy dress costumes are not manufactured to the same safety standards as normal clothing, meaning they can ignite almost instantly and burn far faster.

That's why it is crucial to ensure children wearing Halloween costumes are kept well away from naked flames and other heat sources at all times.

Try to buy costumes from a reputable store or website

It may mean spending a bit more but buying from a reputable store or website will be safer. Cheap costumes may not meet UK safety standards.

Check costume labels for a UKCA or CE mark

These labels don't mean a costume won't catch fire. But it has been tested for fire safety so it should burn more slowly.

Also, The British Retail Consortium has introduced stricter fire safety tests for children's dressing-up costumes. Look for a label that says: "This garment has undergone additional safety testing for flammability".

Encourage children to layer up

If children wear clothes under their dressing-up costumes, there is a layer of protection between the costume and their skin. This can help protect their skin if their costume catches fire.

[Discover what to do in an emergency with burns first aid](#)

Teach children to Stop, Drop and Roll

Ahead of Halloween, make sure children know what to do if their clothes catch fire. The instinct is to run. So, encourage them to practice stopping, dropping to the ground, covering their face with their hands, and rolling over a few times to put out the flames.

Keep candles well out of the path of trick or treaters

Candles and lit pumpkins create a fantastic spooky atmosphere but can be dangerous. Keep them well out of the path of trick or treaters and away from any Halloween decorations that might catch light. Remember not to put candles on a surface that may burn. And, in all the excitement, don't forget to blow them out when you're done.

Consider switching to battery-powered candles

You may want to switch to LED / flameless battery-powered candles to reduce the fire risk. But be sure the battery compartment is secure. Many LED lights, and the remote controls for them, contain button batteries which can badly hurt or kill a small child if they swallow one and it gets stuck.

[Learn more about the dangers of button batteries](#)

Be visible

Visibility is important all year round. However, after the clocks go back, it gets dark much earlier. By Halloween it will be dusk by 5 o'clock, just when children are out trick or treating. Reflective tape can make a fun addition to Halloween costumes and make children more visible to drivers at twilight, as it is picked up in car headlights.

Fluorescent glow sticks and glow jewellery can make good costume accessories and can also help make children more visible to drivers. If you're going out earlier with little ones, then bright or fluorescent clothing is better for daytime visibility.

Stay safe near roads

Masks can make it harder for children to see or hear traffic. So, save the special masks for indoors and use face paint for trick or treating. Encourage children to put mobile phones away when they are out trick or treating and crossing roads. Instead of using the phone as a light, carry a torch.

Children under 12 are best accompanied by an adult. Agreeing a pre-planned route for children over 12 and having a way of contacting a trusted adult if they need to offers freedom with less risk.

[Visit our road safety hub for more tips](#)

Carve carefully

Carving pumpkins has become a great Halloween tradition. If your child isn't old enough to handle a sharp knife safely there are plenty of 'no-carve pumpkin' ideas all over the internet. Just do a quick search on Pinterest. You will be amazed at the creativity.

Watch out for treats that might be a choking hazard for young children

Lollipops, hard candy and mini eggs in particular can pose a serious choking risk. Plus, remember it's best to avoid eating while walking or running, so you may want to save up all the treats to enjoy back at home.

[Learn more about choking prevention](#)

Be wary of button batteries

Light-up decorations such as pumpkins, cauldrons, torches and wands are fantastic for creating a spooktacular atmosphere. But many of these items are powered by button batteries which can badly hurt or kill a child if swallowed.

That's why it's so important when buying button battery-powered Halloween novelties that you check the battery compartment is secured with a screw or similar fastener to prevent children gaining access.

[Learn more about button battery safety](#)

AVENUES OF SUPPORT FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Shout – here for you 24/7 with resources and tips to support you when you are feeling anxious, low, stressed or overwhelmed.

The Mix – understanding Mental Health can be trick but The Mix is there to make sure you don't have to do it alone. The Mix Counselling service offers short-term help with mental health and emotional wellbeing for anyone aged 25 and under.

Under 25s	Over 25s	Parents
YOUNGMINDS Crisis Messenger Text YM to 85258 Open 24/7	mind for better mental health Call 0300 123 3393 9am - 6pm, Mon - Fri	YOUNGMINDS Parents Helpline Call 0808 802 5544 9:30am - 4pm, Mon - Fri
THE MIX Call 0808 808 4994 3pm - 12am, every day	SAMARITANS Call 116 123 Open 24/7	
childline ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME Call 0800 1111 7:30am - 3:30am, every day	For more advice and information visit: youngminds.org.uk/find-help	

Young Minds – can help you find the right support for you. From looking after your mental health to understanding medication, they are lots of useful links to all kinds of advice and guidance.

