

# Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2025

## LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

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A momentous week in many ways. We commemorated VE Day in displays around the school and a [video](#) that the KSL produced for students to watch yesterday and today. I am sure many of you may have seen some of the TV coverage of the service at Westminster Abbey and all the other events up and down the country and in London yesterday. Our word of the week suitably chosen for this week is '*commemoration*' (noun) which means '*the act of remembering and honouring someone or something, often through a ceremony or observance*', which is what everyone has been doing this week. In our display a brief overview of *VE Day 80* is given paying tribute to the women who were instrumental in the war effort and whose lives were changed forever by the conflict. Women who worked in factories, produced munitions, served as nurses, are featured for example Noor Inayat Khan, the first female radio operator sent into occupied France. Noor was a spy for the Special Operations Executive (SOE), her bravery was nothing short of extraordinary, and she was posthumously awarded the George Cross for her efforts. Nancy Wake, known as 'The White Mouse', Nancy was an Australian British spy who led daring missions in the French Resistance. Her resourcefulness and courage made her a key player in the fight against Nazi occupation. Vera Atkins, a Romanian British intelligence officer, Vera was responsible for sending over 400 agents into occupied Europe, many of whom were women. Her strategic brilliance and dedication were crucial to the success of these missions. The message within the display and what I felt has been echoed in speeches given yesterday is for all of us to reflect on the lessons learned from the past and consider how we can contribute to a more peaceful and equitable future. The election of the new Pope yesterday, Leo XIV, and the mission many people feel he might lead to encourage peace amongst warring countries of the world, is welcome. Perhaps with the VE commemorations and reflections, his appointment provides us with some hope in this difficult global situation.

Closer to home, the history of our school continues with our current Year 11 and 13 students moving on to the next stage in their education and lives. In the case of Year 13, once they have taken their A Level exams, they will have left school, a watershed period in their life. At their last assembly this morning Mrs Hearn, as well as wishing them well for their exams, reminded them of some key logistical details about the forthcoming exams and beyond. She also told them of the support and access to staff they have throughout this period and study areas for them to use in school which can sometimes be more conducive to work. This applies to Year 11 students as well. Nevertheless, this time, particularly for Year 13 students, is a time of mixed emotions and reflections. From the students I have spoken to today (and whose shirts I have signed!) they say they are feeling both happy and sad. Sad to be leaving school knowing that they will not be returning as students again after their exams, but happy at the prospect of all the incredible opportunities they have ahead of them. As I often do in my talk to them at this time, I reminded them of the time they started secondary school in 2018, whether here or elsewhere, and some of the pressing issues of that time. At Kendrick we had started the expansion process of taking more students into Year 7 following the SSEF bid we had made to government the year before to expand the school. I reminded them also about the period of Covid when they were in Year 8/9 and how that must have been a defining time for them and one they are likely to remember. I finished by asking them to reflect on all they have achieved so far and to be proud about the contributions they have made to their school.

On the website this week for you to read are some super articles:

- [Gene Therapy Treat](#)
- [Historical Association Great Debate](#)
- [Arkwright Engineering Scholarships](#)
- [Inspiring Young Writers](#)

Finally, I would like to finish by introducing our new Kendrick Student Leadership Team to you. Last week they all had a prominent role in the Open Day sessions and from our meetings so far, they are keen to do so much for the school. Their photos and welcome messages are on the [website](#).

Please remember to buy your KPS raffle tickets [here](#). With best wishes for the weekend.

Ms Christine Kattirtzi, Headteacher

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## KENDRICK SCHOOL'S SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

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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.



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## SAFEGUARDING/WELLBEING

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### WORRIED ABOUT A CHILD?

If you have a concern about a child at Kendrick School, please email [studentwelfare@kendrick.reading.sch.uk](mailto:studentwelfare@kendrick.reading.sch.uk) or telephone 0118 9015859 and ask to speak to the Designated Safeguarding Leads, Mr Simmonds, or a Deputy Safeguarding Lead.

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 **0800 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 [link](#). We add to these on a regular basis.

[CAMHS Resources](#) - 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 well-being support in school please visit the Student Welfare Team in the General Office or Sixth Form Office or email [studentwelfare@kendrick.reading.sch.uk](mailto:studentwelfare@kendrick.reading.sch.uk).**

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## SAFEGUARDING

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### ROBLOX AND PARENTAL CONTROLS SOURCE: South West Grid for Learning

Roblox, the popular minecraft 'style' game has announced a new raft of parental controls. The website which ranks among the most popular games for children in the e-space, has previously been accused of possessing weak child protection tools. Their new raft of adaptations is important due to the game's position among school aged children. The new features have been adopted to allow parents to take control of their children's game time in a more comprehensive manner.

