

Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Friday 7th July 2023

LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

Despite the challenges of this week, staff and students were able to put on an amazing show last night called **Celebration of Arts**. From the moment one stepped into the vestibule it was clear that there was to be a dazzling array of Art on show for us all to see. From the various kinds of programmes and Creative Writing Anthology on sale, to the art display, there was so much that tempted you into the hall for the impressive key event. Tables were arranged in a café style which meant groups and families could sit together comfortably. The performances included music, drama and dance and in the interval, just to get a taste of the spoken word, in Palmer Library, Ms Fieldsend read extracts of two short stories from the Creative Writing Anthology written by students in Year 10 and 7. Ms Fieldsend said these stories were worthy of being published on a wider scale! Such creative talent across the board capturing art in its broadest sense and allowing students the opportunity to experiment in these different areas to see where their creativity can grow and develop. Of course, none of this happens without the creative minds of the staff who lead and encourage the students on their creative journey. Huge thanks and acknowledgement to Miss Hyde, Mrs Rohweder, Ms Fieldsend, Miss Long, Mrs Souch, plus the peripatetic music staff and volunteers who practised with the students to help produce and present their artistic pieces. Many thanks to the many staff who also attended the event and helped at front of house and backstage. Many thanks and congratulations to the talented and creative students who were involved in last night's superb event.

We are working towards the end of term with one week left until the holidays. We still have one big whole school event which is **Sports Day** on Monday 10th July. Students' summer PE programme has been preparing them for the athletics events that will be held on sports day within the context of inter-house competitions. Sports Day enables us to see another side of students' skills and capabilities and like the Creative Arts event, we will be impressed by what students can do and achieve in sport. Thank you in advance to Ms Watkins and her team and the staff who have organised this event.

Elsewhere we can showcase some other students' talents in the news articles on our website this week:

- [STEM Project Award, achieved by one of our Year 13 students Esha.](#)
- [Reading Inter Schools' Chess Tournament](#)
- ['She plays to win' online Chess Competition](#)
- [Under 13 Town Athletics Championships](#)

I would also like to mention the **Kendrick Summer Fair** last Saturday which was another successful KPS event and gave students, parents and staff the opportunity to have a few hours of fun and entertainment at school. Thank you to the KPS committee and the many students and parents who stepped up to organise and make the day happen.

Another notable activity this week has been the **Art Display of A Level and GCSE work**, which as I have said above was most impressive and thought provoking, reflecting the deep ideas students have when they interpret themes that they have chosen to explore. This year students have been able to complete courses without the compromises imposed in the last few years because of the pandemic which seems to have unleashed even greater talent in the quality of students' work. Thank you to Miss Long and the Art Dept.

There is a lot of work that is going on with Year 12 students which I have mentioned before. This week they had their **Insights Day** where they were introduced to speakers and information about future courses and career paths, they may consider post 18. Organised by Mr Wilson, Deputy Head of Sixth Form, the students heard from several former

students who are at university or on a career path in a chosen subject or profession. This was followed up again by Mr Wilson with a most informative UCAS talk which will be given again next week to parents of Year 12.

The **Kendrick Student Leaders** have been very active these last few weeks with each committee pursuing their area of responsibility. The **Curriculum and Current Affairs Committee** has produced a presentation for students to view at home or in school about current affairs in this last year. The topics they have chosen to focus on are female education, climate change and the economic crisis which they think may be pertinent and of interest to our community. To encourage students to maintain a watchful brief on events this summer, they have also launched a competition – Kendrick Young Reporter Competition - for any student to enter, deadline is Monday 18th September 2023. The presentation and details of the competition can be found [here](#).

Finally, today, students in Year 12 remembered a former student Manasvini who died suddenly and unexpectedly in March 2019 when she was a Year 8 student at Kendrick. This week was Manasvini's birthday, and she would have been 17 years old. Today her friends wanted to remember her and their friendship and happy times together. The bench that was installed in memory of Manasvini in the summer of 2019 now has a plaque that has the inscription below. A photograph of the students around the tree today can be found [here](#).