Mind – Mind understand mental health and wellbeing. They are there for you if you are finding things hard. They help everyone understand mental health problems, so no-one has to feel alone.

The Tellmi app - allows you to talk anonymously about difficult things with other people of a similar age or experience. Tellmi is anonymous so you can talk about virtually anything, and because every post and reply is checked by a human before it goes live, it is completely safe and you are guaranteed to only get supportive replies. When you register, remember to add your school portal. This will tell you about other things in school to support you. "I actually didn't realise how much better this app can make someone feel. I love being able to ask my own questions and just the experience of trying to help even one other person helps me to feel happier too".

Tellmi is completely confidential. Download. Offload. Feel Better.

Tellmi can be downloaded for free from Google Play and Apple App Store. For more information visit www.tellmi.help

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING



AUTUMN WELLBEING

As autumn brings shorter days and cooler temperatures, many of us may notice changes in our energy levels and mood. The transition between seasons can impact mental wellbeing, so it is important to be mindful of how we are feeling and take steps to support our emotional health during this time.

Here are some simple, yet effective, tips to help maintain mental wellbeing as the days get shorter.

1. Stay Active

Physical activity has been shown to have a positive effect on mental health. Even a short walk outdoors can help improve mood and reduce feelings of stress. If possible, try to get outside during daylight hours to take advantage of natural light.

2. Practise Mindfulness

Mindfulness encourages us to focus on the present moment, which can help reduce feelings of anxiety or stress. Taking just a few minutes each day to pause, breathe and observe your thoughts without judgement can be a powerful way to manage your mental wellbeing.

3. Manage Stress Levels

Autumn can be a busy time of year, with work commitments and the lead-up to the festive season. Take time to prioritise activities that help you relax, such as reading, listening to music or practising yoga. Setting boundaries and ensuring you have time for yourself is key to managing stress effectively.

4. Maintain Social Connections

Spending time with friends, family or colleagues is important for emotional wellbeing. With daylight decreasing, it can be easy to isolate ourselves, but staying connected with others can provide valuable emotional support.

5. Prioritise Sleep

Getting enough rest is vital for maintaining good mental health. Try to keep a regular sleep routine and ensure your sleeping environment is comfortable and conducive to rest. Avoid screens before bed and engage in relaxing activities such as reading or gentle stretching to help wind down.

KENDRICK SCHOOL WELLBEING

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

SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR TERM 2, 2025-26

Monday 3 rd November	Start of Term 2, 8.5am
Wednesday 5 th November	National Stress Awareness Day
Thursday 6 th November	Trustees P&R Committee, 4.30pm KPS AGM, 6-7.30pm
Saturday 8 th November	KPS Pre Loved Uniform Shop, 9am to 11am
Monday 10 th November	Anti-Bullying Week
Tuesday 11 th November	Year 11 Post 16 Conference
Wednesday 12 th November	Sixth Form Open Evening Session 1, 4pm – 5.30pm – Kendrick Year 11 students and parents (no ticket required) Session 2, 5pm – 6.30pm – External Year 11 students and parents (see website for how to obtain a ticket)
Monday 17 th November	National Self-Care Week
Tuesday 18 th November	GCSE Presentation Event, 2.30pm
Wednesday 26 th November	Widening Horizons Information Event
Thursday 27 th November	Profiling Day Year 7 Study Skills Trustee Resources Committee, 4.30pm
Monday 1 st December	Start of Fringe Fortnight
Tuesday 2 nd December	Dance Enterprise Day
Wednesday 3 rd December	Year 11 Parent Consultations
Friday 5 th December	Former Students and Staff Reunion
Tuesday 9 th December	KPS Meeting, online, 6pm to 7.15pm
Wednesday 10 th December	Evening of Dance
Thursday 11 th December	Year 13 Parent Consultations Full Trustee Meeting, 4.30pm
Friday 12 th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Tuesday 16 th December	A Level Presentation Event, 4.00pm
Thursday 18 th December	Christmas Concert, 6.30pm
Friday 19 th December	End of Term 2, 3.15pm

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

SCHOOL LIFE

PARKING – PLEASE READ

Please be reminded that **there is no parking or stopping anywhere on East Street**. This includes the flats opposite the school **which is private parking only, including the drive up to the parking area**. The residents are becoming very irritated and upset by parents parking here and are now considering taking more serious action, which could include clamping. Please be considerate of our neighbours and also the safety of the students. Please do not stop along East Street for your child to get out of the car. This is extremely dangerous for the child getting out of the car and also holds up the traffic. Please find somewhere safe and legal to drop off and collect your child away from East Street and the London Road.

