

WEEKLY UPDATE – FRIDAY 23rd JANUARY 2026

Letter from Ms Kattirtzi, Headteacher

It was a pleasure to meet the Year 7 parents yesterday evening at the KPS hosted Drop-in session between 5.30-6.30pm. Accompanied by Miss Hyde, Head of Key Stage 3, we spoke with parents about life in Year 7 and some of the new processes and procedures our Year 7 students are encountering and getting used. As we all know the transition from primary to secondary school is huge and the organisation and structure of the school day and the children's learning are very different. We are always so impressed by how quickly our Year 7 students adapt to life at Kendrick, however there were a few issues raised by parents that we will follow up with so that all children feel comfortable and know how things work in school. Thank you to KPS and the parents that joined the meeting. The next drop in is with Year 8 and 9 parents in two weeks' time on 5/2/25 at 5.30-6.30pm.

Earlier in the week we had a KPS committee meeting at which the committee outlined the many events and fund-raising activities they propose to do this year. Already they have had much success with the Christmas Wishlist and yesterday we had the Own Clothes Day which has raised almost £1k which is great! If every student in Years 7-11 wore their own clothes yesterday, then we should raise in the region of £1200 from the £2 donation. Thank you to everyone for your contributions. KPS will give more updates in their newsletter but the big event coming up next month is the raffle. Letters and communications are being sent out now and we hope to raise £8k from it. The funds from the raffle will be used to buy new interactive whiteboards for the classrooms. Please continue to support KPS.

It is the time of the year when Year 13 students showcase their work on their Extended Qualification Project (EPQ). At an exhibition on Tuesday this week and at a scheduled presentation, each student in Year 13 who has embarked on an EPQ has to present their work on a topic of their choice. The topic that a student may wish to study/research may be on anything that interests them, related or not, to their A Levels or future studies. It is a is an opportunity for students to take a topic about which they are curious and wish to research using under-graduate style research methods. They write a report and present this to their supervisor and fellow students. This year around 25 students will have presented their EPQ project to staff and students. For those who do not know about the EPQ, it is an additional qualification, half an A Level, that complements a 3 or 4 A Level study programme. The topics have ranged in nature from very specific scientific investigations to broader social and political issues, historical and philosophical ideas. Part of the EPQ study requires students to reflect on what they have learnt in the process of their research and presentation and the study techniques and skills they have learnt and practised in doing the work, including time management, organisation, writing and research. This year some of the topic headings have included: *Feminist retellings of Greek mythology on evil women and their presentation. How the UK law has hindered the protection of privacy in a digital age. The Y chromosome: is it running out? Can nanotechnology revolutionise drug delivery in leukaemia? To what extent do cultural beliefs shape oral hygiene and dental treatment across the US and South Korea. Can xenotransplantation provide a sustainable solution to organ shortages.* My thanks to Mrs Rock who leads this qualification and Mrs Hearn who are the supervisors that work with the students on this impressive work. For some students, this qualification will assist them in their university entrance and may be pivotal in securing their place at university.

On the website this week is a super article on some work that has been done in Year 10 English, leading to the [Orators' Cup Final](#). As the article explains, students are required to prepare and deliver a speech to their English teacher and peers on a topic of their choice as part of their Language Spoken Language Assessment. A finalist was selected from each English group and the five finalists performed again this week to a former student who was invited in to judge the competition. Well done to all the students, the finalists and Aarika the winner of this year's cup. Thank you to Mr Dilley and the teaching staff in English and Robyn who came in to judge the competition.

Finally next week we shall be commemorating Holocaust Memorial Day at a whole school assembly on Tuesday 27th January. The theme this year is Bridging Generations and our current Holocaust Ambassadors and an invited speaker will speak to the students on this important occasion.

Wishing everyone a pleasant weekend.

Ms Christine Kattirtzi
Headteacher

School Notices

Uniform Supplier – School Jumper Colour

We would like to inform you of an issue with our uniform supplier, Stevenson, who we have been informed currently have stock of our school jumper in an incorrect colour. Please be assured that the school has not changed the uniform colour this is an error on the supplier's behalf.

We have reported this issue to Stevenson and are awaiting confirmation regarding the delivery of the correct jumpers, as well as their proposals to rectify any orders that resulted in families receiving the wrong item. We will share further updates as soon as we have more information.

In the meantime, if your child does not have an alternative jumper, they may continue to wear the one they currently have.

Whitley Food Bank

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Whitley Food Cupboard. The donation of essential house and food items as well as donating through the link on Parent Pay make an incredible difference to many in the Whitley community that access support through the family workers and food cupboard at Whitley Park.

We have gathered a good-sized cheque ready to donate to the Whitley Food Cupboard following December's fund raising and an accumulation of donations in Parent Pay – we will share the final total in due course.

We are collecting in school next week ready to have donation to go alongside the cheque and then we will aim for a bumper collection in time for the Easter holiday.

Thank you all so much for your ongoing support of the Whitley Food Cupboard.

Safeguarding

[Safeguarding at Kendrick School](#)

[Five things parents need to know about Snapchat](#) (BBC Bitesize)

Ben Kinsella Trust FREE online Knife Crime session for Parents and Carers. Wednesday 4th February 6-8pm.

This session is hosted by knife crime prevention charity, The Ben Kinsella Trust and covers the following topics:

- Understanding knife crime from the perspective of young people
- The signs and stages of child exploitation
- Gangs and gang-life
- Exploring the link between trauma and exploitation

- Consider online harms, social media, slang and gang-related music
- Understanding how 'issues' with peers can escalate and how young people can manage them
- Having meaningful conversations about difficult topics
- Helping our children stay safe; the SAFE 'T's approach
- Further support and resources

You can book your space using the link here: <https://benkinsellatrust.beaconforms.com/form/dcd0caf8>

Wellbeing

[Mental Health and Wellbeing at Kendrick School](#)
[Five ways to help teens snack better \(BBC Bitesize\)](#)

SEND

[You are not alone drop in for February](#). A free monthly online drop-in for parents and carers.

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

[Orators' Cup Final](#)
[Sociology in Action](#)

School Calendar

Week commencing 26th January - Week A

- Monday 26th January – Year 11 Geography Trip
- Tuesday 27th January – Holocaust Memorial Day
- Wednesday 28th January – Intermediate Maths Challenge; Chemistry Olympiad – 6th form
- Thursday 29th January – Year 10 Work Experience Visits
- Friday 30th January – U16 Victor Cup Regional Badminton Round; 6th Form Classics trip to Warwick

Student Careers and Work Experience

[Current Opportunities](#)

Vacancies

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

ParentPay and Evolve Reminders

Reminders on Friday 23rd January 2026

Kendrick Parents' Society (KPS)

Weekly News – Friday 23rd January 2026