

Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Friday 27th January 2023

LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

Today, 27th January, is **Holocaust Memorial Day**. This date in January marks the time when in 1945, 78 years ago, the Nazi concentration camp in Auschwitz in Poland was liberated by the allies. Since 2001, this date has become the day when we remember the millions of Jews who died in those camps, as well as those who have died in the other genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur. At Kendrick on this day every year we have a whole school assembly to inform our community about such events and remember the people involved. We also highlight the work of the [Holocaust Memorial Trust](#) and consider the theme that the trust suggests each year for us to consider. This year the theme is **Ordinary People** and a few of our A Level History students prepared a presentation on this theme for the assembly. In addition, a [new display has been put up in the library](#) and vestibule and our annual [Holocaust Poetry Competition](#) has been launched. Also, two of the history students will be embarking on a visit to Auschwitz on the **Lessons from Auschwitz** programme sponsored by the Trust next month.

On Wednesday evening, the PE Department presented to parents an **Evening of Dance** following the Dance Enterprise Day last week. As always, the event was a super spectacle of talent and creativity showcasing dance routines on a given theme from students in Years 7-10. Thank you to Mrs Watkins and the PE Department for organising this great highlight of our school calendar and providing the students with such a great opportunity to express themselves through dance and music.

This week 6th Form students were introduced to this year's round of **Bursaries and Grants** which are available to students across the school. Some of these grants apply to students across the whole school and some to students in specific year groups. The link to the information is [here](#). I urge students and parents to look at the various awards available and the opportunities that are being provided to our students to apply for some money to explore an interest they may have.

I have communicated information to all parents about the strike action in schools next Wednesday 1st February. All students in Years 10-13 will be in school. Students in Years 7-9 are asked to be at home for the day. Further details can be found below in the Weekly Update.

I will finish this week's update as I finished the assembly this morning by sharing with you again our Kendrick Pledge. The pledge came about from a visit I made to Auschwitz over 10 years ago with two History students on the *Lessons from Auschwitz* programme. The lesson we brought back from the trip was a determination to inform our community of the worst of human behaviour and try to teach our community how they can be the best versions of themselves. Our pledge is an aspiration that is intended for all of us to endeavour to be a decent and caring individual, kind and respectful to others. I know that at times not everyone's behaviour is in line with the pledge, however this statement of our values is intended to give us a constant reminder of how we ought to behave and be with each other. Perhaps this weekend parents and students may like to consider the words and intent of the pledge particularly in the context of marking Holocaust Memorial Day.

*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 and ignorance and injustice in all its forms,
promoting the values of equality, tolerance and justice for all.*

Wishing everyone a good 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.



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 **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 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 – BLUE WHALE CHALLENGE

Please read the information via this [link](#) and below produced by the **UK Safer Internet Centre** on the Blue Whale Challenge which has recently been in the news:

“[Our Professionals Online Safety Helpline](#) has recently [seen an increase in the number of calls that they have received about the ‘Blue Whale story’](#). We have written this advice for those who are concerned about this story, as well as expert opinions and other news stories to help support professionals and parents who might be concerned about young people online.

What is the ‘Blue Whale story’?

In the last month many media outlets have reported on the so called ‘Blue Whale’ phenomenon which has been claimed to be responsible for a number of teenager’s deaths in Russia.

It is through research and consultation with other colleagues at the time of this blog it has come to our attention that the ‘Blue Whale’ is an example of a sensationalised fake news story.

Snopes, online fact checking website, have found that although there have been reports of young people committing suicide in Russia over the last six months, of these reported cases [none have been found to have had a conclusive tie to the 'Blue Whale'.](#)

To read the report in full please click [here](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING – WEBINAR: SUPPORTING TEENS THROUGH DIFFICULT TIMES: TEENAGE BRAIN, EXAM STRESS AND PERFECTIONISM

We are delighted to confirm that we will be hosting a Webinar on **Thursday 2nd February 2023 at 6.15pm** focused on **'Supporting Teens through difficult times: teenage brain, exam stress and perfectionism'**. All parents and students are invited to attend, but the information is aimed at those in Years 9-13.

