

Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Friday 4th November 2022

LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

Welcome back to Term 2. I hope everyone has had a good break over the holiday.

I will begin by highlighting some items on our website detailing activities that students have been involved in recently.

- [Year 12 Waterside Orienteering Trip](#)
- [National Poetry Celebrations](#)
- [Thank you to KPS for the Buzzbee Books](#)
- [Girls' Chess Championship 2022-2023](#)
- [Upper School and Sixth Form Chamber Concert](#). I mentioned how superb this concert was in my last update.
- [Halloween Celebrations](#)

Please take time to read these articles.

I have the great pleasure of working with Year 7 this year in one of their English lessons, supporting them with a key element of their English curriculum, reading. This has enabled me to get to know Year 7 students better and for them to get to know me. Most of the lesson is spent on individual reading, as well as some discussion on the books they are reading. Before the end of term, they each received a gift of a book of their choice sponsored by the Kendrick Parents' Society through the BookBuzz initiative which is supported by the Book Trust. In the last lesson of Term 1, I spent some time asking students about their first term at Kendrick, their first impressions and their likes and dislikes. Overwhelmingly, the students said that they were very happy to be at Kendrick. They described the school community as welcoming and friendly. They said they enjoyed their learning which is varied and fun. They could see that their teachers worked hard to make their lessons interesting. They highlighted the new subjects they study now that they did not study at primary school, for example, Textiles, Art, Food, Science and they appreciated how all their teachers take time and effort to help them in their studies. They also said that the work is challenging, homework is fair and not too onerous and that they work hard every day. They spoke about the need to be organised and prompt getting to their lessons and they were very pleased that they are no longer getting lost getting from one place to another! Finally they were unanimous in saying that their teachers and the staff are all very kind and friendly. I hope the same impression is being reported to parents at home.

A feature of the school that the Year 7 commented on was the Clubs and Societies that exist. Whilst they appreciated the number and variety of clubs available to them, their frustration was that many took place on the same day! As I have said before, Kendrick has a huge variety of clubs and only this week two more have being added to the list: Shakespeare Society and Muslim Club/Association (name to be confirmed). A link to the Clubs and Societies can be found [here](#).

Another point that the Year 7 students raised was the sense of community they feel there is at Kendrick, something that we all work very hard to encourage. This is about helping everyone at Kendrick feel that they belong and are valued, as well as feel safe in our school. This kindness and generosity of spirit that I believe we have at Kendrick is something I always want to promote. As we move towards the Christmas season and the preparations that everyone makes at this time of the year, I have been speaking with the Kendrick Students Leaders about how we should approach the coming weeks when there is an expectation that everything should be fun and everyone will be happy

when that may not be the case for all. What I know that we can do is demonstrate our generosity of spirit and understanding of others.

I have been inspired again by a couple of specific occasions this week. Firstly, a conversation with Mrs Kaur who leads the Eco Group, who conveyed to me the huge enthusiasm and passion the students in this group have for challenging and improving our attitude and practice towards the environment. They have a long agenda of things they would like us all to do at Kendrick, including reducing waste and recycling more, reducing energy and personal consumption, challenging what we eat and the over consumption of meat, including in our own canteen where they want to see more vegetarian options, plus giving people Eco challenges to complete. To emphasise their commitment to this cause, the school was encouraged to support the Global Schools' Day of Action yesterday.

Secondly, yesterday I attended an assembly given by Mrs Cooper, Head of Year 10, to KS4 students. The assembly was entitled Being an Inclusive Community. Mrs Cooper highlighted the huge richness and diversity of our community and what a strength this is of our school. She presented the view that for us to be an inclusive community we need to understand each other better. She mentioned the need to be empathetic to people's identity, the similarities and differences we each have, our backgrounds, traditions and celebrations and the choices we make. She summed up the assembly by saying to be more inclusive, we need to get to know each other better, be mindful of people's individual situations and be kind and respectful towards one another.

Some valuable thoughts for us to reflect on this weekend.

Best wishes

Ms Christine Kattirtzi, Headteacher

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.

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 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 – ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 14TH TO 18TH NOVEMBER 2022

Every November schools throughout the United Kingdom take part in Anti-Bullying Week. This is an opportunity to shine a spotlight on bullying and consider the steps we can take together to stop it. Anti-Bullying Week 2022 is taking place from **Monday 14th to Friday 18th November** this year and it has the theme 'Reach Out'.

