# **Kendrick School - Weekly Update Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

## LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

Fragility of Freedom is this year's theme for Holocaust Memorial Day and therefore the theme of our whole school assembly this morning (remote and live). Using the material provided by the Holocaust Educational Trust and adding their own thoughts and wider historical knowledge and understanding, Year 12 History students, Trishaa, Joshika and Inakshi gave an assembly on the theme. Explaining the term fragility of freedom, they discussed the concept of freedom and how freedom can be fragile and often taken for granted by many of us. Drawing on examples from history where people's freedoms have gradually been eroded over time, most prominently, during the Nazi persecution of Jews in the 1930s and 1940s, the students spoke about the impact these historical events have had on people and societies and the lessons we must learn from these atrocities. They listed the erosion of freedoms that Jews in Germany began to experience starting in 1933 when Jews were banned from state jobs for example lawyers, doctors, teachers up to 1938 when their physical freedoms were severely restricted. They talked about the effects of a restriction of essential freedoms that are psychologically felt long after any physical liberation and the impact of this. In addition, the students drew parallels with conflicts that are taking place today, where the freedom of communities has been challenged and is threatened, in Ukraine and in the Middle East. They spoke of the reaction to these conflicts which has resulted in a significant rise in attacks on civil liberties of Jews and Muslims resulting in an increase in Anti- Semitism and Islamophobia. The hope and wish of us all is that we might learn from history and the atrocities of the past, and endeavour to exist peacefully with each other, regardless of race or religion, finding ways that unite us and not focus on what divides us. The Holocaust Ambassadors from last year, Sneha and Sam, now Year 13 students, spoke of their trip to Auschwitz last year and the lessons they learnt from the project which we continue to convey to our community. Our assembly finished, as always, with a reminder of the Kendrick Pledge which was written after a visit I made to Auschwitz with two history students over 10 years ago. The lesson we brought to our community was to try to live and behave according to our pledge.

A drop-in with Year 7 parents on Tuesday evening was a very pleasant hour spent talking with parents about life at Kendrick, the transition to secondary school, as well as some of the challenges that emerge as children begin to become more independent. Some organisational and procedural issues were raised, for example regarding the use of mobile phones in school, which are being followed up, but overall, the conversations were very positive with parents reporting that their children are enjoying life at Kendrick and feeling very settled. My thanks to KPS for hosting the online event. There are dates in the diary to have drop-ins with parents of all year groups over the next two terms. The next online meeting is with Year 8 parents on 6/2/24. Parents of Year 8 will be notified nearer the time. The Christmas/New Year Wishlist project has been extended to Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February to enable parents who have not engaged so far to do so. £1490 has been raised by 35 parents and we have raised 37% of our target figure of £4k. The link is here.

The creativity and intelligence of our students has no bounds and I am once again impressed by some of the research and writing I have seen from students in Year 12 who have put together an online magazine called <u>The Perspective</u>, a series of articles on Film, TV, Literature and Art. Please take time to read these excellent and erudite articles. Continuing the creative writing theme, the Winter Poetry competition gave another opportunity to poets to write some beautiful verse about Winter. Another poetry competition on the Holocaust theme this year has just been launched. The creative skill of students is well underway in the preparation and rehearsals for House Drama with the event less than two weeks away. The plays on the title **The Candidate**, I am sure, will result in some great pieces of drama for us to see.

Many of you may know that Reading School has a new Headteacher, Mr Chris Evans and we congratulate Mr Evans on his appointment. This afternoon Mr Evans visited Kendrick and we agreed that we would like to maintain regular contact and have meetings to share our good practice. As the two grammar schools in Reading, we have much in common, not least the number of siblings we each have at each other's school. We intend to meet regularly to discuss issues common to us. A regular joint venture between the schools, led by our students, is the Air Ambulance Concert

which is always such a great event in the music calendar and a huge fund raiser for the Thames Valley Air Ambulance charity. Students are practising and putting the programme together for a concert on 21<sup>st</sup> March.

Please continue to read the rest of the Weekly Update, there is some important information on online safety for parents.

Wishing everyone a pleasant weekend

Ms Christine Kattirtzi, Headteacher

### KENDRICK SCHOOL'S SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

Kendrick School has several 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.











## **SAFEGUARDING**

#### **WORRIED ABOUT A CHILD?**

If you have a concern about a child at Kendrick School, please email <a href="mailto:studentwelfare@kendrick.reading.sch.uk">studentwelfare@kendrick.reading.sch.uk</a> or telephone 0118 9015859 and ask to speak to a Designated Safeguarding Officer.

