

Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Friday 27th June 2025

LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

This is the week that marks beginnings and endings for key groups in the school. On Monday we said goodbye to our Year 13 students and parents at a special and very well attended tea party in the school Hall, a place that has so many memories for every student and parent. Several parents spoke to me to express their sincere thanks and gratitude for all that the school has done for their child over the seven, two years they have been at Kendrick. Some could recall the Open Day back in 2017 and the start date for the students who joined in Year 7 in 2018. A few were even able to recall words I had said to parents and students in speeches they heard at the time. This reinforces my strong belief in the power and influence and therefore the responsibility we have towards the students we have in our care for the time they are with us. Many parents looked so proud and happy that their child, now a young adult, had got through this period of their life and education so well and possessed the hope and promise that any child should have and any parent should hope for at this time. There were some tears of joy and sadness and we all wished the students and their families well in their next steps, which for most is the prospect of university and a course of their choice. Thank you to the parents, students and of course the staff who have contributed to this journey in the lives of the students. We will meet them again in August when the A Level results come through and again in December when we present them with their A Level certificates.

At the other end of the school, yesterday evening we welcomed our prospective Year 7 students and parents to the school. The emotions this time were full of excitement and expectation but also a little trepidation about new and unknown beginnings for both parents and students. For some families, Kendrick is their first introduction to secondary education which I know can be slightly daunting for a parent as they and the child take this next big step on their educational journey. Guided and supported by our staff and students, it was a joy to speak and answer questions from the next cohort of Kendrick parents. I know and hope that many of them are reading this Weekly Update as they are now being included in this communication. As I said to all groups, please get into the habit of reading my messages every week so that you can gain a glimpse into life at Kendrick, albeit from my perspective, which may be a bit different to how the story is told by the students! Yesterday we also welcomed our new Year 12 students who will be joining us in September. We will speak to them again and their parents at the start of the new academic year in September.

Elsewhere in the school, life is busy. Not only are we preparing for the new academic year, many staff have been working on usual school business of teaching, marking and reports, but in addition the further exceptional events that we have at this time of the year are being planned. Work Experience activities for Year 10 this week went well, thank you to the staff and students who have responded to these activities. Pride celebrations today to mark the end of Pride month were fun and enjoyable. Then next week we have the launch of the much-anticipated Creative Arts Week where a combination of subjects and staff lead and organise a Creative Arts series of events. The activities available include a dance workshop, drama performances, purse decorations, poetry anthology launch and in the evenings the summer concert on Tuesday night and the Music Performer Series on Thursday evening – such a rich and varied programme for everyone. I thank the staff for their tremendous hard work in putting on the activities, the students for their anticipated engagement, the parents for their support in attending the evening events and KPS for always providing much valued support and welcoming everyone at these events with refreshments.

On the website this week are the following articles this week. Please read these to know what else goes on beyond school with our students.

- [Kendrick School - RSC Schools' Analyst Competition](#)
- [Team Maths Challenge National Final](#)
- [Visit by a local MP organised by members of the Journalism Club](#)

To end I would like to go back to the event last night with our new Year 7 parents. Parents received talks from me and Mr Simmonds, Deputy Headteacher, as well as Miss Hyde, Head of Key Stage 3 and the new Tutor for each form: Miss Morando, Frau Mueller, Mrs White and Miss Woods. A lot of information was given to them. In my and Mr

Simmonds section we endeavoured to convey the bigger picture of our school and how the education and experience of being at Kendrick impacts students in their lives and for their futures. To sum up what we believe Kendrick is about and what it does, Mr Simmonds quoted a couple of paragraphs from the [Ofsted Inspection report](#), November 2022 which we read and re-read to remind ourselves, as well as tell others about the kind of school we are. It seems appropriate at this time of transitions and reflection across the school we reread the opening paragraphs of our inspection report.

Pupils and sixth formers are justly proud of their school community. They delight in their learning and truly excel here. One parent spoke for many when reflecting, 'The school does a great job of creating well-rounded, kind, human beings who will hopefully go on to make the world a better place. The academic results are important of course, but far from the only focus.' Inspectors totally agree.

