

Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Friday 26th September 2025

LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

We have now completed our introductory key stage information meetings with parents in Year 7, 10 and 12, providing parents with an introduction to the key stage their child is in and giving parents an opportunity to see and meet Tutors and pastoral staff. These meetings allow us to set expectations, outline what the key stage will include and meet parents which is always a pleasure. Key messages about safeguarding and pastoral care as well as academic monitoring and life in school are shared. We talk about the partnership and responsibilities we all have towards the students.

Although I regularly mention this, the key responsibility that all staff have in school is the safeguarding of students which I talked about at the key stage meetings and will say again now for all parents. Firstly, the key members of staff who lead in this area are Mr Simmonds, Deputy Head is the Designated Lead Officer (DSL) for safeguarding in school. Mrs Hearn, Assistant Headteacher and Head of Sixth Form, Mme Hulley Head of Key Stage 4, Miss Hyde Head of Keys Stage 3, plus Mrs Hackett and Mrs Shaw who are all Deputy Designated officers (DDSL). We also have a Safeguarding Trustees, and they are Ms Julia Drury and Ms Lindsey Reece-Smith. If there are any matters of concern that students or parents have, they must contact school to speak to any one of these staff by emailing studentwelfare@kendrick.reading.sch.uk. In the more detailed section of the [weekly update](#) and on our [website](#), there is always a lot of information about keeping students safe, including details of agencies and bodies that can be contacted to provide support, along with [our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy](#). Some of the key themes that have become a priority for schools this year are detailed in the updated Keeping Children Safe in Education document (KCSIE) which can be found [HERE](#). Staff have been informed of all these developments in the safeguarding training we had at our INSET day in September. These are statutory responsibilities which we take very seriously at Kendrick

On Tuesday evening the Kendrick Parents' Society (KPS) convened their first committee meeting of the year with 28 parents attending online. We were thrilled to welcome so many parents at the meeting and the Chair and Vice Chair were able to share with everyone the exciting programme of events for this year, starting with the Year 7 Film night in a couple of weeks' time on 10th October 2025. I say this often, but must say again, I am so grateful to the KPS for their fund-raising efforts, as well as how they endeavour to provide support for parents and an opportunity to get to know each other through networks and events so that parents can also enjoy being connected to Kendrick. And, of course, they raise much needed funds for the school which are used to enhance resources and facilities for the students. The Christmas Wish List tradition of raising money for departments was discussed and more information will be shared with parents in due course. As well as the usual events across the year, the committee requested, and I agreed that KPS can hold a Diwali Celebration event on Saturday 18th October from 4.00pm-7.30pm in the School Hall. We haven't done such an event for a few years, and it would be wonderful to have this celebration the weekend before Diwali. I do hope many parents and students will take part in the organisation and participation of the event. Please see details that will follow shortly.

We celebrated School Birthday on Monday at a whole school assembly, followed by a picnic lunch where many students gathered on the front lawn in their form groups to eat their beautifully baked and crafted cakes which they made for the birthday celebration. The cake competition, which I have the honour of judging proved difficult again with such amazing cakes to look at on the different themes. Like last year, I could not make a decision for an overall winner so I chose two winners who impressed me not only by their intricately made and designed cake but also by the sentiment they chose to express. After having done this for five years now the Year 11 cakes demonstrate their love and passion for this event and commented on this being the last time, they will be together as a form group to bake a cake; their cakes were a gesture of thanks and tribute to their time at Kendrick. Thank you, Year 11 bakers, and well done 11FL and 11DW who were the winners. A report on the event and the photos can be found [here](#).

At the assembly and always, I explain the rationale of this occasion. School Birthday is an invention I introduced many years ago to celebrate our school and girls' education and I never tire of doing so. 148 years of girls' education is

something to be proud of and to celebrate. An education of the calibre received at Kendrick is what many parents and students aspire to as evidenced by the hundreds of students who take our test. But it is something that we never should take for granted. Of course, education is an entitlement for all, and it empowers, liberates, provides people with autonomy and choices and that is why we celebrate every year. So once again I ask parents and students to support our school: support us through KPS, through donating to our school fund [HERE](#), support us by volunteering to give or do things for the school, so that we can the traditions and history of the school and the wonderful education it provides girls and has done for the last 148 years and for the many, many years to come.

I ended the assembly by linking girls' education to the ethos and values of our school as set out in our [pledge](#). In my final words of reflection, I said:

Our school, Kendrick School, is a place where students can focus on their studies, where they can flourish and grow, where they achieve and accomplish great things, where lifetime friendships are made and where there are opportunities to succeed and have a good start in life.

Our pledge is our commitment to the values we hold strong so that in the pursuit of our educational ambitions and goals we do so through kindness and friendship as expressed in our pledge.

I leave you with these thoughts and wish you all a wonderful weekend.

Floreat Kendricka!

Please read further in the Weekly Update for more very important information and a calendar of dates and events.