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 0808 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 <u>link</u>. We will be adding to these on a regular basis.

<u>CAMHS Resources</u> - 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 wellbeing support in school, students can visit the Student Welfare Team in the General Office or Sixth Form Office or email <a href="mailto:studentwelfare@kendrick.reading.sch.uk">studentwelfare@kendrick.reading.sch.uk</a>.

#### **PARENTAL CONTROLS**

**SOURCE: thinkuknow** 

#### What do parental controls do?

These controls are designed to help you manage your child's online activities. Parental controls can set online time restrictions for your child and create content filters to manage the content they see. Parental controls can be used across your broadband, Wi-Fi, apps, games consoles and personal devices including mobile phones and tablets. There are various types, some of which are free but others which can be bought.

However, nothing is totally fool proof so they shouldn't replace the need for you to support and advise your child on online safety.

#### How can I use parental controls?

Accessing device controls can vary according to the manufacturer. Controls can offer differ types of protection. From filtering out adult content in search results, to preventing your child from buying things when playing games. You can find instructions on how to set controls on the manufacturer's website or to find specific guidance for your device, network or platform use this online tool from Internet Matters.

Control settings will apply whether the device is being used in your home or outside. It's also easy for controls to be switched off, so make sure your child understands why the settings are in place.

#### What are some examples of parental controls?

#### Games consoles

Most games consoles come with settings, which can be put in place for either the device itself or the games platform. It's easy to forget that games consoles allow players to connect to the internet and talk to people all over the world, So setting controls on devices and on the platform itself is important.

#### Broadband and network

Broadband and network controls can be used to prevent inappropriate material from being accessed. For example, restricting anything with a horror or sexual content from being accessible via your home broadband. Instructions for accessing these filters can be found on the service provider's websites. Look at the bottom of the page to find the "help" or "security" page.

#### Online controls

Search engines such as Google allow users to filter out certain types of search results. This means you can reduce the risk of your child seeing adult content like pornography, or set limits on the time they spend online. Look for the cogwheel "settings" symbol where you will find the options for each provider. You can also encourage your child to use safer search facilities, such as SafeSearch Kids from Google.

#### Social media and other websites

As with search engines, social media and sites like YouTube have privacy and security settings. These can prevent your child from being contacted by strangers or from seeing inappropriate material. It is important to remember that content filters can't prevent other people from sending offensive or inappropriate messages or comments to your child's account. So controlling who can contact your child is a key step.

#### **Paid controls**

It is also possible to buy filter programmes. These can be either solely for filtering purposes, but some virus protection software also offer filtering options.

#### 5 actions for setting parental controls

- 1. Set up home broadband parental controls and make use of controls on your home broadband.
- **2.** Set controls on your search engine; encourage your child to always use child-friendly search engines and activate and lock the safe search settings on the browsers and platforms they use.
- **3.** Use privacy settings on apps and devices; activate the safety measures offered by different sites. Social networking sites like Facebook have privacy settings that will help prevent your child from sharing too much personal information or from seeing unsuitable advertising.
- **4.** Block pop-ups. If you're worried about your children accessing inappropriate content though accidentally clicking on adverts in pop-ups, follow the advice from <u>Tech Advisor</u> on how to stop these.
- **5.** Have open conversations with your child about online safety and reassure them that they can talk to you or a trusted adult whenever they need to. By talking to your child about their interests you can help them find suitable sites to visit and apps to use. Review these sites as they get older.

#### SUMMARY OF SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION

Term 1 2023-24 Term 2 2023-24



**MYLOL** 

Teenagers' blossoming interest in romantic relationships and their devotion to online networking is a potent combination – and, regrettably, not always a safe one. It raises all kind of

worries about the possibility of sharing intimate images or deeply personal information; and that's simply with contacts their own age – to say nothing of the chance of connecting with an older stranger.

MyLOL – a site which specifically facilitates interaction between 13 to 19-year-olds – has amassed around a million users worldwide, but sadly its safeguarding protocols can't match that level of success. The ease with which an adult could pose as a teen under a bogus birthdate makes grooming a realistic threat – and that's far from the platform's only risk, as this guide explains.

Parents and Carers Guide to MyLOL





#### TIME TO TALK DAY-THURSDAY 1ST FEBRUARY 2024

Time to Talk Day is an annual awareness day held at the beginning of February. It's a day for us all to start a conversation about mental health. Talking about mental health isn't easy. But a conversation has the power to change lives. Time to Talk Day is run by Mind and Rethink Mental Illness, in partnership with the Co-op.