Parents will now be able to block individuals who communicate with their children, as well as have more detailed oversight over their usage of the programme. Real-time awareness measures have been increased, and these

changes represent a big step forward in making popular multiplayer games more secure for underaged users. South-West Grid for Learning (SWGfL) has produced a comprehensive run down of these changes which you can read in the link [here](#).

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

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### MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK 2025 – POWER IN COMMUNITIES

#### PRACTICAL WAYS TO CULTIVATE POSITIVE CONNECTIONS AND A SENSE OF COMMUNITY

It's important to recognise that ideas below may not apply to everybody, and that, while in-person communities appear to have a benefit over digital communities generally, mental and physical health conditions may be a barrier, impacting your ability to engage with in-person groups. For example, you may have a physical disability, chronic pain, or experience a mental health condition such as [agoraphobia](#) or [anxiety](#).

Whether forming your own community or finding one suited to your needs, the following list has been created to prompt your own consideration and ideas for ways you can find and cultivate communities in your life.

- **Join a club or organisation with people who share your identity or values** Whether that's a local group for marginalised communities or a group dedicated to an idea you care about, this can be an excellent way of meeting others and fostering a sense of purpose and belonging, which is fundamental to psychological wellbeing. This might be a church or spiritual community, an activist group, or a discussion group.
- **Support groups** Support groups are often led by mental health or other professionals and cover a wide range of conditions, including mental and physical health struggles. They also include groups such as 12-step groups for addiction, such as alcoholism, drug use, and gambling addiction. Support groups are especially helpful during difficult times, and having that mutual support can not only bring lasting benefits to your own experience, but help foster deeper connections with others. You can find support groups in your area by searching the [Hub of Hope directory](#).
- **Volunteering** Giving back to the community is a wonderful way to improve our wellbeing, especially if it's volunteering to a cause you care about deeply. You might volunteer at a homeless or animal shelter, help to clean up the local environment, or simply spreading the word about an issue that affects your community. There are many resources for finding volunteering opportunities. For example, [Doit](#) features volunteer opportunities from charities across the United Kingdom; you can search the [GOV.UK](#) directory for volunteer opportunities; and [Get Volunteering](#) features a directory of volunteering opportunities based on area of interest or based on your skills.
- **Get to know your neighbours** Especially prevalent since the COVID-19 pandemic, there might already be groups dedicated to your local community, such as supporting elderly or vulnerable people living close to you. These can easily be found via your local library, or simply by talking to others in your neighbourhood. While we may not be as close to our neighbours as we used to be in times gone by, striking up a conversation with your neighbours, or offering your help if they might need it, can go a long way to fostering a sense of community right on your doorstep.
- **Online groups** While we have made a case for digitally led lives contributing to loneliness, it is also true that the internet can be an excellent bridge towards (and not a substitute for) connection with others. You might find volunteering opportunities supporting a digital project, support and discussion groups, or organisations sharing your values. While it's important that we still cultivate an in-person community, digital groups can offer a lot of good — especially when you may be restricted due to a health condition.

- **Activity groups** Activity groups have also seen a resurgence since the COVID-19 pandemic. Book clubs, knitting, board game evenings, craft groups, walking and running groups, yoga classes, and more can easily be found via a simple search on Google, on social media, or by checking your [local council's website](#). This is a great way of meeting others with similar interests and getting involved with a community.
- **Connect or reconnect with friends and loved ones** It's easy to find the pressures of living getting in the way of connecting with others, and it's not uncommon to go for weeks, months, or even years without rekindling the connections we've already made. Perhaps there is somebody you used to meet regularly but haven't seen in a while. It might feel awkward at first, but it's worth reaching out to that person, letting them know you're thinking of them, and asking if they'd like to meet up. It's tough to put ourselves out there (especially if we already struggle with anxiety or fear rejection), but it's important to continue to cultivate the connections we've already made. When you do meet up with someone, focus your attention entirely on them. Ask them how they are, put the phone away, and reconnect.

However you choose to find community in your life, it can be a profound way of promoting positive mental health, structure and routine, which are essential for maintaining good mental health. The very act of coming together with others and sharing our experiences or troubles, or working towards a shared goal, generates positive emotions and sustains our mental health during difficult times. Human beings are social creatures, so community is incredibly important for our overall sense of wellbeing and happiness.

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**SUPPORT FOR THE EXAM SEASON** Looking after your wellbeing is always important but especially so during the busy exam season. We have gathered a few useful guides on our website for students with tips for keeping calm, some ideas for self-care and also guidance for parents on how to support their child.

Please remember that school is here to help you, talk to your teachers or contact the Student Welfare Team, [studentwelfare@kendrick.reading.sch.uk](mailto:studentwelfare@kendrick.reading.sch.uk), for support.

