

Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Friday 18th July 2025

LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

We have come to the end of another academic year which we marked yesterday afternoon at a whole school assembly. In a slight change to recent years, we held the assembly in the main school hall, a space that so encapsulates Kendrick and its rich history and tradition. Yesterday, without Year 11 and 13 students, the rest of the school and staff could fit in the room quite comfortably. We heard reports from our Kendrick Student Leaders about activities and events that have taken place over the last few months. We listened to some music and poetry and said some thanks and goodbyes to leaving staff. I believe it is important for everyone in our community to feel and hear that their role in our school is important and valued and so our assembly was a combination of celebration and joy, as well as anticipation of what the next term will bring. We acknowledged the many activities that have taken place in school even in this last week of term: Talent Show, Sports Day and the Wellbeing event. Throughout the assembly students sat attentively appreciating and respecting the reports and messages they heard. Thank you to everyone for creating a school where this kind of gathering is still possible and appreciated.

A few staff are leaving Kendrick this year, and they are: Mr Guo – Geography Teacher, Mrs Goddard - English and Humanities Teacher, Mrs Moore Bridger - Physics and Science Teacher, Mrs Haldane – PE Teacher, Mrs Davidson – Biology and Science Teacher. Also, Mrs Sierra who begins her maternity leave. We wished them well in the assembly and thanked them for their service and contribution to Kendrick during the time they have worked with us. New staff will be joining us in September.

On the website this week are some super articles about recent events, please take time to read these.

- [Classics Trip to University of Reading](#)
- [MFL Trip to Germany](#)
- [CCF Annual Army Camp at Longmoor](#)

To finish, I would like to go back to the assembly we had yesterday when in my closing remarks, I asked students to reflect on the year they have had and consider how it has been for them and to think about next year and what will be different or better. These reflections are important and should be encouraged and discussed. I would also urge parents to consider and reflect on the year and how they feel it has been for their child. All parents and students received reports this week and these should be causes of celebration, but there is also room for reflection and consideration about what could be better in the future. We all agree that academic ability and brilliance are not all that matters in life and it is certainly not what Kendrick is all about. The kind of person someone is and wishes to be matters. I want students to be happy and confident individuals, optimistic about their future, equipped and able to take their place in society and know their purpose and worth. This is what we work towards for all our students at Kendrick.

I ended the assembly with mention of a gift that has been given to the school which I would like to share with you today. Last June 2024, a parent of a Year 13 student offered to make an audio piece for the school. The parent is a journalist, and this is the kind of work she does professionally. She said it would be an opportunity to portray the school's history, as well as what it is like here. Using contributions from students, a member of staff, Mrs Moseley and former student and me, the parent recorded us talking about Kendrick's history, life at school and what the school means to us all. We spoke separately but what you will, hear in the audio is a blend of all our voices and thoughts about our school. The piece is called Kendrick Voices and there is an abridged version and a longer version. The link is to the abridged version which I recommend you listen to as it will provide a glimpse of life at Kendrick as it is seen and expressed through our voices. Click [here](#) to listen.

My sincere thanks to everyone: students, staff, parents, Trustees, Kendrick Parents' Society and all for your encouragement and support for Kendrick School this year.

Wishing everyone a wonderful summer. Please read on in the Weekly Update for safety information, as well as fun ideas for the summer, including *Kendrick's thrive over the summer challenge*!

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

Summer is a time for enjoyment and family connection, but it also presents new environments, experiences, and sometimes unfamiliar risks for children and young people.

Online safety - With more time at home and fewer routines, many children spend longer on phones, tablets, gaming consoles, and social media over the summer.

Risks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inappropriate content (violence, adult material, extremism) • Online grooming and child exploitation • Cyberbullying or peer pressure • Oversharing of personal information • Screen addiction or disrupted sleep 	What Parents Can Do: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check privacy settings regularly on all apps and devices. • Use parental controls and safe search settings. • Create family agreements about screen time and routines. • Talk regularly – ask open-ended questions about online use. 	Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk • https://www.internetmatters.org • https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/ • https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/
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Exploitation: Online & Offline - Children can be targeted for grooming, criminal activity, or manipulation both in person and through apps, games, or social media.

Look out for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sudden behaviour or appearance changes • New online contacts, gifts, or secrecy • Going missing or avoiding usual routines 	Advice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk openly and regularly about their friends, both online and offline • Know what apps and games they use, and who they interact with • Encourage them to speak up if something feels 	Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSPCC – Child Exploitation • The Children’s Society – Exploitation • Fearless
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Personal safety - Older children often seek more independence during the holidays, such as visiting parks, meeting friends, or travelling by public transport.

Top Tips: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan routes in advance and share location. • Ensure children carry phones and emergency contacts. • Teach 'stranger safety' rules. • Avoid canals, railways, or derelict areas. 	Useful Apps: what3words, Hollie Guard, Google Family Link
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Mental health and emotional well-being - Some children may struggle with mental health over the summer, particularly if they miss the routine and support of school.