#### Tips for talking

There's no right or wrong way to talk about mental health. But these tips can help make sure you're approaching the conversation in a helpful way.

#### Ask questions and listen

Asking questions can give the person space to express how they're feeling and what they're going through. And it can help you to understand their experience better. Try to ask guestions that are open and not leading or judgmental. For example, "how does that affect you?" or "what does it feel like?"

#### Think about the time and place

Sometimes it's easier to talk side by side rather than face to face. If you do talk in person, you might want to chat while doing something

else. You could start a conversation when you're walking, cooking or stuck in traffic. But don't let the search for the perfect place put you off!

#### Don't try and fix it

It can be hard to see someone you care about having a difficult time. Try to resist the urge to offer quick fixes to what they're going through. Learning to manage or recover from a mental health problem can be a long journey. They've likely already considered lots of different tools and strategies. Just talking can be really powerful, so unless they've asked for advice directly, it might be best just to listen.

#### Treat them the same

When someone has a mental health problem, they're still the same person as they were before. When a friend or

loved one opens up about mental health, they don't want you to treat them any differently. If you want to support them, keep it simple. Do the things you'd normally do.

#### Be patient

No matter how hard you try, some people might not be ready to talk about what they're going through. That's ok – the fact that you've tried to talk may make it easier for them to open up another time.

#### KENDRICK SCHOOL WELLBEING NEWSLETTER

For all our **Wellbeing Newsletters** please click here.

#### POEM OF THE WEEK

#### **Start Anew**

by E. F. Hayward

If you have a grouch, and things look blue, You think the "world" has it in for you, You're out of work, and the rent 'most due, Your chances of winning, seem but few, The chums you had, bade a sad adieu, Then went their way, for they were not true, Your last red cent from the bank you drew, And for provisions the same you blew, For getting more you haven't a clue; You worry and fret, and fuss and stew, And by your fretting, more troubles brew; Your lucky star seems hidden from view, And old hard luck, sticks to you like glue, Boasted true-blue friends have lost their hue, Not one volunteers to help you through, And your last fond hope took wing and flew; There's but one thing left for you to do— Bury your troubles, and start anew.

#### **Quote of the Week**

"The way to achieve your own success is to be willing to help somebody else get it first." - Iyanla Vanzant

## **SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND)**

#### PARENT/CARER AUTISM ONLINE WORKSHOPS FROM THE AUTISM TRAINING NETWORK

Whether your child is awaiting a diagnosis or has already been diagnosed, these workshops are a great opportunity to learn more about Autism & ask questions within a supportive group of other parents & carers.

#### • Monday 5th February - An introduction to Autism

An opportunity to explore what Autism is, the many strengths and the differences that make each child so wonderfully unique.

• Monday 12th February - Communication

Identifying what communication is and the different communication methods that may be helpful for Autistic children.

#### • Monday 19th February - Sensory Processing

Explaining the 8 sensory systems, how the environment can impact on a child with sensory processing differences/challenges and strategies to meet an individual's sensory needs.

#### • Monday 26th February - Pathological Demand Avoidance

A look into the interes1ng subject of PDA, how this may present and what is the best approach to take to avoid conflict.

#### Workshops will be held 7:30-8:30pm via Zoom

£25 per workshop for each family.

To book your place...Email enquiries@theau1smtrainingnetwork.com

#### SPORT TOGETHER BERKSHIRE CIC - FESTIVAL OF INCLUSIVITY 16TH FEBRUARY 2024

Save the Date: 16th February 2024

A great day of activity, including: Football, Rugby, Cricket, Hockey, Art & Crafts, Sensory Room, and much more....

Bookings from January 2024 – Times to be advised.

sporttogetherberks@gmail.com

https://sporttogetherberks.co.uk/

Further information can be found here <u>Reading Directory | Sport Together Berkshire CIC - Festival of Inclusivity</u> 16th February 2024

**SEND Local Offer Newsletter Winter 2023** 

## SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR TERM 3, 2023-24

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February Time to Talk Day

Trustee Resources Committee, 4.30pm

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February Year 7&8 KPS Disco

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February Children's Mental Health Week

GCSE and A Level Art Trip

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February Safer Internet Day

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February Year 8 Parent Consultations

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February House Drama

Trustee P&R Committee, 4.30pm

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February End of Term 3, 3.15pm

The school calendar for the academic year can be found <a href="here">here</a>. For the Term Dates for 2023-24 and 2024-

25 please click <u>here</u>

## **NEWS, NOTICES, COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS**

#### TEEN POSITIVE PARENTING PROGRAMME (PPP)

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April – Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2024, 9.30am-11.30am Fairview Community Centre – 90B Great Knolly's Street, Reading, RG1 7HL

Is your child aged 11-14 years old?

