

WEEKLY UPDATE – FRIDAY 15th MAY 2026

Letter from Ms Kattirtzi, Headteacher

It has been a relatively quiet week with senior students being involved in exams: GCSE, AS Level, A Levels and today Year 10 students have started their internal end of year assessments. As I have said before, this is always a stressful time for students and families as anxiety levels increase, therefore our support of students at school and at home is vital.

It was a joy to attend 7HW's assembly yesterday on Food From Around The World and hear about the breadth and variety of food there is. At the same time, the students were aware of the privilege it is for many of us to have plentiful supplies of food compared to people in other parts of the world where food is less of a reliable commodity, whether this be due to variations in climate, cost, supply, and/or access. These are all important issues that these students will come across in their future studies, as well as in their careers and so it is most encouraging that they are engaging in such discussions at this stage.

In the same vein, I have just been to a Year 9 History class at the invitation of Mr Haynes, History Teacher. The topic students are currently studying is the Holocaust, a key topic in the Key Stage 3 History Curriculum. This is a most important piece of history that I believe is rightly prioritised and should be taught to all students before they are able to choose their option choices at GCSE. Through the very carefully planned and resourced lesson, Mr Haynes charted the History of antisemitism in Germany, beginning with the Nazi party coming to power in January 1933. The lesson focused on the legislative developments that the Nazis brought in which structurally, legally, socially and culturally persecuted the Jews, based on a racial ideology that saw Jews as lesser human beings. Antisemitism was prevalent before the rise of the Nazis and in other European countries, but the unique circumstances of post-World War 1 in Germany made the situation ripe for the development of extreme politics. Focusing on individual stories and histories, Mr Haynes and the students built a timeline of actions taken against Jews from 1933 until the end of the war in 1945, showing how systematically the initial separation, then isolation and eventual extermination, the Final Solution, developed over this time. As well as being impressed with the structure and organisation of the lesson, I was also particularly impressed by the engagement of the students and the questions they asked for greater clarity and understanding. There are always questions asked by students and teachers when difficult areas of history are studied, mainly why was this allowed to happen for which there is never a straight and obvious answer. However, what I know from my own history teaching in my career is that when people do nothing or do not see the signs of extremism, what we would now call radicalisation, evil can triumph. The history of Nazi Germany is complex, and many factors came into play to foster the Nazi regime and, while this may seem far from where we might be today in our world, feelings of discontent are always there for others to exploit. I hope that through the education our students get in their history lessons at Kendrick, they understand their role and responsibility as young people and adults of the future, and that they must play a part in standing against such hate of one group of people against another. Our Kendrick Pledge is our mission statement that reminds us daily of our responsibilities to create a better and more harmonious environment where we celebrate our differences and do not seek to use these to divide us. As we commemorate the 81st anniversary of the end of the Second World War, including the liberation of the death camps in early 1945, I hope we can all reflect on these thoughts. My thanks to Mr Haynes and 9SF for their part in helping me to remember this history which I was so familiar with for so many years of my teaching career.

Looking ahead, this weekend our Mock Trial team will be competing tomorrow morning in the final at the Reading Magistrates Courts; we wish them well. On Monday all of Year 8 will be embarking on their four-day residential trip designed to build teamwork skills. Also on Monday, Year 7 will be having a fun Enterprise Day. A lot going on in the week ahead before we take a break for half term.

Wishing everyone a good weekend.

Ms Christine Kattirtzi
Headteacher

School Notices

Please see the separate school communication sent this afternoon with an update on the current health situation regarding meningitis.

Curriculum Day

Our annual curriculum day is taking place on Friday 22nd May 2026. The arrangement for each year group is as follows:

Years 7 - 9	Do not attend school. Students are not required to register online, and no work will be set.
Year 10	In school according to their exam schedule.
Year 12	On study leave as previously communicated

Year 11 and Year 13 will continue with their public exams.

Food Bank

We were able to make a large donation of groceries, toiletries and detergents before the Easter holiday which topped up the Whitley Food Cupboard really well. They have sent their heartfelt thanks to the whole Kendrick community which we are pleased to echo and pass on.

We would like to make the next collection this week and next week ready for the May half term holiday. As always dry goods, tinned goods, toiletries and detergents are all most welcome as are donations made through Parent Pay. Your ongoing support for the Whitley Food Cupboard is just fantastic, thank you all so much.

Safeguarding

[Safeguarding at Kendrick School](#)

[Supporting your child through compulsive device use](#). Source: NSPCC. What to do if you are worried about the time your child is spending online.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

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

[Mental Health Awareness Week](#). The theme for MHAW 2026 is **Action**: for yourself, for someone else, for all of us. Good mental health is a state of emotional wellbeing that lets us cope with normal life stresses, feel confident and enjoy our relationships with others. When life feels more challenging than usual, it's often a sign that our mental health needs some extra care and attention. The good news is that protecting our mental health is easier than you might think. Taking practical steps to improve our mental health may feel daunting, but it doesn't have to be. Even small and simple actions can make an impact. Click [here](#) for more information.

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

School Calendar

Week commencing 18th May 2026 – Week B

Public exams

Year 10 exams

Bushcraft for Year 8

Monday 18th May

Year 7 Wheelie Fun

Wednesday 20th May

Year 12 RSC Chemistry Challenge

Thursday 21st May

Trustees P&R Committee, 4.30pm

Friday 22nd May

Curriculum Day – please see email with arrangements or at the top of this update.

Student Careers and Work Experience

[Current Opportunities](#)

Vacancies

[Science Technicians](#). Full and part-time hours considered. Closing date for applications Monday 1st June 2026.

[Head of Chemistry](#). For September 2026. Closing date for applications 9am Monday 18th May 2026.

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

ParentPay and Evolve Reminders

[Latest Reminders for ParentPay and Evolve](#)

Kendrick Parents' Society (KPS)

[Weekly News – Friday 8th May 2026](#)