In memory of Manasvini Kaushik, a Kendrick student in Years 7 and 8 from 2017-2019
'the smallest girl with the biggest heart'.

Wishing everyone a peaceful 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 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 **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 – FESTIVALS

[Festival Safe](#) has a lot of useful information to help festival goers have a memorable festival for all the right reasons. If your young person is going to a festival this year, we suggest going through this website with them to ensure they are prepared, know what to expect, how to keep safe, and how to look after their own, and their friends, mental and physical wellbeing.

FOR ALL OUR SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE [HERE](#).



**National
Online
Safety®**

STAYING SAFE ONLINE

RUMBLE

Conceived as giving independent content creators equal representation in the online space, Rumble has found something of a niche in restoring a voice to influencers who have been blocked from similar platforms. It's become particularly renowned as a forum for political debate, with some prominent account holders' choice of subject matter attracting a degree of notoriety.

Indeed, a study by the USA's Pew Research Centre found that the platform's most popular topics included gun laws, the January 2021 Capitol riots and Covid vaccines. Many parents and carers may feel that these sensitive topics – when addressed in a less-than-sensitive manner – aren't suitable for young users. Click [here](#) for the guide from National Safety Online.

FOR ALL OUR ONLINE SAFETY INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE [HERE](#).

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

DEALING WITH CHANGE

Our Wellbeing topic this term is Dealing with Change.

It's natural to need time to adjust to a change. You might feel surprised, happy or even angry and that's okay. Feelings can pass in time, but give yourself time and keep doing things to feel better. Distracting yourself when you are feeling low or overwhelmed can help you feel better.

There are lots of ways to feel calmer. It is about finding what works for you. Try some breathing exercises, activities, games and videos to help let go of stress.

Visit the Childline [Calm Zone](#) for information on:

[Activities and tools](#)

[Breathing exercises](#)

[Expressing yourself](#)

[Yoga videos](#)

[Play games](#)

[Ways to cope videos](#)



WELLBEING NEWSLETTER

For the latest **Wellbeing Newsletter** please click [here](#).

FOOTBALL FOR YOUTH MENTAL WELLBEING

Sport in Mind is running a new weekly football session for 10-14 year olds every Wednesday, 4.30- 5.30pm. The free session on the 3G pitch at Prospect Park, west Reading, offers a great way of helping to build self-confidence, support self-esteem and meet new friends. Places can be booked by email to: youth@sportinmind.org.

NEW MENTAL HEALTH SIGNPOSTING WEBSITE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

No5 youth counselling service has launched a new website to signpost young people to services and resources to help them with their mental health. The Looking for Direction site has been designed and developed by local young people in collaboration with Reading FC Community Trust. The site is built to match young people, aged 11-25, with support and services across the RG postcode area based on age, location and what type of support they say they are looking for. Visit the site at: <https://signposting.no5.org.uk/>.



SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR TERM 6, 2022-23

Monday 10th July	Sports Day
Tuesday 11th July	Year 7 trip to Neasden Hindu Temple UCAS Information Evening, 5.30pm
Friday 14th July	End of Term 6 for students, 3.15pm. Library closes at 3.15pm.
Monday 17th July	Staff Day
Tuesday 18th July	Staff Day

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, COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS

SCHOOL NEWS, EVENTS AND UPDATES

SPORTS DAY – MONDAY 10TH JULY

Students have been informed about the arrangements for Sport Day on Monday. For safeguarding reasons, this event is for students and staff only.

Students should come to school on Monday in **PE kit including trainers** and a house t-shirt if they have one. They will stay in their PE kit all day. All students will be back at school for Period 4 and Period 5. The canteen is open as normal on Monday.

Your child will know if they are involved in track events and/or field events.