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

USING AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS, TUITION AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES *Source:*

GOV.UK

This guidance from gov.uk is for parents and carers. It explains what school and activities clubs, tutors and coaches should be doing to provide a safe environment for the children that attend their setting. Settings could include:

- community activities - for example, youth clubs
- before- and after-school clubs
- holiday clubs
- supplementary schools - for example, language, cultural and religious
- private tuition
- music lessons
- sports training and coaching

A typical provider may be:

- a tutor who works alone from their home
- a coach who runs training sessions in a sports field for children
- a club with volunteers or paid staff members

Please click [here](#) for the checks you should make when choosing a club, tutor or coach for your child.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

ONLINE WELLBEING SOURCE NSPCC

There are lots of positives to being online for children, from staying in touch with friends to learning about the world.

There are some challenges, too, and the online world can be tricky for children to navigate. For some it can become overwhelming trying to keep up with friends, and the pressure can mount.

Noticing how your child is affected by being online is the first step in helping them manage their wellbeing.

You can:

- manage the content that your children see
- ensure the interactions they have are suitable
- manage how long they're online, in balance with other activities.

There are several things you can do to help support a child, including using specific apps and checking app settings.

1. Screen-time savvy

Spending less time on screens can help improve sleep, mood, and relationships – but it's not just about cutting back. It's about making screen time more meaningful.

Start by talking with your child about how they use their devices. Are they doing homework, watching videos, chatting with friends, or playing games? Understanding this helps you set realistic boundaries together.

You could:

- create screen-free zones at home, like the dinner table or bedrooms
- use wellbeing settings on [apps such as Instagram and TikTok](#) to track usage and set reminders to take break
- try 'do not disturb' mode during homework or bedtime to reduce distractions and improve focus
- encourage regular breaks and offline activities and practice these as a family.

It's all about balance. Helping your child reflect on how they feel after using screens can guide healthier habits.

2. Navigate the negative

Children can come across upsetting or harmful material online, from [inappropriate content to online hoaxes and depictions of violence](#). These experiences can affect their mood, self-esteem, and sense of safety.

To help your child feel empowered to take control of their online space, you could:

- explore safety settings together to learn how to mute, block, or report harmful accounts or content
- explore privacy and content filters together – many platforms allow users to block specific words or topics
- encourage them to follow accounts that make them feel good, inspired, or supported
- let them know it's okay to step away from content that doesn't feel right.

Remind them that their online space should feel safe and positive – and that they can always come to you if something worries them.

3. Seeing isn't believing

It's easy for children to compare themselves to others online, especially when they're constantly seeing [polished photos, filtered videos](#), and highlight reels of other people's lives.

To help your child build a healthy perspective, you could:

- talk about the filters and edited images that don't always represent reality
- discuss how people tend to share only the best parts of their lives - not the everyday ups and downs
- encourage critical thinking by asking questions like, 'Do you think that's real?' or 'How does that post make you feel?'
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If your child feels like they're missing out or not measuring up, reassure them that what they see online isn't the full story. Building this awareness can help protect their self-esteem and reduce feelings of anxiety or inadequacy.

4. Mistakes happen

If your child makes a mistake online, such as getting into an argument or sharing personal information, be understanding. Mistakes are part of their learning.

We encourage [talking regularly with your child about online safety](#), instead of having a one-off chat. can help keep them safe online. Having these regular conversations helps build trust and keeps the door open for future discussions.

This is part of building digital resilience – the ability to bounce back from challenges and make safer choices online. It helps your child feel more confident and supported in their digital world.

5. Take the lead

Children learn by watching the adults around them. That means your own online habits matter.

You can be a positive role model by:

- taking breaks from screens and avoiding negative content
- keeping your passwords safe and private
- talking about what you've seen online – depending on your child's age, you could discuss [trustworthy and untrustworthy sites and sources](#)
- asking your child before sharing their photos online – show them what you're posting and sharing online to check they're comfortable with it.

When you lead by example, your child is more likely to follow your advice and feel supported in making good choices online.

6. Get chatting

Regular conversations about your child's online life can make it easier to talk about tricky topics later. You know your child best, so choose an approach that suits them.

Some things to consider:

- give them time and space to think about what's being discussed – let them talk without blame, judgement, or interruption
- pick a comfortable environment and a relaxed moment – this helps them stay calm and open
- try to understand how they spend time online – being dismissive or negative might shut down the conversation.

The NPSCC [online wellbeing quiz](#) could be a great way to start chatting. You can answer the questions together and use them as a springboard for deeper conversations.

[Want more ideas? Then take the quiz!](#)

See how other families manage online wellbeing [here](#).

KENDRICK SCHOOL WELLBEING

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

SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR TERM 1, 2025-26

Wednesday 1st October	L&T Trustees Meeting, 4,30pm
Thursday 2nd October	National Poetry Day
Wednesday 8th October	Year 13 Slapton Geography Residential (to Sunday 12 th October)
Thursday 9th October	Resources Trustee Meeting, 4.30pm
Friday 10th October	World Mental Health Day
Monday 20th October	Biology Week
Thursday 23rd October	Upper School and Sixth Form Chamber Concert
Friday 24th October	Last Day of Term 1, 3.25pm

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

SCHOOL LIFE

KENDRICK FOOD BANK We are starting our next food bank collection for the Whitley Food Cupboard this week and for the next two weeks.

