

WEEKLY UPDATE – FRIDAY 6TH FEBRUARY 2026

Letter from Ms Kattirtzi, Headteacher

I would like to begin with highlighting the webinar that was sent to you last week, made by Ms Hyde. This is the second in the series of webinars that Ms Hyde has produced for students across the school. Based on feedback we have received from students in focus groups and surveys, Ms Hyde has skilfully researched and presented appropriate content to assist parents and students manage some of the issues that present themselves to them as they develop and mature in school. Please take time to watch the [webinar](#) and to follow up the very helpful links.

We had another pleasant hour with Year 8/9 parents last night at the second Drop-in session this year. Once again hosted by KPS over 50 parents joined the call and asked very sensible and pertinent questions about school life. Obvious interest at this moment is around option choices for Year 9 going into Year 10 which is coming up after half term and parents will be invited to an Information Evening on Wednesday 4th March to hear the presentation of the process we go through at Kendrick on the Options process. I did reiterate again to parents the message that students do enough academic work in school and do not need additional tuition. We are hearing that some students across the school are receiving additional tutoring in some subjects just to be ahead of the teaching of topics in schools. We do not advise this, and students need to be led by one teacher and that is their teacher in school who knows the curriculum and specification that needs to be covered and is practised in doing this. However, I am pleased and grateful to the support parents want to give their children's learning and that is vital in the overall success of any child during their schooling.

We have delivered some excellent assemblies to student on safeguarding themes most recently on misogyny and the importance of one's digital footprint. There has also been form led assemblies and this week 8TCA presented a super assembly on the importance of Relationships and how to nurture and have good and respectful relationships. I was pleased to hear them use the terminology that we use in school about speaking to a trusted adult should they find themselves in a situation where the relationship/friendship they are having with anyone is beginning to be uncomfortable. Well done 8TCA and Ms Campbell their tutor.

A question that came up at last night's parental drop-in was about work experience across the school. This is part of the bigger area of education that all schools are obliged to deliver which is Careers Education. Like all schools we need to provide careers education that is outlined in a guidance document known as the [Gatsby Benchmarks](#). There are 8 benchmarks schools need to cover with their students:

1. A stable careers programme
2. Learning form career and labour market information
3. Addressing the needs of each young person
4. Linking curriculum learning to careers
5. Encounters with employers and employees
6. Experiences in the workplace
7. Encounters with Further and Higher Education
8. Personal guidance

At Kendrick this work is led by Mrs McManus and further information about our careers work can be found on the [website](#).

Reminder for next week we have our House Drama event. This year's theme is *The Blind Assassin*, the title of a novel by Margaret Atwood - 'we leave traces of ourselves everywhere like dust'. You can buy your tickets [here](#).

A new article on the website for you to read is about a [debate competition](#) that some of our students have been involved in and won last month. Another round is next week and we wish them well.

Wishing everyone a good weekend,

Ms Christine Kattirtzi
Headteacher

School Notices

Kendrick School's Data Protection Officer

Judicium Education Ltd

Contact details:

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Mrs Eve Hubard is our GDPR Lead and should be the initial contact for any data protection and data breaches. Mrs Hubard can be contacted on EHubard@kendrick.reading.sch.uk

Update on recent anti-social behaviour outside of Kendrick School

Following the recent incident where some students had eggs thrown at them by two boys outside of school, Thames Valley Police shared images of the boys with local schools. The boys have been identified, and appropriate action is being taken through a partnership approach with police, their school and their parents.

Safeguarding

[Safeguarding at Kendrick School](#)

[How to manage school group chats](#). A guide for parents (BBC Bitesize)

Mental Health and Wellbeing

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

[Resilience Workshop for Parents \(with the NHS Mental Health Support Team \(11th February 2026\)\)](#)

SEND

[Reading Borough Council - Support for children with autism and anxiety \(child aged 6-16\)](#)

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

[Kendrick Wins Debate Competition](#)

School Calendar

Week commencing 9th February - Week A

Children's Mental Awareness Health Week

Year 11 Sixth Form consultations all week

- Monday 9th February – Year 11 Macbeth Trip
- Tuesday 10th February – Safer Internet Day
- Thursday 12th February – Trustee P&R Committee, 4.30pm; House Drama *Please see email sent on Thursday 5th February 2026.*
- Friday 13th February – End of Term 3, 3.15pm

Student Careers and Work Experience

[Current Opportunities](#)

Vacancies

[English Teacher](#) to join us in September 2026. Closing date for applications: 8am Wednesday 25th February 2026

[School Caretaker](#) to join us in March 2026. 4.45pm to 9.30pm Monday to Friday. Closing date for applications: 8am Friday 27th February 2026.

[Food Technician](#) to join us in March 2026. 22 hours a week. The successful candidate must be able to work flexibly over the school day, 8.15am to 3.45pm. Closing date for applications: 9am Friday 27th February 2026.

[Mathematics Teacher](#) to cover a maternity leave for September 2026. Closing date for applications: 9am Thursday 29th January 2026. Interviewing Friday 6th February.

ParentPay and Evolve Reminders

[Reminders on Friday 6th February 2026](#)

Kendrick Parents' Society (KPS)

[Weekly News – Friday 6th February 2026](#)