Signs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Withdrawal, low mood, or irritability • Sleep problems or appetite changes • Unexplained aches • Disinterest in activities 	What Helps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain routines • Encourage communication • Provide support and reassurance 	Support Services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Young Minds: 0808 802 5544 https://www.youngminds.org.uk - Kooth: https://www.kooth.com - Childline: 0800 1111 - Shout: Text SHOUT to 85258
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Seasonal safety: Fire, Water & Sun - Summer brings fun, but also risks. Here's how to help children stay safe:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Fire Safety:</i> Keep BBQs and fire pits away from flammable items. Never leave flames or devices unattended. Test smoke alarms and store matches safely.• <i>Water Safety:</i> Always supervise children near water. Avoid unknown or unsupervised areas. Teach them the RNLI's "Float to Live" technique.• <i>Sun Safety:</i> Apply SPF 30+ sunscreen regularly, stay in the shade during peak hours, wear hats and light clothing, and keep hydrated.	<p>Useful Links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• RNLI – Water Safety• RLSS – Drowning Prevention• NHS – Sun Safety• London Fire Brigade
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Safeguarding contacts for the holiday period

If you're worried about any child or young person during the 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.**

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

10 TIPS TO HELP YOUR WELLBEING DURING THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS SOURCE: [PLACE2BE](#)

With more freedom, some (hopefully) great weather, and a little more time on your hands, the summer holidays can be a great time to build your wellbeing.

With this in mind, researchers from the University of Cambridge and students at Northgate High School have come up with 10 top tips to really maximise your summer.

1. Take time out We know the school year can be extremely hectic and full of expectations, so it's important you allow yourself a minute to decompress. For some people, this means rest and relaxation, whereas others prefer to reset by doing something they love. Prioritising recovery is important as it's harder to build healthier habits when you're feeling stressed.

2. Build a routine Keeping a regular routine is great for your wellbeing. This can help you establish balance and structure in your day. It will also make it easier to transition back into school mode in September. Try building consistency, whether going on a morning walk to start your day or always having a cup of tea at 3pm.

3. Get active Physical and mental wellbeing [are often linked](#). This means doing something active can be a great way to boost your mental health, and heading outside into green space can have even greater benefits. Consider walking or cycling instead of going in a car - it's cheaper and will help the planet to be healthier too!

4. Prioritise sleep Getting your zzzs in is super important! It can help our bodies and minds recover and reset from the day. Young people are thought to need an average of 8 to 10 hours a night—so make sleep a priority this summer.

5. Stay connected Networks and communities can help us keep connected. Whether you are a social butterfly or an introvert, making [meaningful connections](#) can be great for your wellbeing.

Not sure how to connect with people? Why not start with something you enjoy ... and join a club or help out your community this summer? A shared passion means you already have something in common, which can be a great place to start.

6. Try a digital detox Phones can be a great way of keeping in touch with your friends and finding out what's going on in the world. But they can also add to social and image pressures and make it difficult to switch off. Why not try a digital detox this summer and aim to reduce your screen time? This doesn't have to be drastic! It can be as simple as sleeping with your phone under your bed or in another room to remove the temptation of late-night scrolling.

7. Share your thinking We have lots of different relationships in our lives, but there will be times when we don't always agree. Whether it's with your friends or family... good communication can help you navigate difficult situations. The more you can describe your thoughts and feelings, the easier it will be for others to see your point of view.

8. Break work down - don't put it off If you've been set work to complete over the summer, it can be tempting to ignore it until the last minute. But there's nothing worse than starting a new school term with work to catch up on (trust us). Try breaking it down into small pieces and doing a small part each week. This approach can help work feel more manageable.

9. Be kind to yourself We're often reminded to be kind to each other, but sometimes we forget to be kind to ourselves. You won't always get it right on the first try, and that's okay. Everyone's version of success will look different, so try not to compare yourself to others. Remember to celebrate your journey.

Something didn't go to plan? No problem! Take a moment and reflect on what you'd do differently next time. All progress (no matter how small) is an achievement. Keep turning up - and one day, you'll get there.

10. Talk to a professional Experiencing ups, downs and changes to your wellbeing is normal. However, if you are concerned about how you or a friend or family member has been feeling lately, it's important to get some extra support.

There are lots of great websites and services out there which can help support you/provide further information. This includes [YoungMinds](#) and [Shout](#).

You can also [talk to your GP](#) or a trusted adult about how you've been feeling lately.

If you need urgent support, visit Place2Be's [Get urgent help](#) page.

We hope you have a great summer!