They enthusiastically engage in debate and discussion and immerse themselves in all that the curriculum offers. They become confident independent learners, achieve exceptionally well and are very well prepared to become exemplary citizens. The Kendrick Pledge emphasises friendship, kindness, respect, equality, tolerance and justice, and these values underpin all that the school achieves. Pupils flourish in this exceptionally caring and inclusive learning environment. Secure, trusting relationships between staff and pupils ensure pupils feel very well supported and safe here. In turn, pupils' excellent behaviour and impeccable manners make Kendrick a very special place to be.

Wishing everyone a pleasant weekend.

Please read further in the Weekly Update for other news and information.

Ms Christine Kattirtzi, Headteacher

KENDRICK SCHOOL'S SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

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.



SAFEGUARDING/WELLBEING

WORRIED ABOUT A CHILD?

If you have a concern about a child at Kendrick School, please email 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.

SAFEGUARDING

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT NINTENDO SWITCH 2 SOURCE: National College

Nintendo's long-awaited Switch 2 has finally arrived, blending fresh hardware with fan-favourite franchises. From Mario to Pikachu, the familiar mascots are back – but so too are evolving online features, in-game purchases, and potential exposure to mature content. As ever, it's essential that parents and educators understand the risks to young players.

Among these are GameChat voice communication, camera-based gaming, and potential access to mature-rated titles. This [guide](#) outlines what to watch out for and how to keep children safe, engaged and having fun.

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about NINTENDO SWITCH 2

Nintendo launched its Switch 2 games console in early June 2025 – its first new console in eight years. While it builds on the original's success by remaining compatible with certain existing games, it also adds powerful hardware and new features like GameChat and a USB-C camera. As more children look to upgrade, it's important to understand how this new console might affect their play and safety.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- EASIER TO ACCESS MATURE CONTENT**
Despite Nintendo's reputation for family-friendly titles, mature games like Cyberpunk 2077 and Elden Ring have been released onto the platform. With the Switch 2's improved performance, developers will be able to port even more mature-rated games. These may appeal to children due to their popularity, but they contain content that is highly unsuitable for young audiences.
- IN-APP & GAME STORE PURCHASES**
The Nintendo eShop enables purchases with just a few taps. If payment details are saved and PIN protection is disabled, children may unknowingly make costly purchases – including game add-ons, cosmetic items or entire new releases – without parental approval.
- UNRESTRICTED ONLINE PLAY IN SOME GAMES**
While GameChat is one feature, Switch 2 also connects to the broader Nintendo Switch Online service. Many free-to-play titles like Fortnite or Splatoon 3 allow voice or text chat with strangers unless chat settings are adjusted, meaning children could encounter inappropriate language or unwanted contact.
- GAMECHAT & REAL-TIME VOICE COMMUNICATION**
GameChat enables live chatting with up to 12 people, even across different games. With optional video and screen-sharing, though children under 16 are restricted to chatting only with approved friends, the sheer interactivity could raise privacy concerns or create pressure to remain online longer.
- CAMERA COMPATIBILITY & PRIVACY CONCERNS**
The optional USB-C camera supports video calling and facial overlays in games; however, this also raises the risk of cyberbullying or the unwanted sharing of personal images. The camera can be disabled, removed or covered, and parental controls are essential to manage how and when it is used.
- POWERFUL PULL OF FAMILIAR CHARACTERS**
Nintendo's mascot, Mario – along with Pikachu, Donkey Kong and others – remains hugely appealing to younger audiences, especially after the success of the recent film, 'The Super Mario Bros. Movie' (2023). These beloved icons are central to Nintendo's branding and often feature in merchandising, adverts and in-game promotions, creating strong emotional attachments in children and a sense of urgency to keep up with their peers.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- CHECK RATINGS & USE PARENTAL CONTROLS**
Every Switch and Switch 2 game comes with a PEGI age rating. Before buying one, ensure the content matches your child's age. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published on sites including iGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.
- REVIEW FRIEND LISTS AND CHAT PERMISSIONS**
Child profiles are restricted to chatting with approved friends only, but it's good practice to regularly check their friend list and communication settings. Use the Parental Controls app to switch off voice or video chat if necessary.
- REMOVE OR RESTRICT PAYMENT METHODS**
Avoid accidental spending by unlinking credit cards from the device. Instead, consider adding funds via prepaid eShop cards or requiring a PIN for purchases. Some banking apps can also be set to approve transactions manually.
- ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS**
Teach children how to block, report and capture any behaviour or content that makes them uncomfortable. The console's built-in tools allow them to create screenshots and video clips, which can aid in reporting any issues. Keeping an open dialogue helps children feel supported and safe.

