

## WEEKLY UPDATE – FRIDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2026

### Letter from Ms Kattirtzi, Headteacher

Last night's House Drama productions were as always, a wonderful occasion to showcase the creativity and huge talent of our students. The theme this year was based on a quotation from the novel *The Blind Assassin* by Margaret Atwood – '*we leave traces of ourselves everywhere like dust*'. Each house chose to depict the theme in their own unique way. Cedars' production under the heading *Memory* was about an elderly man who is trying to assemble a legacy of his past in the form of a poem, resulting in his reflections of his past. Sidmouth House, using the title *One Sip at a Time* focused on the friendship of three women, demonstrating to the audience that friendship is based on 'comfort, humour and being understood'. Palmer House, under the title *To have, To hold and to Panic Slightly* focused on two sisters learning about their parents' lives through clues and artifacts in their home. All three house productions were of high quality demonstrating huge effort, teamwork, creativity, and some very strong individual performances. Well done and congratulations to all the students involved. Many thanks also to the staff who supported and guided the students in their work. The unenviable task of judging the plays was given to our guest Adjudicator, Will Close, an award-winning actor, who gave thoughtful and considered feedback to all houses. The winning house was Palmer House, well done to Palmer!

Other themes this week that have been brought to students' attention have included Safer Internet Day on Tuesday when Mr Duncan led a discussion group of younger students at a lunch time. They discussed the theme of online misogyny and how it affects them. Writing on large posters students shared their views on this serious subject suggesting what they think and feel they would like the adults around them to do to support them. The suggestions included more education and understanding about the topic, both in school and at home, as well as articulating clearly the damaging effect and impact this online abuse can have on young girls and women. It was also Children's Mental Health Week, and activities linked to the theme *This Is My Place* have taken place throughout the week, including making friendship bracelets, decorating kindness jars and a Just Dance event in the Sports Hall today at lunch time for all year groups. To keep students engaged in the holidays, the Kendrick Student Leaders have just sent their newsletter for this term which contains lots of articles and photographs of events that have taken place over the last few weeks. The newsletter follows the podcasts they have made in the *Kendrick School of Thought* series where they have taken topical issues and discussed them with teachers. The most recent topic they have discussed has been on the theme of Immigration with Mr Nemeth and Mrs Mohamed. For parents, a reminder if you have not done so far, please listen to the webinars produced by Ms Hyde which we have sent to you over the last few weeks.

Other information that has been shared with students are the details about the [Bursaries and Grants](#) available to all. May I also draw parents' attention to the updated privacy notices on our website which can be found [here](#).

Academically students have worked very hard this term. Year 11 started the term with mocks, and this week have had with consultations with staff about their sixth form plans and options for next year. The students I spoke to showed so much maturity, as well as understanding of what they have ahead of them and how they are preparing for this. Year 13 students continue to receive offers from universities and I am sure they are now focused on their mocks after half term. We have also had a few parent consultation meetings where progress of students has been discussed with teachers. We are midway through the academic year and so I would suggest to all that some moments of reflection would be helpful to consider how the year has gone so far and whether some changes or new approaches might be helpful next term. I would also like to ask parents to rehearse with their children our school expectations in terms of work, activities being undertaken, uniform and behaviours, in particular phone use and for those who need it to set some new boundaries in this area. Ms Hyde has sent an email to all students and parents in KS3 (Years 7-9) today which is an excellent prompt for such discussions.

Thank you to everyone for their work and efforts this term. Although a short term, it has been intense and fast paced. I hope that everyone takes time to relax and refresh and set aside schoolwork. Our Year 13 students, come back to mocks after half term so I know they will be revising and preparing themselves for their exams, but I hope they too take some time to rest and relax this holiday.

With all best wishes

**Ms Christine Kattirtzi**  
**Headteacher**

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## **School Notices**

### **Medical Needs of Students**

We would like to remind all parents / carers of the importance of keeping the school informed of any medical needs that may affect your child's day at school. This includes any physical or mental health needs, whether temporary or long-term, that may require support or adjustments to help them move around the school or participate fully in lessons. We have noticed an increase in lift-pass requests from Year 7 students where no physical concern has been communicated to us by parents beforehand.

We also wish to remind parents and carers that students must not carry medication with them during the school day. Any medication that is required should be handed in to the General Office, where it can be stored securely and accessed when needed.

Students who use Inhalers or EpiPens may carry these with them, but we kindly request that a spare is also provided and kept in the General Office. Sharing this information enables us to ensure students are not only safe, but also comfortable and fully supported throughout their day. We appreciate your cooperation and support in this matter.

### **Kendrick School's Data Protection Officer**

Judicium Education Ltd

Contact details:

t: 0345 548 7000 |

[judiciumeducation.co.uk](http://judiciumeducation.co.uk)

98 Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8WB

Mrs Eve Hubert is our GDPR Lead and should be the initial contact for any data protection and data breaches. Mrs Hubert can be contacted on [EHubert@kendrick.reading.sch.uk](mailto:EHubert@kendrick.reading.sch.uk)

## **Safeguarding**

[Safeguarding at Kendrick School](#)

[Avenues of Support for the Holidays](#)

[Safer Internet Day 2026](#)

## **Mental Health and Wellbeing**

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

[Children's Mental Health Week 2026](#)

## **SEND**

[SEND Local Offer – Half Term Breaks](#)

## **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

### School Calendar

**Week commencing 23<sup>rd</sup> February - Week B**

Year 13 Mocks

- Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February – Launch of the KPS Raffle
- Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February – Year 7 Parent Consultations
- Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February – KPS Meeting, online, 6-7.15pm
- Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February – Student Iftar celebration
- Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February – Pre-Loved Uniform Shop, 9-11am

## Student Careers and Work Experience

[Current Opportunities](#)

### Vacancies

[English Teacher](#) to join us in September 2026. Closing date for applications: 8am Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026  
[School Caretaker](#) to join us in March 2026. 4.45pm to 9.30pm Monday to Friday. Closing date for applications: 8am Friday 27<sup>th</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

## ParentPay and Evolve Reminders

[Reminders on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026](#)

## Kendrick Parents' Society (KPS)

[Weekly News – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026](#)