KENDRICK SCHOOL WELLBEING

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

SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR TERM 1, 2025-26

Thursday 24th July

Friday 24th July

Thursday 14th August

Thursday 21st August

Monday 1st September

Tuesday 2nd September

Wednesday 3rd September

Friday 5th September

Thursday 11th September

Tuesday 16th September

Friday 19th September

Monday 22nd September

Thursday 25th September

New Year 7 Summer School

New Year 7 Summer School

Widening Horizons (am)

A Level Results Day

GCSE Results Day

Registration for the Sixth Form

INSET Day

INSET Day

First Day of Term 1, 2025-26 for all students, 8.25am

School Photos for Years 7,10 and 12

Year 12 Welcome, 5pm to 6.30pm

Year 7 Welcome, 5pm to 6.30pm

Admission Test Day, school closed to all students

School Birthday

Y13 English Trip to Stratford

Year 10 Welcome, 5pm to 6.30pm

Wednesday 1st October	L&T Trustees Meeting, 4,30pm
Thursday 2nd October	National Poetry Day
Wednesday 8th October	Year 13 Slapton Geography Residential (to Sunday 12 th October)
Thursday 9th October	Resources Trustee Meeting, 4.30pm
Friday 10th October	World Mental Health Day
Monday 20th October	Biology Week
Thursday 23rd October	Upper School and Sixth Form Chamber Concert
Friday 24th October	Last Day of Term 1, 3.25pm

Term dates for 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

UNIFORM EXPECTATIONS

Please read the documents below outlining the uniform expectations for September in KS3 and KS4. Please consider this information when buying uniform items over the summer.

[KS3 Uniform Expectations](#)

[KS4 Uniform Expectations](#)

THRIVE OVER SUMMER CHALLENGE Get ready for an exciting summer with our **THRIVE OVER SUMMER CHALLENGE**! We want you to make the most of your summer holiday by spending enriching moments with friends and family.

Complete the following five activities. Plus, there's an opportunity to WIN A PRIZE by reading as much as you can!

Here's what you need to do:

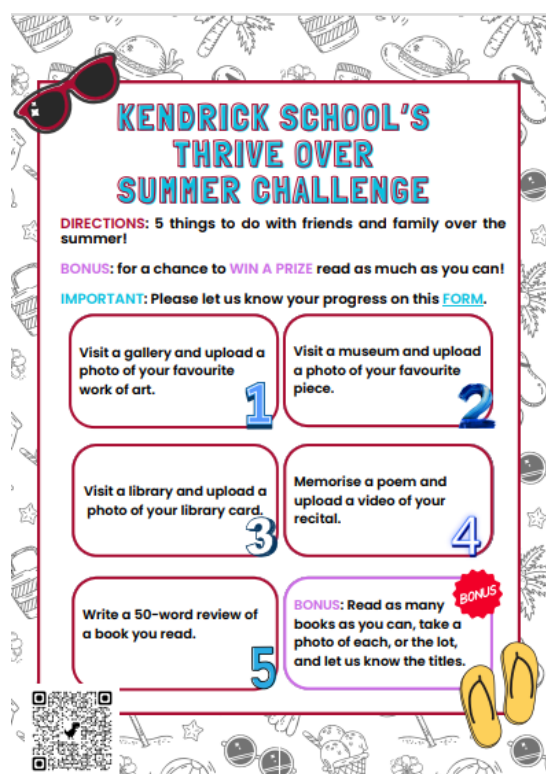
1. Visit a Gallery: Explore a local gallery and upload a photo of your favourite work of art.
2. Visit a Museum: Discover something new at a museum and upload a photo of your favourite piece.
3. Visit a Library: Head to your local library and upload a photo of your library card.
4. Memorise a Poem: Choose a poem you love, memorise it, and upload a video of your recital.
5. Write a Book Review: Read a book and write a 50-word review. Don't forget to upload it!

BONUS: For every book you read this summer, take a photo of each one (or a group shot) and let us know the titles. The more you read, the better your chances of winning a prize!

All entries will be reviewed by staff, and the top submissions will be sent to Ms Kattirtzi for consideration.

IMPORTANT: Please keep track of your progress and let us know by filling out the form sent to you.

We can't wait to see all the amazing things you'll do this summer!



VACANCIES

We have the following vacancy. Click on the link for more information and an application form.

[School Administrator and Student Welfare Assistant](#). 28 hours a week, Monday to Thursday, 8am to 3.30pm, job share considered. Closing date for applications Monday 8th September, 9am

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 7 instruments lesson – June/July 2025

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 Insights programme – June 2025

Year 12 Work Experience - June 2025

Year 11 A GCSE English Literature set texts (purchase ready for September 25)

Year 13 A level English Literature set texts (purchase ready for September 25)

Year 13 Geography residential, Slapton – 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

Poets Society 2025 Anthology: Movement

KENDRICK PARENTS' SOCIETY (KPS)

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