The Charlie Waller Trust has been working alongside Dr John Coleman who is a leading expert in the field of teenage brain development. Jenny Langley is one of their lead trainers in this area and in this session, Jenny will talk us through the latest research around the development of the teenage brain, which starts from around the age of 8 and runs through to the mid-twenties. Understanding some of these key changes can help us to see the world through the teenage lens more clearly, and therefore to come alongside our youngsters when they are struggling with pressures such as exam stress, perfectionist tendencies and other social developmental issues. The session will include practical tips in communicating with your teenager in the face of difficulties.

Free tickets can be obtained from Eventbrite via this [link](#).

SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR TERM 3, 2022-23

Wednesday 1st February	NEU Strike Day -Years: 7-9 work at home; Years 10-13 school as normal
Thursday 2nd February	Resources Governors Committee 'Supporting Teams through difficult times: teenage brain, exam stress and perfectionism' webinar, 6pm
Monday 6th February	Start of Year 11 Sixth Form Consultation meetings
Tuesday 7th February	Year 8 Parents' Consultations
Thursday 9th February	P&R Governors' Committee House Drama, 6.30pm
Friday 10th February	End of Term 3, 3.15pm

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

STRIKE ACTION – WEDNESDAY 1ST FEBRUARY 2023

As you will be aware, members of the National Education Union (NEU), one of the trade unions representing the teaching profession, will take strike action on **Wednesday 1st February 2023**. The number of teachers from Kendrick School that may take action on that day is 39.

On the basis that the number is a significant proportion of the teaching staff, we feel that it would not be possible to open the school safely to all students. Therefore, the year groups we shall prioritise to be **present at school will be Years 10-13. Years 7-9 will stay at home** however; vulnerable students and key worker children will be able to attend. This has been agreed with our Chair of Governors.

On Wednesday 1st February:

- If your child is in **Years 10-13** they should **attend school** as normal that day.
- If your child is in **Years 7-9** they should **stay at home** but will be asked to remotely register at 8.25am, attend online classes if these are available and/or complete work that will be set for them. If you are a critical worker, your child may attend school, however, we must be informed of this by emailing admin@kendrick.reading.sch.uk **by Friday 27th January** at the latest so arrangements can be made. As for Profiling Days, vulnerable students are also able to attend school and our Student Welfare Team (SWT) will make contact with the parents of those students as appropriate.

If you require any clarification on the above, please email my Executive Assistant, Mrs Amanda Emberson-Powney, on aemberson@kendrick.reading.sch.uk.

DESIGN YOUR FUTURE – KENDRICK SCHOOL CAREERS EVENT – THURSDAY 2ND MARCH (YEARS 9-12)



Kendrick School

FREE in-person Careers Event

Thursday 2nd March 2023, 4pm to 6:30pm, Main Hall

Design Your Future

Bespoke careers event exclusively for Kendrick students
in Years 9 to 12 and their parents and carers

An opportunity not to be missed!

Find out about post-16 options

Work Experience
opportunities

Learn about specific sectors,
job roles and career paths

Hear about careers from
high-profile local employers

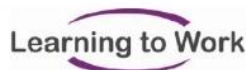
Quality Q&A
with experts

Investigate career entry pathways (qualifications,
relevant degrees, apprenticeships and placements)

Local Market Information (LMI)

Specific enquires: erock@kendrick.reading.sch.uk

Brought to you by



READING TRAVEL REWARDS CHALLENGE

The council is encouraging Reading residents to sign up for the Reading Travel Rewards Challenge this month. Participants can earn points when they leave the car at home and choose to walk, wheel, cycle, scoot or take the bus or train when travelling within the borough. The points can then be redeemed for vouchers at high street stores, restaurants and supermarkets, or donated to charity. You need to download the free Innovation Valley Rewards app to take part and it is available to those aged 13 and over. Read the [RBC press release](#) for details.

SEND FEBRUARY HALF TERM HOLIDAY SHORT BREAKS SESSIONS

The following SEND short breaks for February half term are all funded by BFFC:

- [Reading Play](#) – 14 & 16 Feb
- [Make Sense Theatre](#) - 14 & 15 Feb
- [Play Camps with Reading Community Trust](#) – 13 & 14 Feb
- [Multi Sports with Reading Community Trust](#) – 13, 14 & 15 Feb
- [Chance to Dance Multi Activity Programme](#) – see website for details

FREE CRICKET SESSIONS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SEND

Berkshire Cricket Foundation is running free sessions for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). The one-hour cricket sessions are held at 5pm every Wednesday at Bulmershe Leisure Centre in Woodley. All disabilities are welcome, ages 12-25.