Track event students (am only) will need:

WATER,
SNACK,
SUNCREAM,
SUN HAT,
INHALER (IF NEEDED),
MEDICATION (IF NEEDED),
MIDLAYER / JUMPER (IF NEEDED)

Field events students (at Palmer Park over lunch) will need:

PACKED LUNCH,
WATER,
SNACK,
SUNCREAM,
SUN HAT,
INHALER (IF NEEDED),
MEDICATION (IF NEEDED),
MIDLAYER / JUMPER (IF NEEDED)

FRIDAY 14TH JULY 2023 – END OF TERM

The school day will finish as normal on Friday 14th July at 3.15pm. The Library will also close at 3.15pm on that day and therefore if your child normally stays in the Library after school please make arrangements for their safe return home. The canteen will be open as normal but **fish and chips** will be served on **Thursday 13th July** and not Friday that week.

READING LOCAL AUTHORITY NEWS AND EVENTS

SUMMER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES

Reading Family Information Service has created a summer holiday activities page on its website. Visit: [Activities in Reading During the summer holiday 2023](#). The website also includes [general holiday activities](#) and [information on childcare](#), holiday clubs etc during the summer holiday.

NEW

UK PARLIAMENT WEEK

UK Parliament Week is happening 6-12 November and there are activities and resources available to encourage all ages to take an interest in what Parliament does and how it works. You can sign up at the [UK Parliament Week](#) website.

NEW

SCHOOL NURSING TEAM NEWSLETTER

Please click [here](#) for the latest School Nursing Team newsletter.

NEW

TEEN PPP (POSITIVE PARENTING PROGRAMME)

This organisation and activity is not associated to Kendrick School but has been passed to us by Brighter Futures for Children

Thursday 14th September – Thursday 16th November 2023, 9.30am-11.30am

Berkshire Record Office, 9 Coley Avenue, Reading, RG1 6AF

Is your child aged 11-19 years old? Do you want to support your child when they show distressing behaviour? Do you want to help your teenager make positive choices?

Join our evidence-based flexible parenting programme. The group aims to strengthen your relationship with your teenager, promote your teen's development and equip you to help them recognise and avoid risky situations. The programme is delivered in nine two-hour weekly group sessions on Thursdays, term-time only.

To enquire or book your place, please contact: parenting.reading@brighterfuturesforchildren.org or call 07812 462799

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS UPDATES

READING IASS FOR SEND

Reading Information, Advice and Support Service for SEND (Reading IASS) is a free resource for children, young people and parents and carers of children aged 0-25 years who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and live in Reading borough.

The Reading IASS team offers impartial information, advice and support on a wide range of topics, including Education, Health and Care Plans, school transport and SEND support in schools.

Subject to availability, members of the team may also be able to attend meetings with parents or carers (this is usually virtually) and help them with writing letters and filling out forms.

Reading IASS can be contacted by phone on: 0118 937 3421 or by email at: iass@brighterfuturesforchildren.org. The Reading IASS website also has pages of information and resources as well as videos and webinars for parents, carers and young people. Visit: <https://www.readingiass.org/>. Reading IASS is a self-referral only service, so cannot accept referrals from third parties.

SUMMER SHORT BREAKS

Please find below the programme of Reading SEND short breaks for summer 2023:

- [Summer Holiday Clubs with Make/Sense Theatre](#)
- [Multi Sports Summer Camps with Reading FC Community Trust](#)
- [Play Camps for 5-7 years with Reading FC Community Trust](#)
- [Dance and Multi Activity Programme with Chance to Dance Stars CIC](#)

Full details can be found on the [Reading SEND Local Offer Short Breaks](#) page.

VOLUNTEERING, CAREERS AND POST16 INFORMATION

ELEVATE SUMMER CAREERS FAIR

Elevate careers service is holding an event for young people to find out about courses, apprenticeships and other work opportunities next month.

The event is taking place on Tuesday 18 July, 11am-3pm, at the New Meaning's warehouse at 28 Portman Road, Reading. RG30 1EA, which is close to the Portman Road Tesco store and is a 5-minute walk from the No 17 bus stop. Parking is also available at the far end of Tesco's car park.