[WELLBEING SUPPORT FOR THE EXAM SEASON](#)

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## KENDRICK SCHOOL WELLBEING

For all our wellbeing information please click [here](#).

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## SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR TERM 5, 2024-25

<b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Mental Health Awareness Week
<b>Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Year 13 Study Leave begins
<b>Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May</b>	KPS Meeting, 6pm-7.15pm (online)
<b>Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Start of Year 10 Exams
<b>Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May</b>	KPS Raffle Closes
<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Year 8 Bushcraft depart
<b>Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May</b>	Trustee P&R Committee, 4.30pm
<b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May</b>	Curriculum Day
	End of Term 5, 3.15pm
<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June</b>	Start of Term 6. 8.25am

Term dates for 2024/25 and 2025/26 can be found [here](#). Please check these carefully before booking holidays and trips.

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# SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEND) NEWS

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**SPRING SEND LOCAL OFFER NEWSLETTER** The spring edition of the new look SEND Local Offer Newsletter 2025 is now available. It's packed with lots of information including:

- Blog – Lara Patel, Executive Director Children's Services
- Blog – Carly Price, Strategic Lead for SEND Brighter Futures for Children
- News items, what's on/events available throughout the Easter holidays
- Early years – updates from the sector
- What's on, events and workshops
- Preparing for adulthood – updates for 16–25-year-olds
- Short breaks, support services and much more...

Remember, this newsletter is just a snapshot of the wealth of information found on the [www.readingsendlocaloffer.org](http://www.readingsendlocaloffer.org).

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## NEWS, NOTICES, COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS

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**YOUNG VOICES** Young Voices is a group of young people from across Reading who come together to discuss and share issues that matter to us. They also work with decision makers across Reading to help the voices and experience of young people to be heard and influence the decisions they make. By participating in different social action projects, you will be awarded AQA Unit Award Certificates.

They are always looking for more people to join Young Voices! Find out more express your interest via <https://no5.org.uk/outreach/young-voices/>

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**CURRICULUM DAY – FRIDAY 23RD MAY 2025** Our annual curriculum day is taking place on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025, the arrangements for year groups are as below:

Students in:

Years 7 - 9 Do not attend school. Students are not required to register online, and no work will be set.  
Year 10 will be in school according to their exam schedule.  
Year 12 will be on study leave (further communication will follow on this)  
Year 11 and Year 13 will continue with their public exams.

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## READING SCHOOL'S FREE COMMUNITY CARNIVAL

This summer, Reading School throws open its historic gates to the whole town for one unforgettable day of fun, food and festivity – and you're invited! As part of our 900th-anniversary celebrations, the Community Carnival on Saturday 5th July (11 am–4 pm) is your chance to:

### **Experience Nine Centuries of Heritage**

Stroll through our beautiful campus, discover stories from 1125 to today, and see how Reading School has shaped the people and places of our town.

### **Enjoy Worldwide Flavours & Sounds**

Savour street-food stalls from around the globe, live music and dance performances on our "heritage stage," and DJ sets found in the Urban Sho.

### **Get Active, Try Something New**

Whether you fancy testing your penalty-shoot-out skills, taking on the climbing wall, or challenging friends in the e-sports arena, there's an activity for every age and interest.

### Unleash Your Creativity & Wellbeing

Dive into graffiti art, escape-room puzzles, mandala-painting workshops, yoga and sound-therapy sessions – all designed to spark your imagination and leave you refreshed.

### Bring the Whole Family

From inflatables and storytelling for the little ones to live sports demos (badminton, boxing, cricket, rugby and more) for teens and adults – fun truly spans the generations.

### Be Part of History

Mark a milestone 900 years in the making - all are welcome so come and make history with us!

### Scan the QR code to register your interest – it's free!

Reading School, Erleigh Road, RG1 5LW | Saturday 5th July, 11 am–4 pm



**Share the news: Bring friends, family and neighbours – let's show what makes Reading great!**

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**THOUGHT OF THE WEEK:** “My dear friends, this is your hour. This is not victory of a party or of any class. It's a victory of the great British nation as a whole.” — Winston S. Churchill

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### WORD OF THE WEEK: Commemoration (Noun)

**Definition:** The act of remembering and honouring someone or something, often through a ceremony or observance.

**Example:** In honour of the 80th anniversary of VE Day, the Curriculum & Current Affairs Committee, alongside the Holocaust Ambassadors, organised a special assembly to commemorate the courage and sacrifice of those who fought during the Second World War. This provided students with an opportunity to reflect on the significance of peace and the importance of remembrance.