The Anti-Bullying Week 2022 call to action is "Bullying affects millions of lives and can leave us feeling hopeless. But it doesn't have to be this way. If we challenge it, we can change it. And it starts by reaching out. From teachers to parents and influencers to politicians, we all have a responsibility to help each other reach out. It takes courage, but it can change lives. So, this Anti-Bullying Week, let's come together and reach out to stop bullying"

As a parent or carer, you are a vital piece of the puzzle in tackling bullying. You have a unique role to play in guiding and supporting your child through their school years and there are lots of positive steps you can take to help keep your child safe from bullying and harm. We will be sharing information during this week with parents and carers, students and staff to help do this.

Our Kendrick School pledge is what we expect out students and staff to abide by on a daily basis:

We, the students, staff and friends of Kendrick School, pledge to uphold the values of friendship, kindness and respect. We promise to stand against prejudice, ignorance and injustice in all its forms, promoting the values of equality, tolerance and justice for all.

The Kendrick School Anti-Bullying policy can be found via this [link](#).

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING – ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

[Action for Happiness](#) offer a free online programme to boost your wellbeing called '**10 Days of Happiness**'.

We all want to look after our mental wellbeing, but this can be hard to do – especially in challenging times. This program helps you learn simple daily actions which are proven to give you a boost and help you feel happier.

10 Days of Happiness is a free online program to boost your wellbeing, through daily actions for happier living. It is designed for challenging times, based on latest research from positive psychology, neuroscience and behavioural science. And it takes just a few minutes each day!

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
28	29	30					

New Ways November 2022

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS **Happier · Kinder · Together**

To join the programme click [here](#)

The November Action for Happiness calendar, encouraging us to try something new, is above.

CALENDAR FOR TERM 2, 2022-23

Saturday 5th November	Pre-Loved Uniform Shop – 9-11am, Conservatory
Tuesday 8th November	Year 11 Post 16 Conference Widening Horizons Information Evening, 4.15pm
Thursday 10th November	Sixth Form Open Evening (Year 11 internal and external students and parents only)
Friday 11th November	Year 12 Geography Climate Conference
Thursday 17th November	Profiling Day
Thursday 24th November	Year 13 Parents' Consultation
Friday 25th November	KPS Year 8 Film Night, 3.30pm to 6.00pm
Tuesday 29th November	Year 11 Parents' Consultation Presentation of the GCSE Certificates, 2.15pm
Wednesday 30th November	KPS Meeting, 6pm, online
Thursday 1st December	German Christmas Market Trip departs (returns on 3/12) P&R Governors Meeting, 4.30pm
Friday 2nd December	Former Student Reunion Event
Thursday 8th December	Full Governing Body (FGB) Meeting, 4.30pm Winter Concert, 6.30pm
Monday 12th December	Opera Trip for KS4 and 5
Friday 16th December	End of Term 2, 1.05pm
Tuesday 3rd January	Inset Day
Wednesday 4th January	Start of Term 3, 8.25am

The school calendar for the academic year can be found [here](#). For the Term Dates for 2022-23 and 2023-24 please click [here](#)

NEWS, NOTICES AND EVENTS

SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

Reading Borough Council has announced how it will be using the Household Support Fund to help struggling families in Reading. Energy vouchers worth £49 are being distributed to eligible families and grants are being provided to local voluntary and community groups to help vulnerable residents with food and warm clothes for the winter. You can find details on the [RBC news website](#).

FIREWORK CODE

Only adults should deal with setting up firework displays, the lighting of fireworks and the safe disposal of fireworks once they have been used.

Children and young people should be supervised, and watch and enjoy fireworks at a safe distance. Follow these top 10 tips for a safer fireworks party:

1. Plan your firework display to make it safe and enjoyable, and check the time you can legally set off fireworks
2. In England, Scotland and Wales only buy fireworks which carry the UKCA marks. In the case of Northern Ireland look for the UKNI symbol. You may also see the UKNI mark along with the UKCA symbol. Keep your fireworks in a closed box, and use them one at a time
3. Read and follow the instructions on each firework using a torch if necessary

4. Light the firework at arm's length with a taper and stand well back
5. Keep naked flames, including cigarettes, away from fireworks
6. Never return to a firework once it has been lit
7. Don't put fireworks in pockets and never throw them
8. Direct any rocket fireworks well away from spectators
9. Never use paraffin or petrol on a bonfire
10. Make sure that the fire is out and surroundings are made safe before leaving.

Sparkler safety

Sparklers are often viewed as being harmless but they burn at fierce temperatures, equivalent to a welding torch. Follow these top tips for sparkler safety:

- It is recommended that sparklers are not given to under-5s
- Make sure everyone handling sparklers wears gloves
- Hold sparklers at arm's length while being lit and light them one at a time
- Don't wave sparklers about close to other people
- Never hold a baby in your arms while you are holding a sparkler
- When the sparkler has finished put it in a bucket of cold water.

