

Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Friday 4th July 2025

LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

Another super week at Kendrick full of creativity and enrichment!

The Creative Arts Week which I mentioned last week comprising activities including dance workshops and displays, drama performances, purse decorations, poetry anthology launch, ceramics produced in Art, culminated in two events this week - the Summer Concert on Tuesday evening and the Creative Arts Festival yesterday evening. Both events were a joy to attend and see the students embrace and demonstrate areas of the arts curriculum so enthusiastically. Before the showcase event last night, there was the equally impressive Performer Series this year focusing on Harp and Percussion which went very well too. Thank you and well done to the students for their eager and enthusiastic participation and many thanks to the staff in the creative arts subject areas who have given so much time to explore and develop these disciplines with the students outside of their lessons. A particular highlight of mine is our annual poetry anthology. This is our fifth Kendrick Poetry Anthology that has been produced, this year the process has been led and coordinated by Miss Waller in the English Department. I am always so impressed by the quality of the poems the students can write, as well as the thought and depth of feeling they show. The anthologies are on sale and can be purchased for £4 and I highly recommend you buy one. Please go to the [Evolveshop](#) to buy your copy and enjoy an hour or so reading this super poetry on the theme of Movement.

On the website for you to read are articles about events that have taken place recently:

- [MFL Trip to France](#)
- [Pride Month at Kendrick](#)
- [British Biology Olympiad and Challenge Results](#)

A very important and impressive part of school life which I am extremely proud of and reflects the calibre of school we are, is the attention and value we give to our staff professional training and development. The government requirement is that schools should spend up to five days an academic year on training. For us at Kendrick, these days are spread over the year following a pattern of two days in September to start the new academic year, one day at the start of Term 3 in January and one day in early July, the fifth days is disaggregated into small chunks across the year. Today at our staff training day, we received excellent presentations on key areas of the school. Our focus today was on the Kendrick School Development Plan, our plan for what we want to do as a school next year. Using key areas for development all linked to students learning and outcomes and following the guidance and inspection framework set out by Ofsted, we focused on our priorities for next year. As I have said before, we are fortunate to have Mr Simmonds, Deputy Headteacher, who is an experienced Ofsted Inspector and is able to guide us in this work. Today Mr Simmonds gave us the outline of the new Ofsted framework and how what we will do next year dovetails into the expectations and standards of the new framework. In addition, other members of the senior leadership team spoke about the developments and plans in their area of responsibility: Dr Perry summarised the discussions there have been on curriculum development and review within the DfE; Ms Le Croisette gave an overview of the SEND provision and the developments nationally, locally and at Kendrick; Mrs Hearn spoke about the pastoral system and expertise and developments we have made in our pastoral work and pastoral leaders and assistants. Finally, Mrs Sandy, School Business Manager, gave some updates on the Budget, Finances and proposed premises projects for next year.

Later in the morning colleagues who lead other key areas of the school gave other important updates. Mr Wilson explained the new changes to the UCAS application and process. Mr Curran reminded us of teaching and learning ideas we had focused on this year and Mr Duncan and Mrs Lace provided us with information about PSHCE topics we teach the students across the school with links to further training. It is important that I share this insight with you so that you know what else goes on in school that makes up the education of the students. What you might hear about from your child is the classroom experience, however behind all that is a huge body of work, personnel and training which results in what happens daily in the school life of our students.

I hope the students had a good day today enjoying the sunshine and we look forward to seeing them on Monday.

Wishing everyone a good weekend and don't forget one week to go until the summer Fair! See details below as you read further in the update.

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 **0808 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 APPLE iPADS SOURCE: National College

Nintendo's long-awaited Switch 2 has finally arrived, blending fresh hardware with fan-favourite franchises. From iPads are a familiar fixture in many households and classrooms, offering access to educational tools, entertainment, and the internet in one sleek package; however, with great versatility comes notable risk. From accidental spending

and data privacy breaches to excessive screen time, there's plenty for parents and educators to consider before handing over the device. While Apple offers built-in safeguards such as 'Screen Time' and 'Family Sharing', these features must be correctly set up and actively managed to be effective.

This [#WakeUpWednesday guide](#) walks you through these options and highlights some of the more surprising ways children can get around restrictions – including with Siri – while offering practical advice on how to help keep young users safe and healthy online.

