

Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Friday 3rd November 2023

LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

Welcome back to Term 2, I hope everyone has had a refreshing break over the holiday. I will start by highlighting a couple of items on our website which once again relate to our talented and ever-growing number of poets!

[Poetic Success for Shravya](#)

[Hundreds of Haikus for National Poetry Day](#)

Yesterday the winners of our own National Poetry Day Competition and other related competitions were announced and we will hear more about this in due course. Reflecting on this distinctive feature of our school with Miss Akcay yesterday, one of our English Teachers and passionate advocate of poetry, we discussed the power of poetry in everyone's life and how it can lift our spirits and mood to help manage daily life. We also agreed that poetry at Kendrick is becoming a wonderful platform of expression for so many of our students who use poetry to articulate their emotions and feelings on a range of topics. I think my reference to poetry in the Weekly Update also resonates with some parents as I have received a couple of positive pieces of feedback when I have included poems in my messages to you. Thank you to the two parents who did give feedback recently.

Another area of stimulating school life are our displays areas around the school and in the [library](#) which are regularly updated so that students can look at, read, and be inspired by what they see. A walk around the corridors in main school, for example, people can see some of the amazing artwork and pottery that students have painted and made in Art lessons, including pieces that have been part of students' A Level and GCSE submissions. Yesterday I popped into the Art Department and briefly observed a couple of lessons with Mrs Souch and Year 7 who was teaching and demonstrating painting skills to the students, and Miss Long with Year 12 who were discussing how to prepare and analyse the work of a painter of their choice.

I often talk about Safeguarding and it is an area that is always discussed with staff and students as it is a key priority for all schools. A series of assemblies given by me, and Mr Simmonds, Deputy Head and Designated Safeguarding Lead, have been given to all students across the school since the start of the academic year and we regularly send information and guidance to staff, students and parents, as well as post information on our [website](#). At Kendrick School we endeavour to create a culture of safeguarding in school where everyone feels safe and where all our staff understand that they need to be vigilant and aware when a child needs help or feels unsafe. This culture of safeguarding must be worked at and made a priority for everyone which I believe we do at Kendrick. As with all things in education, getting a second opinion about what we do in school can provide us with objective suggestions and strengthen our systems. To that end we are having a Safeguarding Audit, conducted by an organisation called Judicium, on Monday 6th November. Questionnaires have been sent to staff and students to complete. In addition, later in the term we will complete the annual safeguarding audit for the Local Authority.

This week the Kendrick Parents' Society (KPS) held its annual AGM at which the committee of 2022-2023 stepped down and a new committee for 2023-24 was elected. I will leave the new committee to introduce themselves to everyone in due course, but I would like to say a few words about the outgoing committee and, in particular, Mrs Gayatri Hariharan, who has been the Chair of KPS for the last six years. Mrs Hariharan took on the role of Chair in 2017-18 when her child joined Kendrick School in Year 7. Over the last six years Mrs Hariharan has developed a structured organisation for KPS that has aims and vision for the society. Working with a group of dedicated parents, committed to supporting the education of students at Kendrick School, Mrs Hariharan has worked tirelessly to raise money, create

groups of connected parents and students, led countless fund-raising events including Diwali celebrations, Summer and Christmas Fairs, raffles and so many other big and small events to bring together parents and students of Kendrick School. All of this, Mrs Hariharan has done with an infectious enthusiasm and passion. I believe that thousands of pounds have been raised by Mrs Hariharan's committee over the period she has led KPS. These funds have enabled the school to purchase equipment and resources across all departments and areas of the school benefiting the whole school community. On behalf of all of us, staff, students, and parents, I would like to thank Gayatri for her excellent leadership, dedication, and service to KPS and Kendrick School over so many years.

Please read the rest of the Weekly Update for important information.

Wishing everyone a pleasant weekend,

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.



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

SUMMARY OF SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION

[Term 1 2023-24](#)

HOW TO KEEP CHILDREN SAFE ON BONFIRE NIGHT

Source: Twinkl

Bonfire night is a thrilling time for adults and children alike. However, we can't hide away from the fact that firework celebrations can end in injury if safety rules are not in place. According to the Child Accident Prevention Trust, more than 550 children under 16 are taken to A&E in the weeks surrounding bonfire night.