- Do you want to support your child when they are showing distressing behaviour?
- Do want your teenager to make positive choices?

This is an evidence based flexible parenting programme run by Brighter Futures for Children over nine two-hour weekly group sessions, term time only.

To enquire or book a place, please contact <u>parenting.reading@brighterfuturesforchildren.org</u> or call 0118 937 4858.

#### **MEASLES OUTBREAK**

There have been recent localised outbreaks of measles centred around the West Midlands. There is a risk of further outbreaks in other areas unless urgent action is taken to increase Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccination take up in areas with low MMR vaccine rates.

Measles spreads very easily among those who are unvaccinated, especially in nurseries and schools. The best protection against measles for children and adults is to get both doses of the MMR vaccine. It is never too late to have these vaccinations.

The following UKHSA guidance is available on GOV.UK:

- Health protection in children and young people settings, including education GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
- Managing outbreaks and incidents GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).

The NHS also has the following advice for parents on measles:

Measles - NHS (www.nhs.uk)

## **WORK RELATED LEARNING AND CAREERS**

#### **READING SCHOOL CAREERS CONVENTION 2024**

- Stands: Professionals at stands around the school will share information about their respective fields.
- Keynote Speakers: Five keynote speakers will cover topics such as cybersecurity, finance, IT, data, auditing, and employability skills. Each speaker will conduct two 20-minute sessions. The lectures will be held in Big School, Chapel, and the Lecture Theatre.

#### **Keynote Speakers & Sessions:**

Speaker	Focus	Venue	Time
<b>Dr Saritha Arunkumar</b> World Wide Technical Leader – Security, IBM	Cybersecurity career and opportunities at IBM	Big School	6:30pm-6:50pm 7:30pm- 7.50pm
Mr Greg Payne Senior Director, Oracle Corporation	Careers at Oracle Technology, engineering and data	Chapel	6:30pm-6:50pm 7:30pm-7.50pm
Mr Levi Tebbutt Data Analytics Manager, KPMG	Careers at <u>KPMG</u> Finance, tax and data	Big School	7:00pm-7:20pm 8:00pm-8:20pm

Mr Jonathan Purcell Public Affairs & Communications Officer at the International Centre of Justice for Palestinians	Careers in Public affairs & Communications for NGOs	Lecture Theatre	7:00pm-7:20pm 8:00pm-8:20pm
Miss Orla Harper Senior Partner Development Manager, InvestIN Education	InvestIN Education will share tips on creating a CV, employability skills, building your personal brand and networking opportunities.	Lecture Theatre	6:30pm-6:50pm 7:30pm-7.50pm

#### **Reserving Seats for Lectures:**

- Tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Maximum of 2 tickets per session (1 Adult and 1 Child ticket) is permitted per lecture.
- Reserve the tickets at https://www.trybooking.com/uk/DBFJ.

#### Arrival:

- Careers Convention commences at 6.30pm.
- Register at the Refectory, collect the event programme, and meet as many delegates as possible.
- We recommend attendees to arrive at least 5 minutes before each lecture.
- We encourage attendees to engage in conversations with professionals to understand opportunities through different pathways.

#### Parking:

- No parking on the school site; we encourage the use of public transport.
- For blue badge holders or those with specific requirements, email <a href="mailto:events@reading-school.co.uk">events@reading-school.co.uk</a>.
- Limited parking in Erleigh, Addington, and Alexandra Road where parking meters are operated, or use town centre car parks.

## **VACANCIES**

We currently have the following vacancies. Please click on this <u>link</u> for more information and please forward to friends and family who may be interested.

English Teacher for September 2024 – *shortlisting taken place; interviews on 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> January*Mathematics Teacher for September 2024 – *shortlisting taken place; interviews on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February*Invigilators for the Summer 2024 exam season

Kendrick School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any successful applicant will be required to undertake an Enhanced Disclosure check by the Disclosure & Barring Service. Kendrick School is an Equal Opportunity employer.

**Reading School** has the following current vacancies. If you know anyone who might be interested, please do pass on the details to them.

