

WEEKLY UPDATE - FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2025

Letter from Ms Kattirtzi, Headteacher

Another busy week. On the academic side, reports are being confirmed and sent to parents this week. Please may I ask that all parents spend some time with their child to read and discuss the reports in an encouraging and supportive way. All year groups are receiving their first report of the academic year and at all stages there is a settling in process that needs to be appreciated and understood, especially for students starting in their new key stage and courses: Year 7, 10 and 12. Please speak and listen to your child and congratulate their achievements and acknowledge their plans and ideas to develop their progress further.

More on the academic side, all students in the school were able to receive a philosophy lecture from a philosopher Dr Stepeh Law from Oxford University who has been visiting Kendrick for the last couple of years. This year, Dr Law's presentation asked question about personality, and can computers think and feel as much as humans? In his talks, Dr Law encouraged students to discuss and voice their thoughts which resulted in some interesting debate. Thank you to Mr Nemeth, Head of RS and Sociology for organising this important morning for the students.

The annual Dance Enterprise Day this week was, as always, a super day of creativity, teamwork and energy! All form groups in Year 7-11 were tasked to choreograph and produce a dance in one day. All forms achieved this and it was a joy to watch the dances the next day, presented on the stage to an audience of their peers. Each year group focused on a theme and interpreted the theme in their own individual way to their chosen piece of music. The experience and opportunity to plan and perform on a stage may have been the first for some students in Year 7, but everyone rose to the challenge and made a great effort to fulfil the brief. You may see a selection of the dances performed at the Evening of Dance next Wednesday 10th December.

In assemblies this week, the Key Stage Leaders, Miss Hyde – Key Stage 3, Mme Hulley – Key Stage 4 and Mrs Hearn - Key Stage 5 spoke to the students about Knife Crime, an increasingly worrying issue in society and in parts of this country. Data shows that for some children and young people carrying a knife has become the norm for reasons of security and defence. The Safeguarding assemblies that were delivered to the students spoke about this growing trend but also and most importantly the consequences on anyone found carrying a knife. These consequences, as we all know, are very serious and can disrupt one's life forever. I am sure there will be follow up conversations about this issue and I urge parents to speak openly with their children about it. A link to resources for parents from the Ben Kinsella Trust is included in the Safeguarding update below.

The season of Advent is upon us and at Kendrick this is recognised in so many wonderful ways. In our Word of the Week, Advent is defined as *the arrival of something significant. While it originally described periods of anticipation in several faith traditions, it now captures any meaningful beginning or approaching transformative moment.*

Apparently, the advent calendar began in 1908 when Gerhard Lang created the first printed version in Munich, inspired by his mother's tradition of sewing 24 small treats onto fabric during his childhood. What started as one person's fond memory became a beloved global custom. Advent means different things to different people, whether it is religious or secular, it is the season that does brighten all our lives especially at Kendrick with the many activities and events that take place at this time of the year. For the staff, Advent is marked by a poem a day which Mr Dilley, Head of English sends to us all. My favourite this week is a poem by James Crews. Please see below and enjoy.

Darkest Before Dawn

by James Crews

Three days into the new year,
and despite the lack of adequate light,
our white phalaenopsis orchid
has eased open a third delicate bloom.
Perhaps coaxed by the warmth
of the woodstove a few feet away,
the orchid thrives in its tiny pot
shaped like the shell of a nautilus,
sending out new stems and glossy leaves,

its aerial roots—green at the tips—
reaching upward like tentacles
to sip the morning air.
These blooms stir something too
long asleep in me, proving with
stillness and slow growth
what I haven't wanted to believe
these past few months—that hope
and grace still reign in certain sectors
of the living world, that there are laws
which can never be overturned
by hateful words or the wishes
of power-hungry men. Be patient,
this orchid seems to say, and reveal
your deepest self even in the middle
of winter, even in the darkness
before the coming dawn.

Enjoy the Advent season, however you and your family mark it.

Please remember the KPS Christmas Wishlist campaign. This week the total has reached £3395, £1605 short of £5k target. Please support, as so far only 69 parents have contributed to it. Thank you to those who have contributed.
<https://www.kendrick.reading.sch.uk/page/?title=KPS+Weekly+Update+and+Newsletters&pid=331&action=saved>

Ms Christine Kattirtzi
Headteacher

School Notices

On Friday 12 December we'll be taking part in Save the Children's nation-wide Christmas Jumper Day.

Students are invited to wear a fun festive jumper or if they don't have one, just decorate their jumper with some tinsel or bells and donate £2 to Save the Children via the Just Giving QR code below. Please wear the rest of your uniform as normal.



School Drop Off and Pick Up

Please can we remind you once again there is strictly no stopping or parking on East Street. Please be mindful of local residents and businesses in the surrounding streets, including South Street. A local resident has contacted to say their car has been damaged due to inconsiderate driving and parking. Please encourage your child to use public

transport where possible or park away from the school, legally and considerately, and your child walk to school from there.

Safeguarding

[Safeguarding at Kendrick School](#)

[Knife Crime Advice for Parents from the Ben Kinsella Trust](#)

[Childnet Crib Sheet - Generative AI](#)

Wellbeing

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

[Seven amazing things you might not know about walking](#)

Latest News on our Website

School Calendar

Week commencing 8th December 2025

Fringe Fortnight

- Tuesday 9th December - KPS Meeting Online (see KPS update below)
- Wednesday 10th December - Year 12 German trip; Evening of Dance
- Thursday 11th December - Year 13 Parent Consultations; Full Trustee Meeting, 4.30pm.
- Friday 12th December - Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children

Student Careers and Work Experience

[Current Opportunities](#)

Vacancies

[English and Drama Teacher on a short term contract - January - July 2026](#)

ParentPay and Evolve Reminders

[Reminders on Friday 5th December 2025](#)

Kendrick Parents' Society (KPS)

[Weekly News - Friday 5th December 2025](#)