

## WEEKLY UPDATE – FRIDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2025

### Letter from Ms Kattirtzi, Headteacher

I have just returned from a most special and significant celebration at Reading School. As some of you may know, Reading School is celebrating 900 years as a school since its foundation in 1125, providing an excellent education for boys and young men over centuries. In the presence of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, a ceremony and reception were held to celebrate and appreciate the long and distinguished history of Reading School. It was an honour to be invited and be part of the celebration particularly since our two schools support each other and have so many families in common. In addition, the Reading School CCF contingent, made up of 170 Kendrick students, more than half of the total number of students involved were on parade. I was extremely proud to be present and view the parades that our students were part of and watch them on the biannual inspection by a visiting officer, Brigadier Evans. This was a great honour for the CCF and for all of us watching. The Royal Corps of Army Music Tidworth Band accompanied the parade. This was followed by a commemoration service of thanks, as well celebration of Reading School's 900-year history and the formal unveiling of a stained-glass window in the Chapel dedicated to St Ethelflaed, an Anglo Saxon Queen and a powerful female ruler, a deliberately chosen symbol for the school.

Many schools celebrate who they are and what they do, and we are no exception. When I became Headteacher at Kendrick, some years ago, I introduced our school birthday, I decided that the birthday should be at the start of the academic year in September and the purpose of it was and is to celebrate our school, acknowledge all of the girls and young women that came before us, those who are with us now and those still to come. My message every year is about the celebration of Kendrick since its foundation in 1877 and an appreciation of the education it has provided to girls and young women. Like Reading School, that moment in our school calendar every year, is a time to pause and reflect on the purpose of our school and what it does for girls' education. My ambition for our school is that it provides the best education it can for our students, not just in terms of qualifications achieved, important as these may be. I wish for the girls and young women of our school to leave Kendrick equipped and skilled to take their place in whatever profession or role they choose and to lead and make decisions for the greater good, hence our motto *lead inspire make a difference*. Our history is not as long as 900 years but in two years' time we will be celebrating 150 years of Kendrick, and this will be a most proud and significant milestone for us.

An acknowledgement and appreciation of the school can often be seen by the contribution parents make to it. The Kendrick Parents' Society, a small but significant group of individuals in the committee, lead the fund raising and social networking for our parents and students. I was delighted to hear this week that the Christmas Wish list, launched only last week, has raised over £2.5k., which is great, halfway towards the £5k target. I hope this amount will be reached by the end of term. All items on the Wishlist will benefit every student in the school as they are items directly requested by subject leaders. If you haven't yet contributed, please do so [here](#).

In addition to fund raising, a new initiative has emerged from KPS and that is some wellbeing activities. One parent has generously offered her time and expertise to run relaxation sessions for students. Yesterday on our Profiling Day, Mrs Doorwar, led a session of Relaxation with Year 8. Mrs Doorwar reported to me that she felt the session went very well and students benefited from learning and practising relaxation techniques. Staff have told me today that the students very much enjoyed the session. I will ask Mrs Doorwar to run similar sessions on subsequent profiling days with other year groups later in the year and with staff perhaps.

Another way parents contribute to Kendrick is as a Parent Trustee. A few weeks ago, we asked parents to put themselves forward for the two vacancies we have on the Board of Trustees. Seven people were nominated from various backgrounds and specialisms and two have been elected. I am pleased to announce that Dr Jennifer Yabsley and Mr Ramesha Vaderahalli Balaraju have been elected. I welcome them to the Trust Body and their new role with the school.

The profiling day I mentioned and detailed last week took place yesterday and I know that good and meaningful conversations took place between students and tutors across the school. I had individual conversations with five Year 7 students, and it was good to hear about how they felt things have gone since joining Kendrick in September, the highlights they have had and how they manage their day-to-day life at school. Yesterday we also launched our Work Experience programme for all Year 12 students which will take place from 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> June 2026. Year 12 students need to find a placement for those five days and as last year we will be asking parents if they can offer a suitable placement to a student in their workplace. If anyone can do so, please email Mrs McManus [cmcmanus@kendrick.reading.sch.uk](mailto:cmcmanus@kendrick.reading.sch.uk)

I mentioned last year a strategic initiative that we are undertaking in racial literacy training. Last spring we embarked on this work which is a training programme for all members of the school community based on a series of in-depth modules on different ethnic groups. Last year we started with some training on Black Heritage communities. This year our focus will be on South Asian Heritage communities. All staff have completed their training and next week students will begin theirs, which comprises a 30minute online session giving some background, history and features within South Asian communities. The organisation we work with who researched and developed this training, both for education and business, is called [Hemisphere](#). Do explore their website to see the breadth of their work. Our goal as stated to the students in the introductory assemblies, is to make racial literacy a priority for everyone at Kendrick, reinforcing our Kendrick Pledge. We want to embed these principles in our plans and enhance our relationships and behaviours with one another.

Wishing everyone a peaceful weekend.

**Ms Christine Kattirtizi**  
**Headteacher**

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### **Announcement of New Parent Trustees**

We are pleased to announce that Mr Ramesha Vaderahalli Balaraju and Dr Jennifer Yabsley have been elected as Kendrick School's newest Parent Trustees.

We apologise for the delay in announcing these results, owing to extra care in processing and verifying our first electronic-voting process as well as staff schedules.

Again, thank you to all of the candidates and to everyone who voted in this election.

Kind regards

Charles Ramsden  
Chair of Trustees

### **Safeguarding**

[Safeguarding at Kendrick School](#)

[Domestic Abuse Support App - Bright Sky by Hestia](#)

### **Wellbeing**

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

[National Grief Awareness Week](#)

[Latest News on our Website](#)

[School Calendar](#)

**Week commencing 1st December**

Fringe Fortnight

Tuesday 2nd December - Dance Enterprise Day

Wednesday 3rd December - Year 11 Parent Consultations

Thursday 4th December - Year 10 Employers Day in School

Friday 5th December - Former students and staff Reunion Event

### **Student Careers and Work Experience**

[Current Opportunities](#)

### **[Vacancies](#)**

No vacancies at the present time

### **ParentPay and Evolve Reminders**

[Reminders on Friday 28th November 2025](#)

### **[Kendrick Parents' Society \(KPS\)](#)**

[Weekly News - 28th November 2025](#)