Meet Our Expert
Lloyd Coombes is the Games Editor of Daily Star and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published on sites including iGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.

#WakeUpWednesday
The National College

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MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

HOW TO TALK ABOUT YOUR MENTAL HEALTH source: Every Minds Matters

Talking about your mental health may feel tough, especially when you're feeling down, worried or anxious. But talking to someone about how you feel can help you see things differently and find a way forward.

In this guide, you'll find practical steps to help you choose who to talk to, start the conversation and feel more confident sharing how you're feeling.

When to talk to someone Good mental health does not mean feeling happy or positive all the time.

Everyone has ups and downs, and we can all feel stressed or worried sometimes. But when those feelings start to impact your everyday, it could be a sign that you need support.

Recognising when you're struggling is the first step and reaching out to someone can make a big difference.

Choose who to talk to Start by thinking about who you can talk to.

Take a moment to list a few people you trust on your phone or a piece of paper.

It might be a friend, family member or colleague you're close to, or you might find it easier to open up to someone you don't know that well.

When you decide who to talk to, let them know what type of support you'd like. They might ask questions or have asks of you too.

Bear in mind that not everybody will feel able to provide the support you need.

If the person you choose does not feel able to support you, don't take this personally. There could be a variety of reasons why they're not ready. Take another look at who else you think it might be helpful to talk to.

Non-urgent advice: Support is here for you

If talking to someone you know is difficult or not possible, you can:

- speak to your GP or [find a GP](#) if you are not registered
- contact [Samaritans](#)
- get help from [NHS 111 online](#)

Plan what you want to say Before talking, take a moment to think about what you want to say. Writing down a few thoughts on your phone or a piece of paper can help.

You do not have to say everything at once. Start by saying, "I have been feeling [stressed/worried/anxious] and I just need someone to talk to."

Choosing the right time and place can also help. Some people find it easier to talk while walking, being in the car, or doing something like cooking.

This can make the conversation feel more natural and take the pressure off eye contact, which some people find difficult. Talking on the phone can also help.

Try to have the chat when you both have time, so it does not feel rushed.

But do not let finding the perfect opportunity put you off having the conversation!

Start the conversation Once you have chosen someone, let them know what you need from the conversation. You might want advice, support, or just someone to listen. It is okay to tell them that.

Invite them to ask questions, conversations go both ways and they might value speaking to you too.

Keep talking and find useful tools Don't worry if you do not say everything in your first chat, you can agree to talk again. You can also use online tools for extra support. This free quiz, [the Mind Plan](#), can provide practical tips to help you feel better.

Remember, talking about mental health gets easier and more comfortable the more you do it

KENDRICK SCHOOL WELLBEING

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

SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR TERM 6, 2024-25

Monday 30th June	Creative Arts Week
Tuesday 1st July	Summer Concert, 6.30pm
Thursday 3rd July	Performer Series, 4pm to 6pm
	Creative Arts Festival Showcase
	Full Trustees Meeting, 4.30pm
Friday 4th July	INSET Day
Monday 7th July	Futures Week
Tuesday 8th July	Year 12 Insights Day
Wednesday 9th July	Profiling Day
Thursday 10th July	UCAS Parents' Information Evening
	Years 7-10 Moving Up Day
Friday 11th July	Black Heritage Showcase – lunchtime
Wednesday 16th July	Year 7 Hindu Temple trip
Thursday 17th July	End of Term 6, 3.15pm
Friday 18th July	Staff Day
Thursday 24th July	New Year 7 Summer School
Friday 24th July	New Year 7 Summer School
	Widening Horizons (am)

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

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEND) NEWS

Please see below BFFC commissioned short breaks for the summer holidays. Please contact the providers directly, using the links below to find out more and to book a place.

Chance to Dance Stars CIC

[Reading Directory | SEND Short Breaks -Chance to Dance Stars CIC - Dance and Multi Activity Program \(includes half terms & holidays\)](#) Short breaks are available for Reading children aged 5 years to 18 years old. We cater for children 5 years to 25 years at all our activities. (discounted short breaks not available for 19-25yrs) Chance to Dance Stars CIC will provide group activities for children & young people with disabilities to have new experiences with sport and dance, to have fun and to build upon social and physical needs.