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 APPLE IPADS

Tablets remain a staple of children's digital lives – and Apple's iPad is by far the most popular model. According to Ofcom, over half of younger children regularly use a tablet to play games, watch online content or access apps. With their broad functionality, iPads can be helpful tools, but without supervision, they may expose children to risks ranging from inappropriate content to screen overuse.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- COSTLY TO REPAIR**
Unlike some child-friendly tablets, the iPad is not built for rough handling. Its slim design and high cost mean that a drop or spill can result in a costly repair. If a child is using the device regularly, a sturdy case and screen protector are strongly recommended to help prevent accidental damage.
- DATA PRIVACY**
While Apple is known for strong privacy protections, a recent study found that many iOS apps aimed at children still share personal data. Over 40% of the tested apps sent at least one piece of user information to third parties, raising concerns about advertising and analytics being targeted at underage users.
- INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**
The App Store and Safari browser provide almost unrestricted access to online material. Children may stumble upon age-inappropriate content, whether through apps, advertisements or online searches. Even recommended content algorithms can surface unsuitable material.
- BYPASSING RESTRICTIONS**
Siri – Apple's voice assistant – can potentially override restrictions, especially with the newer text-based commands introduced through Apple Intelligence. Without safeguards in place, children may inadvertently access inappropriate topics simply by asking a question, bypassing certain filters previously set by adults.
- SCREEN ADDICTION**
iPads can be highly immersive and excessive screen time may affect a child's emotional and behavioural development. Signs of overuse might include mood swings, irritability, and difficulty focusing on non-digital activities.
- REDUCED ATTENTION & COGNITIVE IMPACT**
Prolonged use of tablets has been linked with reduced memory, slower processing speeds and difficulties in concentrating. Research shows that children who spend excessive time gaming or consuming media on tablets may struggle with language development and executive functioning over time.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- ENABLE FAMILY SHARING**
Family Sharing allows you to create a dedicated Apple ID for your child and manage their activity. You can approve purchases, control what content they can access, and set time limits – all done remotely from your own device. It's a simple but powerful way to maintain oversight.
- FILTER APPS, WEBSITES & IN-APP PURCHASES**
Parental controls in iOS let you block explicit content in Safari, restrict app downloads, and manage in-app purchase permissions. You can also filter websites automatically to prevent access to adult material and disable the installation of certain app types completely.
- USE SCREEN TIME FEATURES EFFECTIVELY**
Tools like Downtime and App Limits can reduce device overuse. Downtime allows you to block access during key times – such as before bed or during homework – while App Limits sets daily time caps on specific games or apps. Alerts help children negotiate when their time is almost up.
- PREVENT UNAPPROVED SPENDING**
Children can accidentally (or intentionally) make purchases within apps. Activating Ask to Buy under Family Sharing ensures you receive a notification to approve any app or in-app purchase. This stops surprise charges and allows you to discuss purchases together before they're made.

Meet Our Expert
Carly Page is a seasoned technology journalist with over a decade of experience. Formerly a senior cybersecurity reporter at TechCrunch, Carly now writes for publications including WIRED, Forbes, TechRadar, and Tes. With a deep understanding of online safety, she brings a valuable perspective to parenting in the digital age.

#WakeUpWednesday
The National College

[@wake_up_weds](#) [/www.thenationalcollege](#) [@wake.up.wednesday](#) [@wake.up.weds](#)

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MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

SUMMER WELLBEING TIPS SOURCE: [WELLBEING PEOPLE](#)

1. Stay hydrated: As temperatures rise, it becomes crucial to keep your body well hydrated. Increase your water intake, drinking little and often. You can include refreshing beverages such as infused water, herbal teas, or freshly squeezed juices. Avoid excessive consumption of sugary drinks and alcohol, as they can lead to dehydration.

2. Protect your skin: While sunlight is essential for our overall health, overexposure to harmful UV rays can damage our skin. Remember to wear sunscreen with a high SPF and star rating, cover up with lightweight clothing, and use hats and sunglasses to shield yourself from the sun's rays. Don't forget to reapply sunscreen regularly, especially if you're spending prolonged periods outdoors or swimming!

3. Embrace healthy eating: Summer is the perfect time to indulge in fresh, seasonal fruits and vegetables. Opt for light, nutritious meals that incorporate a variety of colourful produce. Include hydrating foods like watermelon, cucumbers, celery and strawberries in your diet. Additionally, be mindful of your portion sizes and try to avoid heavy meals that can leave you feeling sluggish.



4. Stay active: Take advantage of the pleasant and mostly drier weather, and engage in outdoor activities. Whether it's going for a swim, cycling, hiking, or playing a sport, find activities that you enjoy and get moving. If it is very hot weather, it might be better to plan your physical activities for early morning or later afternoon to avoid the risk of heat exhaustion. Regular exercise not only improves physical health but also boosts mood and reduces stress.

