

## WEEKLY UPDATE – FRIDAY 1<sup>st</sup> MAY 2026

### Letter from Ms Kattirtzi, Headteacher

I would like to formally introduce our [Kendrick Student Leaders](#) (KSL) to you. As you can see, they are a group of 18 Year 12 students who have been elected and appointed to be the KSL Team. Their term of office is from now until the end of Term 4 in April 2027. They make up three committees: Curriculum and Current Affairs (CCA), Community and Wellbeing, plus the three Houses - Cedars, Palmer, and Sidmouth. Between them they organise and coordinate activities and events that involve students across the school. They have been most proactive in these last few weeks, supporting at Open Day last week and this week the CCA Committee launched Kendrick's Mock Local Elections. Kendrick students and staff will be going to the polls next Wednesday (one day before the real local elections) to cast their vote in our own school mock local elections. I will let you know the outcome of this next week. It is important to reflect on the ambition and leadership of these students who have organised this event and by doing so giving the opportunity to all other students to participate in a mock election and experience such a process. I am expecting some lively debate on local and national issues as students try to make sense of the messages from the main political parties standing at these elections. Of course, I am sure there may be some debate on current affairs, nationally and globally, as well as specific issues related to Reading. I am sure many students, and staff are deeply troubled by the news and development we have seen and heard in the last couple of days, and these topics may feature in the discussions over the next few days. The practice and understanding of how local government works will be very useful lessons for all students and many will have the opportunity to articulate their views on the policies of the mainstream parties to their peers. Recently a group of our students participated in a Youth Parliament Conference at King's Academy, Prospect with other local schools and I received feedback to say how impressive they were in their discussions and contributions. Who knows a prominent politician might yet emerge from Kendrick School! I am aware of former students who have entered politics both locally and nationally.

A couple of items on the website for you to look at and listen to:

- [Lessons from Auschwitz podcast](#)
- [Year 13 student Biology success](#)

Yesterday saw the launch of the sixth Kendrick School Poets' Society Anthology. Once again, the Poets' Society has produced a beautiful compendium of poems which have been written, discussed, and critiqued by students and published in a superb professional booklet. The theme for this year's anthology is **Sense**, as Mr Dilley says in the introduction, is 'a theme that provides a rich stimulus for poems which range widely in subject matter, style and tone- from the playful to the eerie to the profound'. At the launch yesterday, we heard several poems read by the writers themselves and one I liked very much, in the *Nonsense Poems* section and written by Hana reminded me of the challenges students have answering exam questions. Entitled *A History 16 Marker on the Cold War*, Hana assesses the significance of the Cuban Missile Crisis in playful verse!

A reminder that next Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May is our Lower School Chamber Concert, please come along to support our students and the Music Department.

We have a long weekend ahead which I am sure is most welcome. Students in Year 11 and 13 will appreciate the extra day off on Monday to prepare themselves mentally for their coming exams. Speaking to Year 11 yesterday at their farewell assembly, I reminded them that they are in a very good position to do very well in these exams. They have worked hard, been taught well and have a focused and determined attitude. Nevertheless, the tensions and anxiety that exams have on young people need to be understood, so we must continue, school and families, to support our students as best we can over the next two months.

Wishing everyone a pleasant and long weekend.

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

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## School Notices

### KENDRICK SCHOOL LOWER SCHOOL CHAMBER CONCERT 2026: TUESDAY 5TH MAY, 6:30PM

Our Lower School Chamber Concert will feature remarkable performances from students in Years 7-9. There will be a diverse range of music to listen to from throughout musical history, both vocal and instrumental, which will feature soloists and small ensembles. This event is a celebration of the talent we have in our Lower School and is not to be missed! We expect the concert to finish at approximately 8:30pm.

There will also be some lovely refreshments provided by KPS both before the concert (from 6pm) and during the interval. Doors will open at 6.05pm and we ask the performers to sit on the left and the rest of the audience to sit on the right.

#### Travel and arrival

Where possible, students should go home between the end of the school day and the start of the concert, but please leave plenty of time to get to school before the event starts– traffic congestion is always a problem on concert evenings and car parking is extremely limited on the roads around the school. Visitors should aim to be seated in the School Hall by 6.20pm at the latest. Performing students should aim to arrive back at school at about 6.00pm and go straight to their meeting room (L).

If the journey is a particularly difficult one, students may stay in the Library/Conservatory until 5pm, then move to room M1 until 5.30pm, before coming to Room L for 5.45pm. If your child is intending to stay in school until the performance, please provide them with a snack for the evening. Students will not be permitted to go into town or to Tesco's from 3.30pm and must stay in school. Please note this does not apply to any Sixth Form students.

If possible, we hope that you can attend the concert to see your child perform. If you are unable to do so, you must collect your child/children after the concert from the Hall.

Please may we remind you that no parking is available on the school site unless you have a disability requiring the need for a car-parking space. If this is the case, then please contact Reception to discuss reserving a parking space.

#### Tickets

This is a free event and we will therefore not be selling tickets for this concert; instead, we kindly request a donation which will be collected at the end of the evening. All monies donated will be used to buy equipment/resources for the Music Department. Information about concerts and other Arts-based events later in the year will be available in your programme. We look forward to seeing many of you at the concert.

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## Safeguarding

[Safeguarding at Kendrick School](#)

[BBFC Guide to choose age-appropriate films, videos and websites](#). Using the BBFC age ratings can help you and your family choose what's right for you and avoid what's not.

## Mental Health and Wellbeing

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

[Anna Freud Self Care – Walking](#).

## SEND

[Reading's SEND Local Offer](#). The SEND Local Offer is here to help you find information about local services, support, activities and events for children and young people aged 0 - 25 years who have special educational needs or disabilities (SEND).

## 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 Spring/Summer menu can be found [here](#). **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**

[Lessons from Auschwitz podcast](#)

[Year 13 student Biology success](#)

## **School Calendar**

**Week commencing 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026 – Week B**

- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May – Bank Holiday – school closed for staff and students
- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May – Lower School Chamber Concert, 6.30pm
- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May – Public Exams begin; Trustees Resources Meeting 4.30pm

## **Student Careers and Work Experience**

[Current Opportunities](#)

## **Vacancies**

[Business and Economics Teacher](#). For September 2026. Closing date for applications 9am Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

## **ParentPay and Evolve Reminders**

[Latest Reminders for ParentPay and Evolve](#)

## **Kendrick Parents' Society (KPS)**

[Weekly News – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026](#)