

Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Friday 9th December 2022

LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

It seems that *music@kendrick* gets better and better! Last night our Winter Concert surpassed all expectations with stellar performances from four of our Year 13 students which matched anything that could be seen or heard in a concert hall in London. Asia, Arya, Jasmine and Shayna performed pieces of such beauty and emotion that members of the audience were moved to tears. These performances have been recorded and we hope to be able to send them to you in next week's Weekly Update plus photos of the event. Other items in the concert were also very good, including the Year 7 Choir who delighted us all with their rendition of a lovely Christmas carol called Carol of Bells.

Other news this week can be found in the links below:

- [Kendrick Celebrating 145 years](#). A most colourful event run by KPS with over 300 parents and children attending a super evening of culture and performances. I believe nearly £2000 was raised. Thank you and well done to everyone involved.
- [Reunion of former staff and students](#): this event brought together some students who had attended Kendrick in the 1950s and in later decades including recently. It was wonderful to see these former students and colleagues and to hear their memories and recollections of their time at Kendrick. Many were impressed by the number of new buildings that have appeared since their time at the school, in particular, our standout statement building, Horizons.
- This article reflects our ongoing commitment to supporting actions to improve the environment through [Global Schools Action Day](#). Today the Eco Committee will be leading another session of Just Dance during the lunch break in the Hall to raise awareness.

We have one week to go before we break up for the Christmas holiday. Understandably students and staff are feeling very tired and need a break. In addition, I know that some families are feeling anxious about the rise in cases of scarlet fever and strep A. There is some information in the Weekly Update that parents should read which gives guidance about what people need to do if they suspect their child is not well. Please read the information beyond my update as there is always such useful information for everyone to read.

To end this week's update, I am delighted to present to you [Kendrick's Christmas card for 2022](#). Designed by Art students in Year 12, it celebrates the festive season and marks Kendrick's 145 years as a school. Thank you to Cassie and Betty for the super design and to the student singers, also 6th Formers, whose voices provide the musical accompaniment to the card.

Have a great weekend.

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.

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

ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL IN THE MORNING

Kendrick School opens at 7.30am and students can come in at that time and wait in the canteen until their form rooms are opened. For safeguarding reasons, students should not be dropped off, or arrive earlier than this as they will need to wait outside the school unsupervised until the gates are opened by our Receptionist.

SAFEGUARDING ASSEMBLY TO STUDENTS

All our students have now received a safeguarding assembly which you can access via this [link](#). Titled 'Keeping You Safe', it explains what safeguarding is, how it relates to students, who keeps them safe at school and who they should contact if they have any concerns or worries.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING – KINDNESS MATTERS

Source: [Mentalhealth.org.uk](https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk)

We're all familiar with the saying "it's better to give than receive". What might surprise you is that this is actually backed up by research.

Those of us who are kind and compassionate experience clear benefits to our well-being and happiness. We may even live longer. Kindness also helps reduce stress and improve our emotional well-being.

We all have so much going on in our lives - competing strains and stresses – not to mention the recent coronavirus pandemic and lockdowns. This has sometimes pushed kindness to one side, in favour of what is urgent now.

It can be easy to show kindness when posting online, but when it comes to reality it's harder to commit to kindness in our real-life words and actions.

By taking the time to be kind to others, we can benefit from emotional upsides. It really does make a difference, especially for people who are vulnerable or struggling.

With everything that's going on in the world, now is the time to help make a kinder society that improves our mental health.

Kindness should be built into business decisions, government policy, and other official systems in a way that supports everyone's mental health and also reduces discrimination and inequality. That can start with individual commitments to showing kindness in our words and our actions.

[This guide from the Mental Health Foundation](#) is written to demonstrate the positive effect that helping others can have on your own mental health, including some suggestions that will inspire you.

Take a few minutes, have a read, and think about doing something kind for a friend or a stranger today.

Our Library has a wonderful advent calendar with an 'Act of Kindness' for each day which students are being asked to carry out on the lead up to Christmas.