5. Practice sun safety: When spending time outdoors, it's crucial to take precautions to prevent heat-related illnesses. Stay in shaded areas during peak hours of sunshine, use umbrellas or canopies, and wear lightweight, breathable clothing. Remember to listen to your body and take breaks when needed.

6. Prioritise restful sleep: Adequate sleep is essential for your overall wellbeing at all times but particularly in the summer months when warm nights can make it hard for us to get the sleep you need. Try to create a cool, comfortable sleep environment, use light bedding, and consider using a fan or air conditioner. An eye mask can help too to block out the light of the early morning sunrises. Stick to a consistent sleep schedule to help regulate your body's internal clock.

7. Practice mindfulness and relaxation: Summer is an excellent time to slow down, unwind, and practice mindfulness. Find moments to relax, whether it's through meditation, deep breathing exercises, or simply spending time in nature. Allow yourself to fully enjoy the present moment and savour the beauty of summer.

8. Stay cool and keep refreshed: To beat the summer heat, take regular cool showers or baths to refresh your body and lower your core temperature. Keep yourself clean and dry to prevent skin irritation or fungal infections that may be more common in humid conditions.

9. Stay socially connected: It's a great time to engage in social activities with friends and loved ones. Plan outdoor gatherings, picnics, or barbecues, but remember to follow local guidelines for safety. Social connection and spending quality time with friends and loved ones is essential for our mental and emotional wellbeing.

10. Stay positive and grateful: Lastly, maintain a positive mindset and practice gratitude. Embrace the joys of summer, appreciate the beauty around you, and focus on the things you are grateful for. A positive outlook can enhance your overall wellbeing and help you make the most of these warmer, sunnier months.

KENDRICK SCHOOL WELLBEING

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

SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR TERM 6, 2024-25

Monday 7th July

Tuesday 8th July

Wednesday 9th July

Thursday 10th July

Friday 11th July

Futures Week

Year 12 Insights Day

Profiling Day

UCAS Parents' Information Evening

Years 7-10 Moving Up Day

Black Heritage Showcase – lunchtime

Wednesday 16 th July	Year 7 Hindu Temple trip
Thursday 17 th July	End of Term 6, 3.15pm
Friday 18 th July	Staff Day
Thursday 24 th July	New Year 7 Summer School
Friday 24 th 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.

It's here! The Summer edition of the new look **SEND Local Offer Newsletter 2025**. It's packed with lots of information including blogs from:- [Reading Directory | SEND Local Offer Newsletter Summer 2025 - Issue 38](#)

NEWS, NOTICES, COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS

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

Great literature is simply language charged with meaning to the utmost possible degree.' *How to Read* (1931)

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

Definition: Language is a system of communication that consists of sounds, words, and grammar used by a particular community or country. It can be spoken, written, or signed and is essential for expressing thoughts, feelings, and ideas.

Example: 'Learning a new language can open doors to understanding different cultures and forming new friendships.'

Etymology: The word 'language' originates from the Latin word 'lingua', meaning 'tongue'. It passed into Old French as 'langage', which referred to the method of communication. The connection to 'tongue' emphasises the physical aspect of speaking and the importance of oral communication in the development of languages

CAREERS AND WORK EXPERIENCE

Berkshire CAREERS HUB | **THE CAREERS & ENTERPRISE COMPANY**

APPRENTICESHIPS?

Calling all parents and carers of students as well as students themselves who may be interested in Apprenticeships.

Join us for an informational talk with Varsha Menon, Apprenticeship Adviser at ASK, to start making your post education decisions!

THE ASK PROGRAMME
APPRENTICESHIPS & TECHNICAL EDUCATION
PAL COMPLIANT PROVIDER

DISCOVER OPPORTUNITIES
EXPLORE CAREER PATHS
MEET A LIVE APPRENTICE
REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED

TUESDAY, 8 JULY 17:30-19:00
READING HINDU TEMPLE,
112 WHITLEY STREET,
READING, RG2 0EQ

QR Code

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

We have only 1 week for this year's Summer Fair, which we are looking forward for this last event of the year!

This year, ***funds raised in Summer Fair will go towards much-needed renovations of the Medical Room in Sidmouth,*** helping the school create a 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!



SCHOOL MUSIC EVENTS - TUESDAY 1ST AND THURSDAY 3RD JULY

KPS team have supported both the school events with refreshments. This was highly appreciated and would like to appreciate parents, carers, students and staff for supporting us. We had dedicated volunteers so a big thank you to them as well.

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