Visit: [Lord's Taverners \(lordstaverners.org\)](http://lordstaverners.org) or email: chris.baker@berkshirecricketfoundation.org.

GLL SPORT FOUNDATION APPLICATIONS OPEN

Applications are now open for the GLL Sport Foundation for young athletes in Reading who could benefit from financial support. The foundation provides athletes under 18 with support in the form of gym membership, monetary funding and other athlete services. Eight Reading-based young athletes benefited from a cumulative £4,300 worth of support in 2022. Applications are open until 20 February 2023 and more information can be found on the [GLL Sport Foundation](#) website.

THE CHRISTOPHER TOWER POETRY COMPETITION, 2023 (AGED 16-18)

Write a poem on the theme of The Planets. Any style or form, maximum 48 lines.

Top prize - £5000. Closing date - 24 February 2023.

For more details see the poster on the English noticeboard, or Ms Fieldsend, or the website www.chch.ox.ac.uk/towerpoetry

MUSIC@KENDRICK

AN EXCITING COMPETITION FOR YOUNG SINGERS

Reading Male Voice Choir is running a competition to promote **TALENTED YOUNG SINGERS**. This is the first year of this competition to promote young talented singers in the Thames Valley area. The competition will take place on **11 March 2023** in Reading.

Three categories and the winner of each category will receive a financial award: **10-13 £100 | 14-16 £200 | 17-21 £300** and will be invited to perform at an **'All Winners' Concert'** with Reading Male Voice Choir to be held on 10 June 2023.

Upload a short video of your performance and it will be judged by a small panel including a qualified adjudicator. Those invited to audition will receive feedback on their performance and a certificate.

The competition is open to male and female soloists and duets. Find out more via this [link](#).

FREE OPPORTUNITY - ORA SINGERS YOUNG COMPOSERS' SCHEME

The award-winning vocal group, ORA Singers, has launched its fourth national **Young Composers' programme** – a **free** scheme aimed at developing the skills of young composers from UK state-schools. The programme sees 10

Young Composers each receive **10 hours of one-to-one mentoring** with **professional composers**, who will help them write a new choral piece which will be **performed and recorded in concert by ORA Singers**. During the scheme, Young Composers have their ideas and sketches workshopped by ORA Singers, who offer specialised tips and advice along with a guest composer.

The 2023 Young Composers scheme will also see up to **40 Apprentices** fast-track their skills in composition through a series of online, in-depth workshops, and will gain invaluable insight into the world of professional composition by hearing from industry experts. Applications are now open: <https://www.orasingers.co.uk/young-composers>

VACANCIES

We have the following vacancies at Kendrick School. Please click on the links for more information on the roles and how to apply and please share with friends and family.

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. Please read the information on our Safer Recruitment procedures [here](#).

[Head of Mathematics](#) to join us in September 2023. Closing date for applications 9am Friday 3rd February 2023

[Head of English](#) to join us in September 2023. Closing date for applications 9am Monday 23rd January 2023

Part-time [Music Teacher](#) to cover a maternity leave – for end of February 2023 or September 2023 to December 2023. Closing date for applications Monday 23rd January 2023.

[Chemistry Technician](#) for April 2023. 37 hours a week, term time only. Closing date for applications 9am Wednesday 8th February 2023.

[Exam Invigilators](#) – for December 2022 and onwards

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. Please could you check your child's account and ensure that any overdrafts are paid. Thank you.

Year 10 and Year 11 GCSE English set texts

Year 12 and Year 13 A-Level English set texts

Year 7, 8 and 9 Food and technology contributions

Year 10 and 11 Art and Textiles contributions

Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award

Year 10 and 11 GCSE Music Anthologies book purchase

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

Year 8 Careers Event - Tuesday 31st January 2023

Evening of Dance - Wednesday 25th January 2023

Trips

Year 11 Rural Villages Geography Field Trip -23rd January 2023

Year 12 Geography Field Trip to Support Shaping Places Diverse Places Unit- 13th January 2023

Year 11 GCSE English poetry live event at the Reading Hexagon -25th January 2023

Year 12 French and History trip- June 2023

Year 12 A level Biology Dale Fort residential trip -June 2023

KENDRICK PARENTS' SOCIETY (KPS)

The latest KPS newsletter can be found [here](#).