Organisations attending include Thames Water, John Lewis Partnership, Army careers, Reading Borough Council and the NHS. Young people interested in attending should email: elevate@brighterfuturesforchildren.org.

LATEST JOB AND APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Elevate careers service has updated its jobs and opportunities board online for June. Opportunities this month include the John Lewis employment programme, a hairdressing apprenticeship and legal business support apprentice. Visit the [Elevate](#) page on the BFFC website.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Reading Libraries is looking for young people aged 14-18 who can encourage children to take part in this year's summer reading challenge, *Ready, Set, Read!* Tasks will include discussing the books younger children have been reading and suggesting books they might like and assisting library staff with reading challenge events and craft activities. The library will provide training, supervision and support and it is a great opportunity to develop new skills and experience.

The summer reading challenge will run between 8 July – 2 September in all Reading libraries and volunteers will need to commit to a minimum of six sessions during that time. The closing date for applications is 21 July.

For more information, and to apply, visit: [Volunteering for our Summer Reading Challenge – Ready, Set, Read! - Reading Borough Council](#)

COMPETITIONS AND WORKSHOPS

CREATING WRITING WORKSHOPS AT WOKINGHAM LIBRARY, SUMMER 2023

These workshops, run by **Igniting Writing**, are available for all pupils in Year 6-13 and held at Wokingham Library. **Each workshop costs just £5 to attend** (to be paid in cash on the day). Attendees will also need to **bring a packed lunch**, as there will be a lunch break for both workshops.

Email **Ms Fieldsend** for the links, or go to the Wokingham Libraries website and navigate from there.

The first workshop session will be on **Saturday 22nd July, 10:30am to 3:00pm, on the topic of sports stories**. We'll be exploring why people around the world connect with sport on such an instinctual level and how it can be used in stories to craft interesting plots, characters and motivations! The link to register is [here](#).

The second workshop session will be on **Saturday 29th July, 10:30am to 3:00pm, and is all about chain stories**. This workshop will be about creating collaborative stories, where everyone writes part of a story and then hands it onto another group member to continue crafting the characters, settings, plotlines, worldbuilding and more! The link to register is [here](#).

NEW CENTRAL LIBRARY SCHOOL COMPETITION

Students in schools across Reading are being invited to share their views about Reading's new Central Library in a writing and drawing competition. The council is planning to relocate Central Library into the Civic Offices, after securing funding from the government's Levelling Up fund. The school competition asks children to answer three questions which they can answer either in writing or with a picture. The five best entries chosen will receive a £10 book token each. Entries must be submitted by 26 July. The questions are as follows. You can answer any question you like and write or draw your answer.

1. What are libraries for?
2. What do you want to see in the new library?
3. What don't you want to see in the new library?

*To return your form, drop into a Reading Library, email a scan to librarycivicproject@reading.gov.uk or post to **NEW LIBRARY Reading Central Library, Abbey Square RG1 3BQ** by 26 July.*

The council has also launched a **public consultation** about plans for the new library and the associated redesign of the public area of the Civic Offices. The online consultation can be found at: www.reading.gov.uk/NewCivicLibrary and runs until 24 July.

VACANCIES

We have a vacancy for a **Computing Teacher for 0.3FTE** (approximately 2 days a week) to join us in September. For more information please click [here](#).

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 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

Trips

- 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 10 and 11 GCSE Music Anthologies book purchase
- KPS department birthday gift - celebrating Kendrick's 145th year
- Coach trips to Palmer Stadium: Athletics Season – Term 5 2023
- Whitley Community Food Cupboard – cash donations
- Celebration of Arts – 6th July 2023 – adult and children tickets

- Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award – June 2023
- Year 10 Geography Field Trips – 13th and 15th June 2023
- Year 10 work experience insight programme 28th June 2023
- Year 12 work experience insight programme 16th June 2023
- Year 7 Swaminarayan Hindu Temple trip 11th July 2023
- Geography Slapton Ley residential course – October 2023
- Year 10 French and German Trips June 2024

KENDRICK PARENTS' SOCIETY (KPS)

I am writing to you to share my gratitude and thanks to each of you who contributed towards the success of the Kendrick Summer Fair event that was held in the school premises on Saturday, 1st July. The volunteers and stall holders arrived on time, ready to welcome visitors from 11am. The event concluded at 3 pm, although some parents asked if the event could go for a couple of hours more!