Bonfire safety

- One person should be responsible for the bonfire and children should be supervised
- Choose a site away from wooden fences, sheds and where children will be playing
- Never pour petrol, paraffin or meths on to a fire - it's safer to use fire lighters to prevent flare-ups
- Keep a bucket of water handy in case of an accident
- Avoid loose clothing and tie back long hair
- After the party, pour water on the fire, rather than leaving it to burn out.

SAFER STREETS PUBLIC EVENT

Reading Borough Council has secured funding to help reduce crime, provide safe spaces for young people, improve safety at night and make some areas of the town more welcoming. The Community Safety Partnership is holding a Safer Streets Drop-in session for people to find out more and share their thoughts. The event is taking place at the Civic Offices, in Bridge Street, on Monday 14 November, 12noon-2pm and 6-8.30pm. You can also [complete a short survey online](#).

STEVENSONS – TEMPORARY STORE CLOSURE

Flooding has meant that Stevensons has had to temporarily close their Reading store. They plan to reopen on Tuesday 3rd January 2023 but you can still continue to order online for home delivery via their website www.stevensons.co.uk. For customers who would prefer to collect their items directly, they will be operating a click and collect service the store on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays between 10am and 4pm from the 8th November to 17th December.

VACANCIES

EXAM INVIGILATORS

Casual Contract
£11.07 per hour
For December 2022

We are looking to expand our team of casual Exam Invigilators to support our friendly and supportive Exams Office with the running of all public and internal examinations throughout the academic year. We are looking for highly organised and reliable individuals who have excellent attention to detail and can remain calm under pressure at all times.

Your role would include supervising students taking public and internal examinations, preparing the exams rooms, and distributing and collecting exam papers in accordance with JCQ regulations. Previous experience of exam invigilation is desirable but full training would be given. This is a casual contract and working hours would be negotiated for each exam period. Flexibility to be able to be called in at short notice would be an advantage.

Please see our website for more information on the role and how to apply.

Closing date for applications: Friday 18th November 2022

Application Form **Application Pack**

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

Vacancies at Reading School

- [Teacher of English \(Maternity Cover\)](#) – starting January 2023
- [Cover Supervisor \(Fixed Term\)](#) – immediate start (pending relevant checks)
- [Alumni and Development Assistant \(Maternity Cover\)](#) – starting November / December 2022
- [Catering Manager](#) – immediate start (pending relevant checks)

For more information please visit the Reading School website [here](#).

PARENTPAY REMINDERS

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

- 2022 Biology Week: Design a Biology Tote Bag
- Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award
- Year 10 and 11 GCSE Music Anthologies book purchase
- Year 12 A Level Maths Graphics Calculator
- Year 10 and Year 11 GCSE English set texts
- Year 12 and Year 13 A-Level English set texts
- Year 12 and Year 13 Disney Dress up Day

October trips

- Year 12 Wokingham Waterside Centre trip 4th October 2022.
- Year 10 MFL French and German trips 9th to 14th October 2022
- Year 13 A Level Geography Residential Field Course 12th to 16th October 2022
- Year 12 Biology Brain Afternoon 20th October 2022

November trips

- Year 11 Drama trip A Monster Calls 11th November 2022

December trips

- Year 11 12 13 Christmas Market trip to Germany 1st to 4th December 2022
- Tosca Royal Opera House trip GCSE and A level Music – 12th December 2022

KENDRICK PARENTS' SOCIETY (KPS)

Preloved Uniform Shop

The KPS run **second-hand uniform shop will be open this Saturday, 5th November from 9 to 11 am** in the Conservatory. Parking is available in Cedars car park along London Road (after the dentist and before Turks pub). Payment by cash, cheque or card is possible. We are expanding the available stock with second hand water bottles, school shoes and coats. This is getting popular among parents now and we are seeing a lot of parents benefitting from this shop. We would recommend you to drop in if you haven't yet, to see what is on offer!

Year 8 Film Night

After the success of Year 7 movie night, we are planning to run the **Year 8 Film Night**. All Year 8 students will be sent out a Google form asking them to make the choice of the movie name. We will communicate to you with a ticket link as soon as things have progressed. **We strongly recommend students are picked up after the event**. In the meantime, we are looking for Year 8 parent volunteers to help us with refreshments on the day. If any parent can spend their afternoon with the students selling them refreshments, please contact kpschair@kendrick.reading.sch.uk or kpssecretary@kendrick.reading.sch.uk. The date of the film night is on **Friday 25th November from 3.30pm to 6pm**.