

Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Friday 14th July 2023

LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

Even in this last week of term, so much has been happening at school:

- [Sports Day](#)
- [Kendrick's Got Talent Show](#)
- [Library celebrations](#)
- [Dance success for a Year 9 student](#)
- [Work Experience of a Sixth Form student](#)

and so many other activities, keeping the school busy and active right to the end. Finishing today is welcome for all of us after a busy week, term and year.

Today at our whole school assembly I spoke to students and staff about the school year; the high points of school life, as well as times when things are less good. I thanked them for being super students, always engaged and eager, committed and dedicated to their school and we thanked all the staff for all they do in return. I believe it is important that at key points in a year, we think about what has happened, how well things have gone and what we can do to change or make better for the future. Also, in our assembly we heard reports from our House Captains on Sports Day and the overall winner being Palmer. We then heard reports from the Kendrick Student Leaders who do such a good job of bringing our school community together at our ends and beginnings and lots of times in-between. The platform they have in school enables them to hear and be the voice of all students and I thank them for that. Their last gesture for the school year was to write a card of thanks and appreciation to each and every member of staff.

In my overview of the school year, I said that this year has been more normal with almost everything that we couldn't do just a year ago, we have been able to do, and probably better and faster with the aid of enhanced technology. We said our thanks and goodbyes to leaving staff who this year are: **Mrs Haldane** in PE Department, **Mrs Dimmick and Mr Dunnings** in Biology Department, **Dr Green**: English Department, **Mrs Saunders** in the Science Department, **Dr Smalley**: Head of Physics, **Mrs Conlon** former Head of Physics. We thanked them and wished them well in their future plans. During the assembly, we also listened to some lovely pieces of music by students in KS3 – Olivia (ukelele and voice), Lulu (piano), Akshaya (piano) and Olivia (harp).

I also related to them what we all heard yesterday in the media which is that the government has accepted the School Teachers' Review Body's recommendation for a pay settlement. If all unions agree to this, which I believe is likely, we can look forward to returning to school in September without the worry of any further disruptions. I emphasised to the students today, that no teacher wants to be away from school or their teaching and those decisions are not taken lightly. So, I am so pleased that the government has shown good sense and judgement in trying to understand the real concerns of public service workers and offered settlements that might be accepted. This is good news for everyone as we close the year.

As I always do, I asked students to reflect on their year and how it has been and to think about next year and what will be different or better. These reflections are important and should be encouraged and discussed. I know that some families for the first time might be going on bigger and longer holidays, confident this year that their plans will work. I hope parents can also reflect on the year they have had and what their role has been as a parent. We have spent some time this year delivering seminars for parents about issues young people face in order to provide more understanding and communication between parents and their children. We all want what is best for our child and as

we all know those outcomes are not just academic, they should/must include the kind of person we want our children to be; someone who is happy and confident with themselves, optimistic about their future, equipped and able to take their place in society and know their purpose and worth. This is what we work towards for all our students at Kendrick.

To finish this week and year, I refer to a poem I mentioned last year from our Poetry Anthology 2022 called *How to write a reflection*, appropriate for the end of the year.

How to write a reflection

First, choose a surface
that will tell you the truth.
Water and glass both do, so choose

a window or the bottom of a well,
a mirror-shield, the collapse of a table,
the dust-cloud as it fell. Next,

find something to hold up to it.
Something with a bit of you caught in it
works best. Perhaps an evening in August,

the years gone by, apologetic mangoes,
the shine of your too-wide eyes. A meteor shower
in Greece gleams in my chipped teeth.

Then trace the angel of incidence. Look down
at your feet as you walk the angle
of radiance, the nameless path

into a past that never happened, except
in your bones. Chase the cygnets
drifting away downstream, and then

look up. Speak to the mountain man, he will
answer your question. Where have you arrived,
traveller, what words have you found?