For new parents and students you may like to know that we have been the main donor of supplies and funds to the Whitley Food Cupboard for almost 3 years. The food cupboard is run by Sarah Rooke at Whitley Park School and it supplies families in need in the Whitley area. Sarah knows the families well through her work in the school and local community and so the donations are very precisely targeted to reach those most in need.

Sarah is coming into school in the first two weeks of October to give two assemblies and give us an update on the Food Cupboard.

For now the collection points are in the vestibule in main school, outside the Library by the main doors to the Sixth Form block and in the staff room and they are all ready to receive donations.

Parents can also contribute via Parent Pay if this is more convenient.

Sarah says that: *The more helpful items at the moment for the cupboard would be the following:- washing detergent, toiletries (toothpaste, shampoo, shower gel), washing up liquid, cooking oil, squash, beans, pasta and pasta sauce. However- anything is useful as you know.*

I hope that you could all make a small donation which collectively will make a massive difference as there are over 1000 people in our community and a thousand small things really do make for a momentous donation.

We aim to run 6 or 7 collections a year to keep the food cupboard stocked up.

The funds we raise from events in school and Parent Pay donations are used to provide help and essentials to families when they need it most. Sarah has bought food vouchers for families to get them through the holidays, as well as essential items that some families, particularly in temporary accommodation, do not have such as minifridges, kettles and microwaves.

We are very keen to keep up our community link and support for the Whitley Food Cupboard. Thank you in advance for your support.

Nick Simmonds, Deputy Headteacher

VACANCIES

We have the following vacancies. Click on the links for more information and an application form.

[School Business Manager](#), 52 weeks, full time, permanent position. Closing date for applications 5pm Thursday 2nd October 2025

[Head of French](#). Permanent, full time (a minimum of 0.8FTE would be considered). For January 2026. Closing date for applications 9am Monday 13th October 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

Year 10 and 11 GCSE English set text contributions

Year 12 and 13 A level English set text contributions

Sponsored run and sponsored swim fundraiser

EVOLVEPAY

Payment can be made via trip payment emails or a myEVOLVE account if you have set this up.

Year 7 instruments lesson – June/July 2025

Year 12 UCAS Discovery Day – April 2025

The Crucible – The Globe Theatre – April 2025

GCSE Drama trip to The Globe – May 2025

Year 7 Wheelie Fun Challenge – May 2025

Year 10 World of Insights programme – June 2025

Year 12 Work Experience - June 2025

Year 11 A GCSE English Literature set texts (purchase ready for September 25)

Year 13 A level English Literature set texts (purchase ready for September 25)

Year 13 Geography residential, Slapton – October 2025

EVOLVESHOP

Purchase can be made via payment links or a myEVOLVE account if you have set this up

GCSE Drama set text (The Crucible, Arthur Miller)

Year 8 Careers Event – January 2025

Year 9 and Year 10 French and German plays

German set text

Poets Society 2025 Anthology: Movement

KENDRICK PARENTS' SOCIETY (KPS)

KPS NEWSLETTER

Please read the latest KPS Newsletter [here](#).

WHATSAPP GROUPS

Early this week, we circulated details of Whatsapp group for each year group parents and hope you have already become members. If not yet, kindly join using the below links:

- Year 7 (2025). This group will be open to join until the end of the month, before permission will have to be requested to join. This is for security reasons.
https://chat.whatsapp.com/Jltvm5oou9tBF8xoTGbRxc?mode=ems_copy_c
- Year 8 (2025). This is the same as last year's link for Year 7 (2024). No need to rejoin.
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/EnM7swB8lQQDzkBpo0Lhyw>
- Year 9 (2025). This is the same as last year's link for Year 8 (2024). No need to rejoin.
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/FDitvq6bkRAADjtDtIY69l>
- Year 10 (2025). This is the same as last year's link for Year 9 (2024). No need to rejoin.
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/CgZPcu3ULTIKxyNHk6HOj5>
- Year 11 (2025). This is the same as last year's link for Year 10 (2024). No need to rejoin.
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/FPAjKP4cxr84iJVAqJWxSv>
- 6th form (2025). This merges Year 11 (2024) and Year 12 (2024). This is the same link for Year 11 (2024). Year 12 (2024) parents will need to join. The existing 6th form (2023) group will be archived soon. This group will be open to join until the end of the month, before permission will have to be requested to join. This is for security reasons. <https://chat.whatsapp.com/E1wRjx8GFjCLVjpoM2AAVv>

MOVIE NIGHT FOR YEAR 7 AND 8 – FRIDAY 10th OCTOBER

This is an important event we organise during start of the year for year 7 and year 8 students at the school. We will be announcing details of Movie Night shortly and hope to make it a memorable event for students providing an informal but safe environment with an entertainment.

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.**