**Etymology:** The word ‘commemoration’ originates from the Latin ‘commemoratio’, meaning ‘remembrance’. It is derived from ‘commemorare’, meaning ‘to bring to remembrance’, which combines ‘com-’ (altogether) and ‘memorare’ (to remember). The term has been used in English since the late 14th century to denote acts of remembrance, particularly in a ceremonial context.

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## CAREERS GUIDANCE AND EVENTS

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*Please note that whilst we are happy to share these opportunities with you, we are unable to endorse or recommend them.*

*If you are successful in gaining a place to an opportunity and it is in school time, you **must** request absence from Mrs Hearn. If granted you should then ensure you notify [attendance@kendrick.reading.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@kendrick.reading.sch.uk), your form tutors and the teachers of the lessons you are missing.*

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**INTERNATIONAL LAW FIRM UNDERGRADUATE BURSARY PROGRAMME** If you are in Year 13 and hold an offer to study law at a UK university, you could be eligible to apply for Sidley's Undergraduate Bursary programme!

As part of our commitment to increasing diversity at Sidley and within the legal profession, we are proud to introduce our bursary programme to support talented law students from less advantaged backgrounds.

What the bursary offers:

- ✓ Financial support throughout your undergraduate law degree
- ✓ Guaranteed work experience at Sidley
- ✓ Mentoring opportunities from legal professionals
- ✓ A chance to focus on your studies without financial concerns

Applications will open on 24 March 2025 and will close on 17 May 2025

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**OXFORD SOMALI ACCESS CONFERENCE** Wednesday 21st May 2025, for Somalis in Year 12  
<https://forms.gle/M4BUxRyzzRCgg1oL7>

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## VACANCIES

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We have the current vacancies at Kendrick School:

[History Teacher with Religious Studies \(RS\)](#) to cover a maternity leave – September 2025. Closing date for applications 9am Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2025

[English Teacher](#), 0.5FTE – September 2025. Closing date for applications 9am Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2025. INTERVIEWING WEDNESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025.

*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.*

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## PARENTPAY AND EVOLVE REMINDERS

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*We would like to bring to your attention the following ParentPay items, please login to your ParentPay accounts for details. Thank you for your continued support.*

### PARENTPAY

School fund Donation  
Whitley Community Food Cupboard – cash donations  
Year 10 and 11 GCSE English set text contributions  
Year 12 and 13 A level English set text contributions  
Year 10 2025 MFL trip to France or Germany instalments  
Sponsored run and sponsored swim fundraiser

### EVOLVEPAY

*Payment can be made via trip payment emails or a myEVOLVE account if you have set this up.*

Year 11 Rural Villages Geography field trip – January 2025  
Year 8 Bushcraft -May 2025  
Year 12 Hengistbury Head – March 2025  
Year 12 Work Experience - June 2025  
Year 12 UCAS Discovery Day – April 2025  
GCSE Drama trip to The Globe – May 2025  
A – Level Biology – Sutton Courtenay – June 2025

### EVOLVESHOP

*Purchase can be made via payment links or a myEVOLVE account if you have set this up*

GCSE Drama set text (The Crucible, Arthur Miller)  
Year 8 Careers Event – January 2025  
Year 9 and Year 10 French and German plays  
German set text



# KENDRICK PARENTS' SOCIETY (KPS)

## KPS SPRING RAFFLE

**Spring Raffle is now open and we need your generous support** to enhance the Music Department facilities —an initiative that will directly benefit our students.

**Thanks for those who bought tickets and donated**, your involvement and help much appreciated.

**Link to buy the tickets is here -**

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/83533?>

## UPCOMING KPS COMMITTEE MEETING

Next KPS meeting is taking place on **Wednesday, 14th May 2025** from **6pm to 7:15pm**.

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

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/phm-pibb-jrd> Or dial:  
(US) +1 414-439-0817 PIN: 399 777 853#

*(In case of issues, copy-paste the above link in Internet browser and join WITHOUT signing in to Google meet)*

We look forward to seeing you all.

## VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES AT KPS

### KPS Events and Refreshments Volunteers

As you are aware, we run many events and support school activities like music or drama performances during the year. We need volunteers to help these events even if for few hours. To join our team of enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers, please join the WhatsApp group using this link: [KPS Events and Refreshment Volunteers](#)

### Pre-loved Uniform Shop Volunteers

Are you available on Saturday mornings? We're looking for volunteers to help run our pre-loved uniform shop. This initiative not only helps raise funds for the school but also supports environmental sustainability by reusing uniforms. It's a fantastic way to provide great value to parents while ensuring students have access to quality uniforms at reduced prices. Join our team by clicking on this WhatsApp group link: [Kendrick Uniform Shop Volunteers Group](#)

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

**KPS Team**

