

WEEKLY UPDATE – FRIDAY 12th JUNE 2026

Letter from Ms Kattirtzi, Headteacher

This is a significant week in our calendar for the opportunities it provides certain year groups in our school. Year 10, as I mentioned last week, are on a weeklong trip to either France or Germany, to develop and deepen their language skills, knowledge and understanding of the culture and people of these countries. Language and the use of language to communicate and get to know others in a different place is so important for our young people. I know many of our students already speak other languages and this is such an additional strength and skill they have which I hope will serve them well in life. Understanding others by visiting their countries and living alongside them is also important to begin to understand a different way of life and characteristics which others have and to learn that these ways, though different, are equally important and valuable. Given the events we have witnessed this week in Belfast, where we have seen groups of people set against others, the importance of trying to live amicably alongside one another is something we must never lose sight of. I hope our Modern Foreign Language trips this week have enhanced the students' language skills, but more importantly helped them appreciate the richness of other people's culture and life which are such important life lessons to learn. I am sure the students and staff will return exhausted from their trip but with much to share when we see them in school next week. My thanks again and always to the staff who have given up their time to take the students this week and for all the planning and preparation such trips take over many months.

Year 12 had a similar learning experience this week in work placements near and around Reading. Although I have not received many reports yet, I am aware that students placed in local schools and those who spent their time at Kendrick have learnt some new skills and knowledge about the functions of education and schools. Reports from local schools have said they have been delighted with the students that have been placed with them.

Earth Week, as I mentioned last week, has been running with the support and enthusiasm of Key Stage 3 students in school. The article here explains what we have been doing to demonstrate our commitment to sustainability and taking positive actions for the environment - [Earth Week 2026](#)

This time of the year is the season of educational conferences which I have attended at national and local level. As a member of the Grammar School Heads Association (GSHA), I attended a conference in London this week with Dr Perry, Assistant Headteacher. This was quite a special conference for me and Kendrick. For me it is, of course, the last conference of GSHA I will be attending after many years of regular attendance. For Kendrick it was special because we applied for an GSHA Innovation Award and amongst the many schools who applied for this award, Kendrick was one of two schools to be successful in being chosen for the award. It was with great pleasure and pride that I was able to listen to Dr Perry, alongside my many Grammar School Head colleagues, speak about the work we have done for many years at Kendrick on our Widening Horizons initiative. Thinking back to how we started this work which was to enable more students from the local area and disadvantaged backgrounds to access Kendrick, Dr Perry showed with facts and figures the progress we have made to achieve greater inclusion and local engagement in our school. The activities that we have put in place over these years, which were enhanced with our expansion back in 2020, show real success in engagement with our local community and impact this has had on social mobility - [Widening Horizons](#)

Another key theme of the conferences this year has been a focus on Ofsted and the new framework under which schools will be inspected. The new [Ofsted: State-funded school inspection toolkit](#) is quite different from the framework we were inspected under in November 2022. The judgements that we are familiar with have been replaced in favour of a 5-point grading system and report card. A focus on leadership, inclusion and safeguarding will be areas where inspectors will gather evidence, but in so doing will seek to find examples of areas that school does very well to celebrate and highlight good practice. Through learning walks, case sampling, and meeting school leaders, staff and students, inspectors will build a picture of the school and report what they find in a longer and more meaningful report. We are due an inspection in the next academic year and although I will not be there, I am confident that Mr Simmonds, with the senior team and staff, will lead and manage the inspection very well and demonstrate that Kendrick is not only strong in many of the grading areas but exceptional in many too. A 3-minute video which I have shared with you before gives a good overview of the process.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kbl0FvY976g>

I am looking forward to next week when we can expect all our students back in school and hear about their experiences from this week's activities. It will also be good to get back into our normal routines, so important for many of us to function well. We still have another week of GCSE and A Level public exams and once again, I would like to thank the students in Year 11 and 13 for their hard work and resilience through this process. As we know, the students have taken many hours of exams and I hope when their exams are finished, they can rest, relax, and appreciate what they have done and be happy with their efforts.

Wishing everyone a good weekend.

Ms Christine Kattirtzi
Headteacher

School Notices

INSET Day – Friday 3rd July 2026

Friday 4th July 2026 is an INSET day and school will be closed to all students.

Safeguarding

[Safeguarding at Kendrick School](#)

[You vs Train](#) Every time someone trespasses on the railway they risk everything that matters to them.

That's why You vs Train and [British Transport Police](#) are urging parents and carers to talk to teenagers about rail safety and the devastating potential impact of trespass to them, friends and family, and the wider community. Please talk to your child about this information.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

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

[Confidence and Self-Esteem: Just the Facts](#) Self-esteem refers to how you feel about yourself overall; how positive you feel about yourself and the amount of self-love you have. Confidence and self-esteem is something you can build on and find ways that work for you to help you achieve this.

SEND

[Reading's SEND Local Offer](#). The SEND Local Offer is here to help you find information about local services, support, activities and events for children and young people aged 0 - 25 years who have special educational needs or disabilities (SEND).

School Fund

Please donate to our School Fund [here](#). You can make one-off payments through your ParentPay account or complete a [standing order form](#) for more regular payments. If you are a UK taxpayer, please ensure you also complete a [Gift Aid Form](#).

A school fund is maintained by voluntary contributions from the parents/carers of students. Its purpose is to provide an additional source of funding for the provision of facilities and educational resources for the benefit of students. We use our School Fund to support so many activities **in and out of** school that have now become essential to school life.

Canteen

The Spring/Summer menu can be found [here](#). **Please ensure that you regularly check your child's canteen balance on their ParentPay account and settle any 'overdrafts' quickly.** Overdrafts should only be issued on an exceptional basis and not as a regular occurrence.

[Latest News on our Website](#)

[Earth Week 2026](#)

School Calendar

Week commencing 15th June 2026 – Week A

Public exams

Tuesday 16th June Biology Field Trip

Thursday 18th June Trustees Resources Meeting, 4.30pm

Student Careers and Work Experience

[Current Opportunities](#)

Vacancies

No current vacancies

ParentPay and Evolve Reminders

[Latest Reminders for ParentPay and Evolve](#)

Kendrick Parents' Society (KPS)

[Weekly News – Friday 12th June 2026](#)