Reading Play

[Reading Directory | SEND Short Breaks - Reading Play - Summer Holidays 2025](#) The Reading Educational Play and Support Team welcomes you to The Ranger Station as one of your [SEND](#) short break providers, we will be holding four sessions this half term. Ages 5 - 7 years, 8 - 12 years

Make Sense Theatre

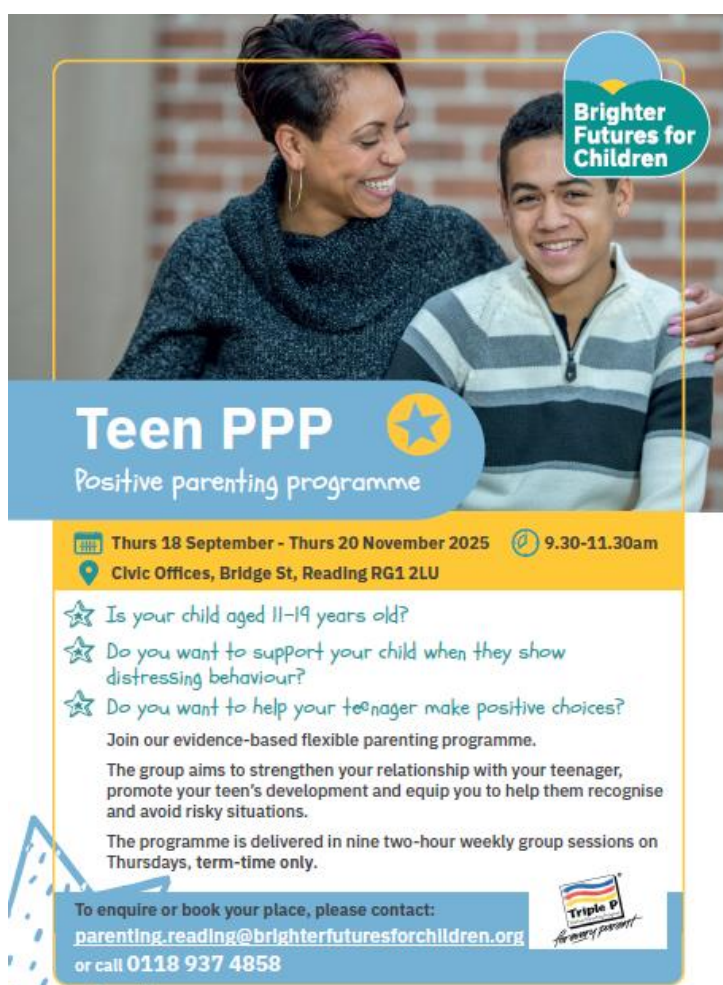
[Reading Directory | SEND Short Breaks - Make Sense Theatre - Summer Holidays 2025](#) We provide a range of fun, engaging, safe, and inclusive holiday clubs tailored to a variety of [SEND](#) needs. Primary Sensory Clubs (Ages 4–11) Secondary Sensory Clubs (Ages 12–17) MLD/SLD Clubs (Ages 12–17)

Reading Football Club Community Trust

[Reading Directory | SEND Short Breaks -Summer Holidays- Reading FC SEND Play Camp](#) - 5 - 10 years - The camp is run by qualified coaches and support staff with experience in working with young people with disabilities. Over the course of the summer, we will work with the young people in multisport sessions, focusing on their engagement throughout the day whilst helping them develop fundamental skills in sport.

[Reading Directory | SEND Short Breaks - Summer Holidays - Reading FC SEND Sports Camp](#) - 8 -18 years. The camp is run by qualified coaches and support staff with experience in working with young people with disabilities. Over the course of the 3 days, we will work with the young people in multisport sessions, focusing on their engagement throughout the day whilst helping them develop fundamental skills in sport.

NEWS, NOTICES, COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS



Brighter Futures for Children

Teen PPP

Positive parenting programme

Thurs 18 September - Thurs 20 November 2025 9.30-11.30am
Civic Offices, Bridge St, Reading RG1 2LU

- ★ Is your child aged 11-19 years old?
- ★ Do you want to support your child when they show distressing behaviour?
- ★ Do you want to help your teenager make positive choices?

Join our evidence-based flexible parenting programme. The group aims to strengthen your relationship with your teenager, promote your teen's development and equip you to help them recognise and avoid risky situations. The programme is delivered in nine two-hour weekly group sessions on Thursdays, term-time only.

