

Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Friday 20th October 2023

LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

More Poetry! Poetry seems to reign at Kendrick at the moment and there has been another notable success for a Kendrick student, Shravya, who came third in the Hampshire Art Poets Competition run by Hampshire Cultural Trust and Winchester Poetry Festival. Please read Shravya's article [here](#). Today is also the deadline of our own National Poetry Day competition and I am looking forward to reading the entries that will be coming in. There seems to be such an interest in poetry that we have decided to share with you the poem of the week in this Weekly Update which I hope you will enjoy reading. This week's poem is 'A Day in Autumn', R.S.Thomas, please see below.

Elsewhere in the school, A Level Geographers returned from their Field Trip, Biologists across the school have been taking part in Biology Week and so many other activities continue to take place. I attended an assembly on the mentoring programme launched for Years 11 and 12 students, where a sixth form student will work alongside a Year 11 student to support them through the period of GCSEs, as well as the decision-making process for A Levels and Sixth Form studies. At another assembly with Year 7, Ms Grice spoke to the students about an important theme we develop with students at this stage about learning to learn, an approach that can help students get into good learning habits early on in their life at Kendrick. This will be developed further with a study skills session for Year 7 next term. As a reminder to parents and students of clubs and societies available to everyone, here is the updated [list for 2023-24](#). This lists all the extracurricular activities available, as well as what takes place daily. As I have said before some of these are run by teachers, some by senior students.

This week at a CPD session with our teachers, I spoke briefly about how things have been this term. It is important to view education both from a wider perspective as well as what goes on at Kendrick. From the latter point of view there is a lot to celebrate and be grateful for this term. I mentioned that we returned to school in September fully staffed and with the largest cohort of students ever, welcoming 128 students in Year 7 and 153 students in Year 12. We didn't have RACC, the real worry and concern there was for schools up and down the country; our Cedars project had got underway; our GCSE and A Level results were amazing with over 90% of our Year 13 students able to go onto their preferred choices of university and courses. We celebrated 146 years of girls' education on School Birthday and continue to highlight and be inspired by significant women around us, most recently in Black History month. And daily we celebrate and are constantly in awe of what our students do whether it being writing pieces of profound poetry, tackling enormously difficult maths and science problems, speaking different languages, writing erudite essays, or just the joy and pleasure they can give us as students in lessons. I have observed several lessons this term and can see that there is a joy and engagement in learning at all levels in the school, and there are good relationships and interactions that exist between students and staff every day. Sometimes we can take all these things for granted and focus on the little things that niggle and annoy us rather than what is really happening.

I would like to thank staff and students for all their efforts and hard work. Also, parents, we appreciate and understand the vital role you play in how school life works, and I thank you for the support and encouragement you give us. I hope the messages we send to you every week about safeguarding and mental health and wellbeing are read and looked at so that you feel there is support for you in your parenting responsibilities of our young people. The information is there for you to use as and when you need it, so please be aware of what there is available for the times when either you or a family member needs it.

It has been a long and busy term; I hear and see how tired people are feeling. I encourage all students and staff to have good break from schoolwork this holiday, finding things to do things for their own pleasure and at their own pace. It is important that we restore and recharge ourselves for the winter months ahead and hope that things outside of our control are a little calmer by the time we return.

With very best wishes to you, I hope that you have a pleasant and peaceful half term.

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 a Designated Safeguarding Officer.

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 will be adding 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 wellbeing 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

COUNTY LINES - CODE

A free show about County Lines, aimed at Year 6 and above is touring the country is coming to the Select Car Leasing Stadium in Reading on Saturday 28 October at 10.30am & 1.30pm.

CODE, presented by Justice in Motion, tells the story of a young person who falls prey to a gang and is groomed and coerced to start drug running. The show includes stunt bike riders, parkour athletes, skateboarders, theatre performers and a rap artist.

This show is being brought to Reading by the *Community Safety Partnership* and *Safer Streets 4*. It is supported by *Reading Borough Council*, [Dance Reading](#) and *Reading Football Club* as a continuation of 'Olly's Work', started with the Armoured Heart earlier this year. This sculpture was created in partnership with young people to raise awareness of the dangers of carrying a knife.


For more details about the show itself, visit: <https://whatsonreading.com/venues/reading-borough-council/whats-on/code>.

