

WEEKLY UPDATE – FRIDAY 9TH JANUARY 2026

Letter from Ms Kattirtzi, Headteacher

A Happy New Year to everyone and welcome back to school. I hope everyone has had a restful and peaceful holiday.

We said goodbye to two members of staff last term: Mme Roujanky and Miss Waller. We wished them well in their new plans and positions. This term we welcome new members of staff to Kendrick: Mme Harding, Head of the French Department and Mrs Sawford who joins the English and Drama Departments. Dr Green is also returning to teach some sixth form lessons in the English Department. We hope they will enjoy working with us and being part of the Kendrick community.

School life has resumed quickly, and it was wonderful to welcome students back after the holiday. I was on gate duty on Tuesday, and I particularly enjoyed saying hello to students and staff as they came into school. It was nice to receive enthusiastic responses from students generally quite happy to be back at school. Returning to school/work and resuming routines are so important for all of us. Providing structure and organisation to one's day, catching up with friends and colleagues are all part of the very important social elements of school life. Being welcomed back within a friendly and safe environment is also important for our mental health and wellbeing and provides us with motivation and a desire to get on with what we are here for. Students and staff were straight back into lessons in period 1 on Tuesday with Year 11 students very quickly settling down to their mock examinations. Mock examinations are always a tense and stressful period for students, and I am sure Year 11 students were not as enthusiastic as the rest of the school to back on Tuesday, but they responded appropriately to their new routine which will last for this week and next.

I would like to thank the Kendrick Parents' Society for encouraging parents to give to the Christmas Wishlist. The target was £5k which has been exceeded with £6.6k was raised! Thank you to all parents who contributed to this initiative. I would also like to thank KPS for sending through to us the lovely and appreciative comments that were collected from parents about the staff of the school. This was such a kind gesture and gave members of staff a well needed boost at the end of term. There is such value in expressions of kindness that can really lift people, particularly at times of stress. To know that our parents appreciate what we do for the students encourages everyone in their daily work. My sincere thanks to KPS and to the parents who made contributions to this initiative and for the biscuits and fruit that were provided for staff at the end of term. These were also most welcome!

Back to last term on 16th December we had a most pleasant afternoon when we welcomed back our former Year 13 students and their parents for the presentation of A Level certificates. This cohort of students joined Kendrick in September 2018. Throughout their time with us they were a most enthusiastic, hardworking, and lively group of students who focused well on their studies and contributed enormously to school life. Their results at A Level were excellent and the university destinations and courses they are now studying are impressive. We are so very proud of them and wish them all the best for the future. The link [here](#) is to the results and destinations of these students.

As part of the A Level presentation ceremony a former student gives a speech to the students and parents. This year the speaker and presenter of the certificates was Dr Ellie Dodson who left Kendrick in 2015. Ellie was a member of the Head Girl Team and an enthusiastic member of it promoting community activities. After Kendrick, Ellie went to Bristol University to study Medicine. She is now completing her medical training at the Royal Berkshire Hospital and regularly visits Kendrick to speak to students in PSHCE lessons. In her speech at the presentation event, Ellie spoke about themes that had helped her in her personal and educational development and suggested these to the students:

- Look for the lessons in life - practise reflection and be sure to nurture your little fire of hope, and the fires of those around you.
- Confront fear and perfectionism – confront your fear of failure, because people who don't fail don't try

- Invest in your brand – reflect on how you want to show up for yourself. Invest in developing personal relationships. Earn respect through content competence, maturity, and genuine care for others.

Everyone enjoyed Ellie's speech and after the ceremony over refreshments many students spoke to Ellie, particularly those who are studying medicine.

Staff had an INSET Day on Monday 6th January undertaking further professional training on important aspects of education. This year our focus was on the work we do on inclusion with students across the school. We discussed different strategies and approaches we use to respond to students' different needs and experiences. We had a particular focus on pupil premium students and examined trends both at Kendrick and nationally around the work and good practice in this area. We also looked at our own pupil premium strategy which is published on our website and you can read [here](#).

I will finish with a couple of articles on the website. One featuring a member of staff, Frau Hellwig, in an article explaining how Frau Hellwig started her journey to become a Teacher in the UK. This was through the Cultural Exchange Ambassador programme which eventually led her to train as a teacher and to join us in the German Department. We are very pleased to have Frau Hellwig on our staff and the excellent contributions she makes in the German Department and in pastoral work where she is a Deputy Pastoral Leader in KS4. The article can be found [here](#).

Also, I would like to mention the important work that Miss Hyde, Head of Key Stage 3, has been doing producing Mental Health and Wellbeing webinars for parents and students. The first webinar, Teenagers and Social Media – Risks, Realities and Relationships which we sent out at the end of last term is [here](#). We know that several parents have watched the webinar and found it very informative. If you have not seen it yet, please take some time to do so. Mrs Hyde is working on the second episode in the series entitled: Seeing Me - Body Image and Identity, which we will send to you in due course.

Wishing everyone a good weekend and a very good term and year ahead.

Ms Christine Kattirtzi
Headteacher

School Notices

In the event of extreme bad weather and the school having to close, you will receive an email by 7.00am and our website will be updated with an emergency message. If you do not receive a message, then the school is open as normal.

Safeguarding

[Safeguarding at Kendrick School](#)

[Water Safety Near Frozen Water](#)

Wellbeing

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

[How to help a child who feels lonely](#)

SEND

[You are not alone drop in for February](#). A free monthly online drop-in for parents and carers.

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 menu for Autumn/Winter can be found [here](#). The menu is subject to change dependent on food availability. **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](#)

School Calendar

Week commencing 11th January - Week A

Year 11 Mocks

- Wednesday 14th January - Sixth Form German Trip
- Thursday 15th January - Trustees L&T Committee, 4.30pm

Student Careers and Work Experience

[Current Opportunities](#)

Vacancies

No vacancies at the current time.

ParentPay and Evolve Reminders

[Reminders on Friday 9th January 2026](#)

Kendrick Parents' Society (KPS)

[Weekly News - 9th January 2026](#)