4th December: Send a Christmas card to the children's ward at the hospital

5th December: Offer your seat to a person in need on the bus/train

6th December: Bring a little treat in for someone at school

7th December: Leave a positive message in someone's bag for them to find later

8th December: Hold the door open for someone

9th December: Offer to help a friend with their work

10th December: Pick up litter you see on the floor



CALENDAR FOR TERM 2, 2022-23

Monday 12th December	Opera Trip for KS4 and 5
Friday 16th December	End of Term 2, 1.05pm
Tuesday 3rd January	Inset Day
Wednesday 4th January	Start of Term 3, 8.25am

The school calendar for the academic year can be found [here](#). For the Term Dates for 2022-23 and 2023-24 please click [here](#)

NEWS, NOTICES AND EVENTS

KENDRICK SCHOOL'S SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

Kendrick School has a number of 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.



SCARLET FEVER AND STREP A ADVICE

Please find below links to information provided by the Local Authority on scarlet fever and strep A.

- [Scarlet fever and invasive Group A strep – advice for parents from the UK Health Security Agency | BOB ICB](#)
- [5 ways to protect your under 5s this winter - UK Health Security Agency \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)
- [Group A Strep - What you need to know - UK Health Security Agency \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)

FESTIVE FAMILY FUN AT THE FORBURY

A [Festive Family Rave](#) is taking place at Forbury Gardens this Saturday. Child-friendly silent disco rave sessions are taking place at 10am, 12 noon and 2pm along with festive cheer, food and drink from Blue Collar. Tickets cost £5 with a donation going to local charity Parenting Special Children.

The [Lantern Parade: Dance of the Fireflies](#) will then be happening from 5.30pm, starting in Broad Street and ending in Forbury Gardens where there will be a musical finale.

Find more info about Christmas events in Reading at: visit-reading.com/christmas.

BERKSHIRE MAESTROS' NEWSLETTER

Please click [here](#) for the latest Berkshire Maestros' newsletter.

KENDRICK SCHOOL – 2024 ADMISSION POLICIES – CONSULTATION

Kendrick School has made some changes to its admission policies for 2024 entry and, in line with admission guidelines, are now consulting on these policies.

The key changes can be found on our [website](#).

The consultation must last for a minimum of 6 weeks and will commence on **Monday 7th November 2022**. All comments regarding the proposed changes or any aspect of the Admissions Policies, should be sent to admissions@kendrick.reading.sch.uk or by completing the online form via this [link](#) by **9am on Tuesday 3rd January 2023**.

The full policies with all changes highlighted in yellow can be accessed from our website via this [link](#).

In addition, Kendrick School will be using GL Assessment as the test provider for 2024 entry. This is for information purposes only, and not part of the consultation process.

CHRISTMAS HAF REGISTRATION OPEN

Parents of children eligible for pupil premium free school meal can now register for the Christmas Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) scheme. Providers taking part in the programme include Reading Rock Academy, Next Thing Education and Sport in Mind.

BfFC co-ordinates the HAF scheme on behalf of Reading Borough Council, with funding from the DfE. Registration is open via the BfFC website at: <https://brighterfuturesforchildren.org/for-parents-carers/schools/haf/>

VACANCIES

We have the following vacancies at Kendrick School. Please click on the links for more information on the roles and how to apply and please share with friends and family.

[Head of Music and Drama](#) to cover a maternity leave – at least 0.8FTE. Job share will be considered. For end of February 2023 to at least December 2023. Closing date for applications Thursday 15th December 2022.

[Exam Invigilators](#) – for December 2022 and onwards

PARENTPAY REMINDERS

We would like to bring to your attention the following ParentPay items which are due for payment, please login to your ParentPay accounts for details.

Year 10 and Year 11 GCSE English set texts

Year 12 and Year 13 A-Level English set texts

Year 7, 8 and 9 Food and technology contributions

Year 10 and 11 Art and Textiles contributions

Year 7 Study Skills Workshop – 17th November 2022

2022 Biology Week: Design a Biology Tote Bag

Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award

Year 10 and 11 GCSE Music Anthologies book purchase

Daisy's Dream: Christmas Jumper Day - Friday 9th December 2022

KPS department birthday gift - celebrating Kendrick's 145th year

October trips

Year 12 Wokingham Waterside Centre trip 4th October 2022.

Year 13 A Level Geography Residential Field Course 12th to 16th October 2022

Year 12 Biology Brain Afternoon 20th October 2022

December trips

Year 11 12 13 Christmas Market trip to Germany 1st to 4th December 2022

2023 trips

Year 12 A level Biology Dale Fort residential trip.