This event was attended by students of all year groups, as well as our new upcoming Y7 students and parents. Some of our guests included our headteacher, Ms Kattirtzi, as well as some keen staff members and their families. Our special guest, Seema Goyal, a recognised female entrepreneur within the Royal Windsor and Maidenhead Borough and the President of the Maidenhead Chamber of Commerce, also attended. Many parents had the opportunity to talk to them in a friendly and informal environment.

We had 18 stalls that included ice creams; food, drinks; cakes; lots of games; arts and crafts; hand-made articles especially prepared by our Y7 students; refreshments; candy floss; popcorn and much more. A DJ was also onsite to entertain and provide some soothing background music.

We had some lovely cakes baked by our students for the cake bake competition and it was very difficult for the judges to choose the top 3. They all looked beautiful, professional and very tasty too.

It gives me great pleasure and pride to say that 11 of the total stalls were led by our students. All these students had a very clear idea of what they needed to achieve, communicating well and always looking to find alternative solutions where necessary. Unfortunately a couple of students had to drop out at the last minute due to unavoidable circumstances but we appreciate that they took the time and effort to communicate so we could make necessary back-up plans.

I personally, had a great experience interacting with these young leaders, who have not only inspired me and their parents but now I am sure, all of you. I, along with all my KPS committee members am so proud of them, as they volunteered to support our initiative in bringing the school community together, to have some fun and also raise funds for the school.

We are proud to say that they wholeheartedly contributed all the proceeds from their sales that day - a selfless act of kindness that needs appreciation and recognition.

We had great feedback from our visitors and from parents who helped on the stalls. See some testimonials below that we received straight after the event:

"It was a great experience for my child to learn business. They did an amazing job and raised £338. In the future, I would like them to attend every fundraising event like yesterday. I will give them money to purchase stuff, let them design new games and become stall owners to raise money for school."

"It was a wonderful event, lovely to see lots of parents in person. I see this as a great win for KPS, our students get a safe space to try these things and develop life skills, teamwork, making decisions when things don't go as per plan and

finding a solution. At the end of the day, the students showed their business acumen by taking some executive decisions in reducing the price to get rid of the perishable stock. They also showed great kindness to people around – they decided to offer food to the DJ and the caretaker of the school, Reece.”

One of our committee members feedback –

“I am so glad the KPS events are having such a great impact on our students and this was the motive for me to join the KPS committee so I am able to drive these initiatives to empower our students, making them the kind, sensitive – yet brave sensible leaders of the future!”

Once our finances are finalised, we will share more (with pictures) along with the final amount raised. **Currently we can safely say we raised more than £1000 on the day!!**

More details will be shared in **our upcoming KPS Committee meeting which is scheduled on 5th July at 6pm**. Here is the Skype Meeting Link to join: <https://join.skype.com/BvclclLULquH>

I had an overwhelming response from the surveys I did two months back and the only reason we persevered with holding this event was the overwhelming response we got from the students, so I am glad that they all had a great time!! I wish to thank each one of you who came to help and support this initiative.

I am sure those who read this letter today are going to be inspired by these students who clearly demonstrate the Kendrick ethos of **Lead, Inspire & Make a difference**, and I believe all of us can easily follow these values, and can do more and make a difference!!

I also want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the Kendrick students, staff members, support staff, caretakers, receptionists, my committee members and parents / carers of the Kendrick School and in particular, Ms Kattirtzi, Ms Emberson-Powney, Ms Haynes and Ms Nolte for the constant support and encouragement given to all of us!

Yours Sincerely

Gayatri Hariharan
Chair of the KPS