

# Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2025

## LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

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It was a pleasure and delight to attend the Lower School Chamber Concert last night, a super event which enables the younger students to showcase the music they wish to play and sing. Made up of solos, duets, small groups and bands, the programme was an eclectic collection of music pieces to suit all. The enjoyment that the students showed performing to their families and friends made the event very personal to each student. A super occasion, well done to the students and to Mrs Cooper, Miss Rodrigues and Mr Dilley, plus KPS who provided the refreshments.

It has been an extremely busy week as yesterday, 1<sup>st</sup> May, our online application form for entry into Year 7 in September 2026, went live which meant the two days before were Open Days for prospective parents and students. The beautiful sunny weather enabled our visitors to see Kendrick at its best as they were guided by enthusiastic Years 9 and 10 students eager to tell them about our school. A tour of Kendrick does not take very long as we are a small site, but as I said to the parents, on this small site we have everything we need to deliver a high-quality education to our students at all levels. After the tours the visitors came to the Hall to hear me, members of KSL and two Year 7 students talk in more depth about the school and student life. My key message to the parents about our school was to emphasise our key characteristics, which I believe are:

1. Learning – our focus is on learning and there is a love learning. Students are curious, they ask questions, they are focused and ambitious. Staff are expert in their field, hardworking, love what they do, work well with the students and together we have a common purpose
2. Relationships – there are very good and supportive relationships between us built on the values outlined in the Kendrick Pledge of kindness, respect, fairness, tolerance and understanding
3. Safeguarding and wellbeing – our commitment and priority is to keep students safe and well so that they can grow and thrive
4. The Kendrick Community which embraces all the above and is an inclusive, diverse, fun and vibrant community with numerous clubs and activities that go on every day.

My talk was echoed by the students, and it was touching to hear them speak so affectionally about their school.

This week, the Kendrick Parents' Society launched the Spring Raffle, the big fund raiser that we hope the whole community will respond to. Emails were sent earlier in the week to everyone, and we are asking all parents to buy some tickets. If every family bought just 5 tickets for £5, we would raise just under £5k, if every family bought 10 tickets for £10, we would raise just under £10k. Our aim is to raise £8k to buy some better equipment for the Music Department so the Music and Drama departments and the concerts and events we put on can be made even better and more professional. Please support us this year. The links to the fund raising and prizes are below.

[2025 KPS Spring Raffle Poster with QR Code.pdf - Google Drive](#)

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/ETOV>

[2025 Spring Raffle Prize List \(Version 2\).pdf - Google Drive](#)

As well as fund raising, KPS support the networking of parents and students and at the recent Discos for students in the Lower School, parents were able to meet and socialise during the event while their children were having fun at the disco. This week, KSP also hosted the Headteacher/Parent Drop-in, this time for Sixth Form parents. With me on the video call was Mrs Hearn, Head of Sixth Form and Assistant Head. Speaking to around 40 parents, Mrs Hearn was able to give parents of Year 13 reassurances about how the A Level results process happens in August and how university offers and places are managed. For Year 12 parents, questions about how the university application process works were answered and again reassurance to parents that this information will be explained to them at an Information Evening in July. Also related to Year 12 we talked about their forthcoming Work Experience Week, and I am hearing that many students have their placements organised, which is fantastic. We are still short of 30 places so

if any parents have work experience placements they can offer, please let us know by emailing Mrs McManus, our Careers Coordinator [cmcmanus@kendrick.reading.sch.uk](mailto:cmcmanus@kendrick.reading.sch.uk). Thank you to parents who have supported us so far.

Working with the librarians who are now taking the responsibility of organising our *Word of the Week*, we are choosing words that have a meaning or can be reflected in what is going on in the wider community both in and outside of Kendrick. For next week the word of the week is *Legacy*, this is partly to reflect the passing of Pope Frances last month and his funeral last Saturday and the many words and speeches made about his contribution to the world in the 12 years of his pontificate. However, the word can resonate with many of us at certain times. In the definition given, *'a legacy is something that is handed down or left behind from one generation to another, often referring to money, property, or cultural traditions.'* As two of our year groups will be leaving us to begin their exam leave next week, I have been thinking about what they have done in their time at school and what they are passing on to us and leaving as their legacy. More on this theme next week.

To finish, I would like to share with you a few comments from the Year 12 student speeches to prospective parents and students at the Open Days this week.

*'At Kendrick, education is about more than just exam results and homework- it's about shaping you into someone who treats others with kindness and respect, who speaks out against injustice, who takes action into shaping the world around you. We are empowered into living out our ethos: lead, inspire and make a difference.'*

*'... Kendrick is not purely a place to learn – it's a place to grow as a person, to lead, inspire, and make a difference.' Kendrick's community is something truly special. You will find friends who lift you up, staff who believe in you, and an environment where kindness matters just as much as achievement. We celebrate each other's successes, and we support each other through challenges. It is a place where you are encouraged to be yourself and where your differences are seen as strengths.'*

*'Kendrick is so much more than a place to ace exams; it is a force for good in our society, not only empowering students with the skills necessary to succeed in life, but giving them the conscience and emotional intelligence to lift others along the way.'*

Wishing everyone a great weekend.

Please read further into the Weekly Update.

**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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**LIVESTREAMING AND ONLINE VIDEO APPS** SOURCE: NSPCC Livestreaming is broadcasting to an audience in 'real time'. The audience can leave comments, give likes to the person who is streaming and, in some cases, 'gift' the streamer. Some platforms let several people livestream at the same time.