Teaching your child some bonfire safety rules can help prevent these injuries so that bonfire night can be enjoyed by all.



How do you stay safe around fireworks?

- Your child should not "help out" with your fireworks display.
- Your child should never touch, throw, play with or light fireworks.
- When you're watching the fireworks displays, stand well back from any firework that has been lit, even if it has not gone off.
- If you have any pets, please ensure you keep them indoors.

How do you stay safe with sparklers?

- You or your child should wear gloves when holding sparklers.
- Make sure an adult is always present when sparklers are lit.
- Keep a bucket of sand or water handy to put the used sparklers in.
- You should have a discussion with your child about not touching the lit end of the sparkler.
- Although waving a sparkler is very tempting, make sure your child keeps it away from their face, clothes or other people.
- If your child is under five years old, a grown-up should handle the sparkler for safety reasons.

How do you stay safe around bonfires?

- Stand far back at a safe distance from the fire with your child.
- Children should never attempt to help an adult light a bonfire. Bonfires can be unpredictable and extremely dangerous therefore a child should never assist in lighting, even if the bonfire is relatively small.



National Online Safety **STAYING SAFE ONLINE**

WHAT PARENTS AND CARERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT X

The social media network formerly known as Twitter has undergone numerous alterations since its change of ownership and rebranding as X – and many of these recent developments have proved controversial. With any user now simply able to pay a fee for account verification, for example, the once-reliable 'blue tick' system has become largely meaningless. It's just one of several changes that have set the social media giant on what many consider a concerning path in online safety terms. This guide provides a run-down of the most significant tweaks

made to X; their potential safeguarding implications; and how to help ensure young people minimise the risks while they continue to use the service.

[WHAT PARENTS AND CARERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT X](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

LONELINESS

You don't need to be physically alone or cut off to feel lonely. You might be surrounded by other people. But it can feel like you're on your own or that no one understands how you feel. Loneliness can make us feel down.

Help and information is available from Childline. Please click [here](#) for more information.

KENDRICK SCHOOL WELLBEING NEWSLETTER

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

POEM OF THE WEEK

Dwelling

by Andrew Rudd

I am not there	I am not them	I rest from doing,	This is the place
I am not then	I am not you	need not achieve.	for me to be.
I am nowhere else	I am myself.	I do not ask	
but here.		I do not need.	Here I am.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well." - Julian of Norwich

SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR TERM 2, 2023-24

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

POPPY APPEAL

Don't forget to bring some change into school to buy poppies and other items for the Poppy Appeal – there will be students walking around selling these items all week during lunch break.

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL

How are your tutor group's plans coming along...? School collection day is Monday 13th Nov. Please work together this week to collect gifts and decorate your shoebox to make it really special. Thanks so much for your help, everyone!

DIWALI LUNCH ON TUESDAY 7TH NOVEMBER IN THE CANTEEN!

1. Chicken tikka masala with rice, cauliflower and peas
2. Sweet potato, chickpea and spinach tikka curry with rice
3. Onion salad, Bombay potatoes, carrot and sultana salad
4. Tandoori chicken stuffed naan with salad
5. Puddings – brownie, yoghurt and all the usual treats

This special meal is the same price as usual.

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.

VACANCIES

We have the following vacancies. 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

We had our AGM this week and the old committee was disbanded and a new committee was formed consisting of enthusiastic parents. They are undergoing induction and orientation into news of working. We will provide you with more details with the list of new committee members in our upcoming newsletter on Monday.

PRE-LOVED UNIFORM SHOP

The shop will be open **this Saturday, 4th November, 9-11am** in the Conservatory. There is some parking available in the Cedars car park.

If you have uniform, PE kit or lab coats to donate, your donation can be left either at Reception or the students can leave it in a collection box by the Servery. A detailed email was sent to you yesterday so please check your emails regularly.

Have a great weekend! **KPS team**