The Editorial Team

Please read the Weekly Update in full via this link

With my sincere thanks to everyone - students, staff, parents and carers and governors for another very successful year for Kendrick. I wish you all a wonderful summer and hope everyone makes time to rest, relax and reflect.

Best wishes.

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 – GOING OUT OR STAYING HOME ALONE

Each year it's the summer months that see the highest number of calls to the NSPCC helpline from adults concerned about children left unsupervised, peaking during the school summer holidays. They expect to see another spike in contacts regarding children left home alone or out alone this summer.

It can be difficult for working parents to manage the 6-week school break, and between work, appointments and other family commitments, every parent is likely to leave their child home alone at some point. But the NSPCC is urging parents and carers to think carefully about leaving children home alone or unsupervised as the summer holidays start in England and Wales.

While there's no legal age a child can be left home alone, as every child matures differently, it is against the law to leave a child alone if it puts them at risk. If your child doesn't feel comfortable, they shouldn't be left home alone.

As children get older, it's common for them to want more freedom and learn to be independent. This is an important part of growing up, but there can be a lot to think about for parents.

Take the [Home Alone quiz](#) to see if your child is ready to stay home alone. For more help to decide whether your child is ready to stay home or go out alone, click [here](#).

SAFEGUARDING – AVENUES OF SUPPORT OVER THE HOLIDAYS

Under 25s	Over 25s	Parents
<p>YOUNGMINDS Crisis Messenger <small>powered by about my life</small></p> <p>Text YM to 85258 Open 24/7</p> <hr/> <p>THE MIX</p> <p>Call 0808 808 4994 3pm - 12am, every day</p> <hr/> <p>childline <small>ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME</small></p> <p>Call 0800 1111 7:30am - 3:30am, every day</p>	<p>mind <small>for better mental health</small></p> <p>Call 0300 123 3393 9am - 6pm, Mon - Fri</p> <hr/> <p>SAMARITANS</p> <p>Call 116 123 Open 24/7</p>	<p>YOUNGMINDS Parents Helpline</p> <p>Call 0808 802 5544 9:30am - 4pm, Mon - Fri</p>

For more advice and information visit: youngminds.org.uk/find-help

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



National Online Safety[®]

STAYING SAFE ONLINE

STAYING SAFE ONLINE THIS SUMMER

As young people's screen time almost inevitably increases over the holidays, parents like to feel confident that their child will stay safe while they're exploring the digital world. National Safety Online has produced poster with some simple solutions to help children avoid frequent online pitfalls and enjoy a more positive experience when they go online this summer.

For the information please click [here](#).

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

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

We hope you all have relaxing and happy summers. No5 Counselling Service have created a new signposting website, “**Looking For Direction**”, which has been designed and developed by local young people for young people.

<https://signposting.no5.org.uk/>

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 they say is going on for them and what they are looking for.

Students can also join the [Wellbeing for Students Google Classroom](#) that contains helpful information.

Parents and students can find further information on looking after our wellbeing and keeping mentally healthy on the school website [here](#).

WELLBEING NEWSLETTER

For the latest **Wellbeing Newsletter** on **Dealing with Change** 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.

SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR TERM 1, 2023-24

Friday 1st September	INSET day. School open to staff only.
Monday 4th September	INSET day. School open to staff only.
Tuesday 5th September	Start of Term 1, 8.25am for all students
Thursday 7th September	Photos for Years 7, 10, and 12
Thursday 14th September	Year 12 Welcome Evening, 5pm to 7.30pm
Saturday 16th September	Admission Testing Day
Thursday 21st September	Year 7 Welcome Evening, 6pm
Tuesday 26th September	Year 10 Welcome Evening, 6pm
Thursday 28th September	Governor L&T Committee, 4.30pm
Friday 29th September	School Birthday reunion for former students
Tuesday 3rd October	Year 8 Welcome Evening, 6pm
Thursday 5th October	Governor Resources Committee, 4.30pm
Wednesday 11th October	Year 13 Slapton Residential
Thursday 12th October	Governor P&T Committee
Friday 20th October	Last day of Term 1, 3.25pm