<u>Head of Operations and Projects</u> – further information can be found <u>here</u>. <u>Student Support Assistant</u> – further information can be found <u>here</u>.

## **PARENTPAY REMINDERS**

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

#### **School Fund Donation**

Whitley Community Food Cupboard – cash donations

Year 10 GCSE Drama- set text: The Crucible by Arthur Miller

Year 9 and Year 10 French Play - March 2024

Year 9 and Year 10 German Play - March 2024

Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award 2024

Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award 2024

Year 10, Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 English set texts

Year 7, 8 and 9 Food and Technology voluntary contributions

Year 10 and Year 11 Art and Textiles voluntary contributions

Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 English set texts

KPS non uniform day - 19th January 2024

House Drama competition – 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024

#### **Trips**

Year 12 local Geography field trip – 12th January 2024

Year 11 Rural Villages Geography trip- 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024

Year 8 Careers Event - 30th January 2024

GCSE and A level Art trip to Oxford – 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Year 12 and Year 13 Classics trip – 9th February 2024

Year 12 and Year 13 languages regional journalism challenge 26th February 2024

Year 11 Poetry live event at The Hexagon Reading - 29th February 2024

Year 12 Maths Inspiration at The Hexagon Reading- 14th March 2024

Year 8 Bushcraft- May 2024

Year 10 French and German trips - June 2024

## **KENDRICK PARENTS' SOCIETY (KPS)**

For the latest KPS newsletter please click here.

#### **KPS WISHLIST PROJECT UPDATE**





Give Now
Share

https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/kps-wishlist-project - click on the main photo to explore detailed Wishlist from each department

We have reached 37% of our target with your kind support and would like to thank you for the generosity.

We do need further contribution to **fulfil the target of £4000.** If you haven't had the opportunity to donate yet, we urge you to join our cause. Also it would be great if the link can be shared with others known to you. Do consider checking with **employers regarding match funding opportunities**.

Small or large, your contribution will make a huge difference in enriching our children's education. We can easily reach the target if every parent donates a minimum of £5. This link will remain open until 4th February Sunday.

#### DROP-IN SESSIONS WITH MS.KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

Early this week, on 23rd January, we organised the first 'Drop-In Session with Ms Kattirtzi' for parents of year 7 students. We are pleased to announce that the session was well-attended, with active participation from the attendees. Thank you to everyone who participated and shared their views and questions.

On behalf of all parents of year 7, we thank Ms. Kattirtzi for sharing her valuable insight and answering all of our questions.

#### **Next Drop-In Session**

Year Group: Year 8

**Date:** Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February **Time:** 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm

**Google meeting link:** To join the video meeting, click this link:

https://meet.google.com/usv-wnrt-ynn Otherwise, to join by phone, dial +1 724-257-1608 and enter this PIN: 887

720 908#

The protocols for the sessions will be explained before the meeting starts. Please take advantage of this opportunity.

The dates for other year groups are as follows:

Year 9: Tuesday 20th February Year 10: Tuesday 5th March Year 11: Tuesday 19th March 6th Form: Tuesday 16th April

#### KPS DISCO FOR YEAR 7 AND YEAR 8 UPDATE - SOLD OUT

We are happy to announce that the Disco Party tickets have **sold out!** Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets! **The Event Organising team is working hard to ensure that it will be a memorable event.** 

Date: February 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday

**Location:** Main Hall at Kendrick School from **6:30 pm to 8:00 pm.** The gates (East Street) will open at 6 pm for drop-off. Pickup from the same point.

**Parents Meet and Mingle:** As students from both schools enjoy the disco, parents are invited to stay and mingle, enjoying snacks and beverages. We hope that parents/carers would take advantage of this opportunity.

**Snacks and Drinks:** Light snacks and drinks will be available for both parents and children during the event. Parents may pay with a card, but only cash will be accepted from children.

**Parking:** There is no parking available within the school premises, so it is recommended to search for nearby parking places.

**Calling for Volunteers:** We would love to have more volunteers join us in managing the disco event! If you're interested in helping out, we'd be thrilled to have you on board.

Contact Shree at <a href="mailto:KPSTreasurer@kendrick.reading.sch.uk">KPSTreasurer@kendrick.reading.sch.uk</a> to express your interest and get more details.

#### **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 <u>online membership form</u> 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 (<a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/1514675551882470/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/1514675551882470/</a>) and ask to join – once we have confirmed that you are a member of the KPS, we will approve your request.

**KPS Team**