AVENUES OF SUPPORT FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Under 25s	Over 25s	Parents
 Text YM to 85258 Open 24/7	 Call 0300 123 3393 9am - 6pm, Mon - Fri	 Call 0808 802 5544 9:30am - 4pm, Mon - Fri
 Call 0808 808 4994 3pm - 12am, every day	 Call 116 123 Open 24/7	
 Call 0800 1111 7:30am - 3:30am, every day	 For more advice and information visit: youngminds.org.uk/find-help	

SUMMARY OF SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION – OCTOBER 2023

For a round-up of all the safeguarding information shared with parents and carers over the past term, please click [here](#).



National Online Safety **STAYING SAFE ONLINE**

Below is a list of the online safety information we have shared with you this term.

- [WHAT PARENTS AND CARERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT AMONG US](#)
- [WHAT PARENTS AND CARERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT LIVE STREAMING](#)
- [TOP TIPS FOR SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING](#)
- [WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT WHATSAPP](#)
- [WHAT PARENTS AND CARERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT YOUTUBE](#)
- [WHAT PARENTS AND CARERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT INFLUENCERS](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

SELF-CARE

Source: [YoungMinds](#)

Self-care' is a phrase you've probably come across, but what does it really mean?

Judging by what we see in adverts or on social media, we might think it's all about candles, yoga and luxury bath bombs. We might think it costs a lot of money and takes a lot of time. And we might feel like it isn't for us. But is that really what it's all about?



In its simplest form, self-care is just the little things we do to look after our own mental health. It's about trying to listen to how we are feeling and understanding what we need, even if it's difficult, so we can care for ourselves.

This could mean taking a timeout when we're feeling overwhelmed; it could mean making time to do an activity that we know makes us feel good; or it could be as simple as making sure to do the basics like eating and sleeping well when we're struggling.

For more information on self-care and how to make it work for you, visit the Young Minds website [here](#).

For many parents and carers, finding time for yourself can be a challenge as you juggle family and relationships with your home and work life. This can be especially true if you are supporting a child or young person with their mental health. For the Anna Freud self-care resource for parents and carers please click [here](#).

KENDRICK SCHOOL WELLBEING NEWSLETTER

For all our **Wellbeing Newsletters** please click [here](#).

POEM OF THE WEEK

A Day in Autumn

by R.S. Thomas

It will not always be like this,
The air windless, a few last
Leaves adding their decoration
To the trees' shoulders, braiding the cuffs
Of the boughs with gold; a bird preening

In the lawn's mirror. Having looked up
From the day's chores, pause a minute,
Let the mind take its photograph
Of the bright scene, something to wear
Against the heart in the long cold.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"That which is loved is always beautiful." -
Norwegian Proverb

SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR TERM 2, 2023-24

Monday 30th October

Wednesday 1st November

Thursday 2nd November

Start of Term 2, 8.25am WEEK B

KPS AGM, 7.30pm

Governors L&T Committee, 4.30pm

Wednesday 7 th November	Post-16 Conference
Thursday 9 th November	Sixth Form Open Evening
Monday 12 th November	Start of Anti-Bullying Week
Tuesday 14 th November	Kindness Day
Thursday 16 th November	Profiling Day
Monday 20 th November	Start of Fringe Fortnight
Thursday 23 rd November	Year 11 Parents' Consultation
Monday 27 th November	Dance Enterprise Day
Wednesday 29 th November	Presentation of the GCSE Certificates
Thursday 30 th September	Year 13 Parent Consultation
	Governor P&R Committee, 4.30pm
Thursday 7 th December	FGB, 4.30pm
Friday 8 th December	Christmas Jumper Day
	Year 12 Climate Conference
Wednesday 13 th December	School Canteen Christmas Lunch
Friday 15 th December	End of Term 2, 3.15pm

The school calendar for the academic year can be found [here](#). For the Term Dates for 2023-24 and 2024-25 please click [here](#)

NEWS, NOTICES, COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS



NO STOPPING IN EAST STREET

Please can we remind all parents and carers that there is **no stopping or parking on East Street at any time**. We have had a number of complaints from our own parents and members of the public, about parking on the pavement in East Street to drop off students, resulting in pedestrians, including our students, having to walk on the road which is very dangerous. We are working with the Local Authority to install no stopping signs and red lines on East Street because of the issues that a few parents are creating. Thank you to those parents and carers who park away from the school in a safe place to drop off their child.

HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND APPLICATIONS OPEN

Reading residents on low incomes who may be struggling with the cost of living can now apply for financial aid from RBC's Household Support Fund. Priority will be given to low-income households who are at higher risk of falling into crisis. Successful applicants will receive an initial payment of £125, although this is subject to change depending on demand.

Householders can apply for support on the council's website at: <https://www.reading.gov.uk/housing/money-matters/household-support-fund/>

SURVEY ON INVITATIONS FOR CHILDHOOD VACCINATIONS

The local NHS is seeking the views of parents, carers and people working with families to help decide how to send invitations for routine childhood vaccinations. [The survey](#) should only take five minutes to complete and closes on 22 January 2024.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEND) NEWS AND UPDATES

UNIVERSITY OF READING – WELLBEING HUB LAUNCH: 9TH NOVEMBER 2023

Date: 9th November, 2023

Time: 19:00 – 21:00 (in person)/19:00 – 20:15 (online)

Location: Palmer Building, G10 lecture theatre, Whiteknights Campus, or online

Please join us for the launch of the new Centre for Autism Wellbeing Hub at the University of Reading. The aim of Hub is to support autistic young people and their families to lead their best lives. By focusing on autistic thriving, we hope to create an inclusive community where, through meaningful collaboration, autistic young people, their families, and supporting professionals can explore what is important to autistic people in terms of living a good life.

During this hybrid (in person and online) event, we will give a detailed overview of the project and set out how the autism community can be involved in shaping its future direction. It will include talks from:

- [Professor Robert Van de Noort](#), Vice-Chancellor of the University of Reading
- [Professor Carmel Houston-Price](#), Head of the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences
- [Sarah O'Brien](#), autistic advocate, academic, published author and University of Reading alumnus
- [Dr Fiona Knott](#) and [Dr Jo Billington](#), Wellbeing Hub project leads

For those attending in person, after the talks there will be refreshments and the chance to review the latest autism-related research from members of the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences.

OCTOBER HALF-TERM SEND SHORT BREAKS

The short breaks for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities in Reading this October half-term are now available. The details of the programme, funded by BFfC, are on the Reading SEND Local Offer and include:

- [Reading Play, Ranger Station](#)
- [Multi-Sport Camps with Reading FC Community Trust](#)
- [Play Camp for 5-7 year olds with Reading FC Community Trust](#)
- [Make/Sense Theatre](#)
- [Chance to Dance Stars CIC – Dance and Multi Activity Programme](#)

SEND GUIDE FOR PARENTS/CARERS

A quick and easy guide for parent carers of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Updated by Brighter Futures for Children (BFfC) August 2023.

This guide has been put together with parent carers, in partnership with other services, to help families access information on local SEND services for children, young people with additional needs.

Please find attached the updated guide here - [Reading Directory | SEND Guide for Parent Carers](#)

[SEND Local Offer Newsletter - Summer 2023](#)

VACANCIES

We have a vacancy for a full time **School Caretaker** to join us in November 2023 and a part-time **Computer Teacher** to join us in January 2024. Please click on the links below for details of the roles and how to apply. Please share this information with family and friends.

[Computer Teacher for January 2024 \(0.3FTE\)](#)

[Biology and Chemistry Technician for Term 4 \(22½ hours a week\)](#)

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.

PARENTPAY REMINDERS

We would like to bring to your attention the following ParentPay items, please login to your ParentPay accounts for details.

KPS department birthday gift - celebrating Kendrick's 145th year

School Fund Donation

Coach trips to Palmer Stadium: Athletics Season – Term 5 2023

Whitley Community Food Cupboard – cash donations

A level Maths calculator

Year 10 and Year 11 A performance of a Christmas Carol- 6th November 2023

Year 9 and Year 10 French Play – March 2024

Year 9 and Year 10 German Play – March 2024

Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award – 2024

Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award – 2024

Trips

Year 12 Wokingham Waterside Centre trip

Year 10 French and German trips - June 2024

Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award – 2024

Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award – 2024

KENDRICK PARENTS' SOCIETY (KPS)

KPS AGM

Our Annual General Meeting is on **1st November from 6pm to 8pm**. We will appoint a new body of parents who will work as a committee to achieve the objectives of KPS. There are statutory roles to be filled and we are looking for parents to join the committee. Here are the roles: Chairperson, Secretary, Co-treasurer and Membership Secretary

If you are willing to be connected to the school and feel committed and dedicated to make a difference to you and the school, then please email at KPSChair@Kendrick.reading.sch.uk.