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



SCHOOL FUND

The Kendrick School Fund provides resources and opportunities that enhance the students' experience of educational, cultural and sporting activities and extends their skills, abilities and view of the world, well beyond the classroom. For example the school mini bus, travel and transport subsidies, coaches for PE activities, on site and elsewhere, Music Tutors for extracurricular ensembles, additional equipment in Technology, additional enhanced IT provision, subsidies for school trips, support for families who cannot afford essential trips, the Counselling Service, courses and one off conferences for groups of students to attend, etc. In more recent years, the school fund has provided valuable capital donations to support the enhancement and development of the school site and facilities, which DfE capital grants alone cannot sustain.

Without your school fund contributions, many essential elements and activities in the school would not be viable and the experience of students on a daily basis would be adversely affected.

All your donations, no matter how big or small, are much appreciated and invaluable to us. The amount we suggest for school fund contributions is £240 per year. If you choose to donate by standing order, please print and complete the Standing Order form below and return the whole form to your bank or building society. Alternatively, you may send your form to the school either by post or as an attachment to finance@kendrick.reading.sch.uk and we will forward it to your bank.

How can I donate?

One off ad-hoc donations can be made online, by cheque payable to 'Kendrick School Fund' or through your school [ParentPay](#) account.

Online Donations

To make an online donation please [here](#) to access the Kendrick School External Payments page and if you are eligible, please could you complete and send us a Gift Aid form as outlined below.

Gift Aid

By gift aiding your contribution we can reclaim an additional 25p in every £1, making your gift worth even more at no extra cost to you. Gift Aid is an invaluable source of additional income to the School Fund account. If you qualify, please complete the [Gift Aid Form](#) on our website and return it to us either by post marked for the attention of the Finance Department or as an email attachment to finance@kendrick.reading.sch.uk to enable us to reclaim 25p from HM Revenue and Customs for every £1 donated.

Higher rate tax payers donating through Gift Aid can claim back the difference between the higher rate of tax and the basic rate of tax on the total value of their donation to Kendrick School via their Self Assessment Form or ask HM Revenue & Customs to adjust your tax code.

NEWS, NOTICES, COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS

SCHOOL NEWS, EVENTS AND UPDATES

ATTENDANCE

We hope that you are able to enjoy some wonderful experiences during the summer holidays. Please be aware that term begins for students on Tuesday 5th September. It is very important that students attend from the start, as important messages will be shared at the beginning of term, as well as academic content being delivered. It is unsettling for students and adds strain if they miss the start of term. Please note that any holidays will be marked as unauthorised, in line with the guidance provided by Brighter Futures for Children, unless



these are prearranged and are due to exceptional circumstances. Please also note that unauthorised holidays will be reported to the Local Authority, and you may be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice.

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.

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.

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

COLOUR THE WORLD COMPETITION

The Geography Ambassadors would like to invite you to enter the Geography colouring in competition 'Colour the World'. Download from GC or collect a paper copy from the noticeboard by N of a country of the world sheet and colour it in. Add facts and figures about the chosen country. An example is shared here.

Submission Date: Monday 11th September. Please hand in your entries to Mrs Dunlop in room N, with your name, form and year group clearly stated on your entry.

HOUSE READING CHALLENGE

The summer holiday is the perfect time to catch up on some reading and take part in this year's House Reading Challenge. Try to tick off as many books as you can from the list the Librarians sent to you by email.

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 will soon be advertising for a Biology Teacher to cover a maternity leave in December 2023. Please keep an eye on our website and your emails for more information.

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
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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)

The KPS would like to thank the staff, parents and students for their support this year. We look forward to working with you all in September.

We wish you all a happy and restful summer break.

The KPS Committee