To enquire or book your place, please contact:
parenting.reading@brighterfuturesforchildren.org
or call **0118 937 4858**

Triple P
for every parent



BUILDING RESILIENCE WORKSHOP

Does your child find it difficult to bounce back from daily challenges?

DO THEY:

- rely on others to solve problems for them?
- have difficulty handling setbacks in positive ways?
- give up easily when things don't go to plan?

This workshop offers practical strategies to help you build your child's resilience

WORKSHOP DATES:

- Tuesday 1 July, 9.30-11.30am
- Wednesday 9 July, 4.30-6pm
- Monday 14 July, 12-1.30pm

SCAN THE QR CODE TO BOOK

www.brighterfuturesforchildren.org/MHST

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MOVEMENT: POETRY ANTHOLOGY COPIES ON SALE

As part of Creative Arts Week, the Poets' Society will be launching this year's poetry anthology, MOVEMENT, featuring a stunning range of poems and artwork by Kendrick students in Years 9-13.

Copies are £4 each; they will be available to purchase at the launch at lunchtime on Wednesday 2nd July and at the Creative Arts showcase on the evening of Thursday 3rd July, and can also be pre-ordered on EVOLVEshop from the link [here](#).

LOST PROPERTY

As we move towards the end of the academic year, we would like to ask you to please remind your child to check for any items of lost property before the summer break. In addition to the Lost Property Cupboard, we also hold some smaller or valuable items in the General Office which have been handed in, such as spectacles, calculators, speakers, ear buds, watches and jewellery. We do make this clear to students, but it would be most helpful if you could kindly reiterate this message to them. Many thanks.

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

‘What’s the use of worrying?
It never was worth the while,
So, pack up your troubles in your old kit-bag,
And smile, smile, smile.’ — George Asaf (1880-1951), *Pack up your Troubles* (1915 song).

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

Definition: A smile is a facial expression formed by the upward curving of the corners of the mouth, typically indicating happiness, friendliness, or amusement. It can also convey warmth and approachability.

Example: ‘When she heard the good news, a bright smile spread across her face, lighting up the entire room.’

Etymology: The word ‘smile’ comes from the Old English ‘smilan’, meaning ‘to smile or to show the teeth’. It is related to the Proto-Germanic ‘*smilōną’, which also means ‘to smile’. The term has retained its essential meaning over the centuries, signifying the expression of joy through facial expression.

VACANCIES

We have no vacancies at the current time.

PARENTPAY AND EVOLVE REMINDERS

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
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 12 UCAS Discovery Day – April 2025
The Crucible – The Globe Theatre – April 2025
GCSE Drama trip to The Globe – May 2025
Year 7 Wheelie Fun Challenge – May 2025
Year 10 World of Work Insights Programme – June 2025
Year 12 Work Experience - June 2025
Year 7 Hindu Temple trip – July 2025
Year 7 Instrument lessons – June/July 2025
Year 13 – Geography Slapton residential – October 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

Summer Concert July 2025

English poetry anthology

KENDRICK PARENTS' SOCIETY (KPS)

KPS SUMMER FAIR

Preparations are underway for this year KPS Summer Fair and we hope you all are looking forward to a fun filled day!

This year, *funds raised in Summer Fair will go towards much-needed renovations of the Medical Room in Sidmouth,* helping the school create a more welcoming and supportive space for student wellbeing.

Buy your Tickets here:* <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/EYVZ>. Can't make it? No problem! You can still show your support by making a donation using the same ticketing link. Every contribution helps and is truly appreciated.

We are looking for a number of gazebos to use at the summer fair. If you are able to provide one for use on the day, please contact kpschair@kendrick.reading.sch.uk

At the same time, if you would like to volunteer at the Summer Fair, please join the volunteers group via this link - <https://chat.whatsapp.com/F5e8TgsWtrm2UDpykBFbRM>

We can't wait to see you there — thank you for your continued support!



NEW YEAR 7 INFORMATION EVENING AT THE SCHOOL - 26/06/25

Yesterday, some of the KPS team attended the New Year 7 Parents' Information Evening, providing refreshments and talking to parents and carers about KPS activities and how they can become members. Welcome to new members and families.

The biggest hit was our Preloved Uniform shop, where we raised a phenomenal £1539. Whilst we thank new joiners for the interest and support, KPS would like to say a big thank you to Year 11 and 12 students and parents/carers for recent significant donations. We could only achieve the said fund raising with your generous donations.

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