Children and teenagers are likely to have spent more time on livestreaming and video apps in the last few years. While many children will be using these apps to talk to friends or family, some children may be talking to people they don't know, or sharing personal information without realising. NSPCC has got advice to help you understand the risks and keep them safe.

### Why do young people livestream?

Young people and children like to livestream and use video apps for lots of reasons. These include:

- learning or show others how to do something; livestreams of people playing video games are particularly popular
- staying in contact with family and friends
- taking part in viral trends, such as challenges
- being creative or as a means of self-expression
- relaxing – many video apps have 'satisfying content', such food being prepared or ASMR
- entertainment – there is lots of funny content, or linked to hobbies or trends
- or even to making money or becoming an influencer

For the risks of livestreaming and the main livestreaming platforms click [here](#).

## Tips to keep your child safe

- **Talk to your child** - [Talk to them](#) about what they're doing online and how to stay safe. Let them know they can come to you, or another adult they trust, if they feel worried or upset by anything they've seen online. They can also get support from [Childline](#) on [0808 1111](#).
  - **Explore apps and sites together** - Explore what your child likes to do online together. This can help you to understand why they're using certain. Explore the features that are available, which would include privacy settings, location settings, and how to block and report.
  - **Agree what's appropriate together** - Agree your own rules as a family when using apps, sites or games. You can use our [family agreement](#) template to help get you started.
  - **Check your settings** - Check the technology your family uses and use privacy and location settings to keep your child safe. You can call your mobile and broadband provider to find out how to do this or visit NPSCC [parental controls page](#) to find out more.
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## MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

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

#### WHAT IS A COMMUNITY?

There are many different types of community, and you can belong to more than one.

A community is a group of people brought together through something which they share in common. It can be found with either the people who live around us in a geographic location or with people we connect with through similar values and interests. You might find your community at school or work, through your faith, at a club where you enjoy a hobby, as part of a group inspiring action for positive change, an online game, or even through a love of Taylor Swift.

Importantly, a community should make you feel good about yourself, feel safe, and feel empathy towards others. A community is there to help you through the hard times such as illness, bereavement, or natural disasters. Throughout covid we saw so many examples of communities coming together to support one another, find joy, and ensure that those most in need were looked after.

Of course, not all communities are safe or healthy. If a community makes you think badly of yourself, encourages hateful or discriminatory actions towards others, or puts you in danger, it will be damaging to your mental health and wellbeing. Throughout the week we'll also be talking about how to recognise and protect yourself and loved ones from harmful spaces.

#### SPENDING TIME WITH SUPPORTIVE PEOPLE (SOURCE ANNA FREUD)

We all need people in our lives we can turn to when we're struggling, whether for a deep discussion or just a chat. It can take the pressure off of needing to seem 'okay' just for a little bit because you know you can trust them. This could be a friend, family member, teacher or mentor- it doesn't matter as long as you feel safe and able to be real with them. Sometimes we just need a listening ear or a shoulder to cry on, other times advice can be really helpful.

*Sometimes I get myself into such a tangled mess in my brain that I just need someone to talk it out with. I don't need an expert just someone to listen. There's a teacher at my school who is really good to go to.*

If you're not sure who to go to that you trust or can't think of anyone in your life at the moment why not contact your local [voluntary centre](#). They often have lots of knowledge around local charities and there are lots of organisations out there that exist specifically to provide young people with mentors and people they can talk to.

In this [video](#), Dr. Roslyn Law gives some advice about how being around supportive friends and family or other trusted individuals can help you if you're feeling low or anxious or struggling with poor mental health.

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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

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<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Bank Holiday
<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Year 11 Study Leave begins
	Trustee Resources Committee, 4.30pm
<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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**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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**THOUGHT OF THE WEEK:** 'You may not always have a comfortable life, and you will not always be able to solve all of the world's problems at once. But don't ever underestimate the importance you can have because history has shown us that it is often the small, everyday deeds of ordinary people that bring about extraordinary change.' — Barack Obama

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**WORD OF THE WEEK:** **Legacy** (Noun)

**Definition:** A legacy is something that is handed down or left behind from one generation to another, often referring to money, property, or cultural traditions. It can also signify the impact or influence that a person leaves on the world after they are gone.

**Example:** 'Pope Francis's legacy includes his advocacy for mercy, social justice, and environmental stewardship, which have reshaped the Catholic Church's approach to historical and contemporary issues.'

**Etymology:** The word 'legacy' comes from the Latin word 'legatia', which means 'delegation' or 'envoy'. It evolved through Old French 'legacie' before entering Middle English in the late 14th century. The term originally referred to the office or function of a legate (a person sent on a mission), but over time, it came to signify the gifts or bequests left by someone who has died.

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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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## 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.

*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

Our Spring Raffle is now live, raising funds to enhance the Music Department—an initiative that will directly benefit our students. We warmly invite you to support this inspiring cause with your generous contributions, helping us strike a beautiful chord in the lives of our young musicians.

Link to buy the tickets is here -

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

## YEAR 8 & 9 DISCO – SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED!

Last Friday 25th April, we hosted a fantastic disco that the students thoroughly enjoyed—it was wonderful to see so many happy faces by the end of the evening. A big thank you to all the students, parents, staff, and volunteers who helped make the event such a success.

## DROP-IN SESSIONS WITH MS KATTIRZI

With the Sixth Form drop-in session held on Tuesday, 29th April, we concluded the final session of the year. It was an engaging and insightful conversation focused on university applications and academic achievement. Many thanks to everyone who supported this valuable series, in particular Ms Kattirtzi and staff for their time —KPS is proud to have hosted it.

## 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