KENDRICK SCHOOL THRIFT SHOP

After the half term holiday the Community Committee is planning to hold a thrift shop at Kendrick to raise money for our school charities, the Reading Refugee Support Group and Smart Works Reading.

Please keep this in mind when doing any tidying up over the holidays - we would greatly appreciate donations of accessories (e.g. scarves, jewelry), ornaments, books and tops in good condition.

Please also bring in any school uniform which is no longer required and in good condition to donate to KPS.

More details to follow after the holidays!

CAREERS AND WORK EXPERIENCE

DYSON ENGINEERING CLUB

The event below is not affiliated to Kendrick School and we are only passing on the information to you. If you have any queries on the event please contact Dyson.

Dyson's Engineering Club is a virtual series of workshops for future engineers covering topics such as design and innovation, mechanical engineering, software and coding, renewability, and sustainability.

Sessions are held each month from October to June on Zoom, and are hosted by one of Dyson's Institute Graduates. Students can stay updated, access past sessions, and download activities via our Engineering Club portal to earn participation certificates.

These sessions are designed to cover GCSE and A-Level curriculum and meet many of the Gatsby benchmarks that support students' careers education.

[Students register here](#)

Dates for this year's Engineering Club, held online 16:30 - 18:00

Wednesday 8th October
Monday 3rd November
Thursday 4th December
Tuesday 13th January
Wednesday 4th February
Thursday 5th March
Monday 13th April
Tuesday 12th May
Monday 1st June

VACANCIES

We are currently recruiting **Exam Invigilators** for the 2025/2026 exam season, including mock exams in January/February.

Casual Contract - £13.05 per hour

Kendrick School is looking to appoint Exam Invigilators to join our friendly team in the running of all public and internal examinations at the school throughout the academic year.

This is a casual contract and working hours will be negotiated for each exam period.

The post would be suited to applicants who are highly organised, vigilant, reliable and with excellent attention to detail. In addition, you should be able to remain calm under pressure and be flexible to be called in at short notice.

Duties include supervising students taking public and internal examinations, supervising clash candidates between exam sittings, preparing exam rooms, distributing and collecting exam papers in accordance with the JCQ regulations.

The successful candidates will be enthusiastic, reliable and passionate about helping young people. Full training will be provided.

If you are interested in joining the team, please contact Mr Andrew Chapman in the first instance for an informal chat by emailing achapman@kendrick.reading.sch.uk.

Closing date for applications: 14th November 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)

JOIN THE KPS COMMITTEE – AGM 2025

The KPS Committee is gearing up for its Annual General Meeting (AGM), details noted below:

- **AGM Date: Thursday, November 6th**
- **Time: 6pm to 7:30pm**
- **Location: Kendrick School main hall**

Kindly note that this is in person meeting so no link for dial in is provided.

Are you looking for a way to get more involved in the school community? Now's your chance! At the AGM, we would love to see some fresh faces join the team! Whether you have a passion for organizing events, fundraising, or supporting the school community, there's a role for everyone.

Why Join the KPS Committee?

- Help shape and support school activities and events
- Meet other parents and work closely with the school
- Share your skills, ideas, and expertise
- Make a difference in the lives of our students

There are multiple different roles available within the committee, and you can view all the job descriptions on the KPS section of the school's website for more details or email for more information. **Please email us at KPSChair@kendrick.reading.sch.uk** to express your interest or ask any questions.

KPS DIWALI EVENT

Diwali event on last Saturday 18th October went very well and it created a real celebration environment.

We are delighted to share that, along with match funding, we raised around £1000 from this event. We are truly happy with how everything went and proud of what we achieved as a community in such a short time.

A big thank you to all our volunteers, performers, stall holders, parents, and the KPS team for making this celebration possible. Your support helped bring the Festival of Lights back to life at Kendrick!

KPS REFRESHMENTS SUPPORT FOR SCHOOL CONCERT

On Thursday 23rd Oct, KPS supported the Upper School and Sixth Form Chamber Concert Day with refreshments. Happy to see fantastic performances and contribute to the fund raising.

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.**