

Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Friday 13th September 2024

LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

The first couple of weeks of term is when so many new experiences and introductions are taking place for everyone in school. For our students every year has something new and exciting for them to look forward to. Last night we welcomed our Sixth Form parents and carers to school who met the Form Tutors and leadership team in Sixth Form, putting names to faces, so that communication and information sharing is made easier between school and home. Students in Key Stage 3 and 4 had assemblies this week from their pastoral leaders about expectations we have of them in their studies and as members of the Kendrick community and setting the ethos of our school. All were reminded of the [Kendrick Pledge](#) and how we wish to behave towards one another in our daily school life. For every student across the school there is a rich, broad and varied curriculum for them to look forward to this year.

As well as new students, we have several new staff who have joined us this September and I would like to introduce you to them. We welcomed the return of Frau Mueller and Mrs Davidson from maternity leave. Staff who have worked with us before and are returning for part or all of the coming year: Mrs Haldane, Dr Green and Mrs Brunson. New staff starting this September: Mr Berluti, Subject Leader for Geography; Ms Maitland, Second in the English Department; Miss Waller, English Teacher; Mr Fatemi, Chemistry Teacher; Miss Campbell, Maths Teacher; Mrs Reichardt, French Teacher; Mr Scales German Teacher; Mr Good, Business and Economics Teacher; Miss Darriemerlou, Art Technician; Miss Rodrigues Music and Drama Technician; Miss Menel PGCE student in the Maths Department. We welcome all our new staff and hope they too are settling in well and enjoying Kendrick. A significant appointment this term has been that of a new Assistant Headteacher, Mrs Hearn, Head of Sixth Form who joins the Senior Leadership Team.

In previous information regarding the school calendar, you will have noticed that next Friday 20th September is our Admissions Day for Year 7 entry in September 2025. In a change from previous years, the Test Day is taking place on a school day which means all students will not attend school on that day. As always, we shall be testing many hundreds of students next week, all aspiring and hoping to gain one of the 128 places we have at Kendrick. We are very aware of the huge popularity of our school locally and nationally. Our expansion over the last four years has enabled us to offer more places to students, in particular local disadvantaged students to enable some families and children to consider Kendrick in their plans for secondary education. This is part of our [Widening Horizons](#) strategic initiative which I refer to frequently and which we are very proud of. We are pleased that across all years and in the 6th Form, our student numbers have increased enabling us to provide a high-quality education and thus opportunities and choices for so many more girls/women.

Following on from the above, it is appropriate that I should mention the upcoming School Birthday which we will be celebrating in the week beginning 23rd September. One of the many quirky things about Kendrick is that we have a birthday, the purpose of which is to celebrate our school and more importantly girls' education. We will start the week with a whole school assembly after which I will have the great honour and pleasure to judge the annual birthday cake competition. All tutor groups have been asked to bake a cake on a specific theme for the birthday and whether they win or not, they are able to eat the cake at a birthday picnic lunch on the front lawn at second break. Later in Term 2, in December, we will invite former students and staff to visit our school, I will remind people of this occasion later in the term. In the meantime, next week students in their forms should be thinking about their cake design according to the criteria they have been set, plan their baking and bring a cake into school on Monday 23rd September to celebrate 147 years of Kendrick!

Wishing everyone a pleasant weekend.

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

THE IMPACT OF SEXTING *Source: [Family Lives](#)*

KEY POINTS

- It is illegal to take, possess or share 'indecent images' of anyone under 18 even if you're the person in the picture. If you are under the age of 18, the law sees you as a child
- A young person may feel under pressure to send or receive an image because they are worried that they will be bullied if they don't get involved
- As a parent you might never really know whether your teen has been involved in sexting, but by being able to talk things through with your teen, it can help them know they can talk to you if they are worried

WHAT IS SEXTING?

Sexting is the sending and receiving of naked pictures or 'nudes', 'underwear shots', sexual or 'dirty pics' or rude text messages or videos. This can be via [mobile phones, social networks, emails or social apps](#). Young people who do this don't often realise the consequences of it and this can be a form of sexualised bullying too.

With the continued advances of technology, most mobile phones and tablets have built in cameras and most are linked up to email and social network accounts. Police have warned of the dangers sexting can have including loss of control and leaving young adults at the risk of being exploited by paedophiles and sexual predators.

For more information on Sexting and what do if you think your child is involved in sexting and how to talk them, please click [here](#).



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STAYING SAFE ONLINE

QR CODE SCAMS

QR codes are a useful means by which people can quickly access online resources and other information, simply by scanning the pixellated pattern with their phone's camera. Unfortunately, as with many other advances in

technology, there are those who use QR codes to scam and defraud unsuspecting people, tricking them into providing their personal details and payment information.

It can be difficult to determine when a QR code is legitimate – or where exactly you might encounter a scam of this nature – but it's important to learn how, if you wish to avoid falling victim to such a thing. This free guide explores the most common places you may find a QR code scam and explains how best to protect yourself from this underhanded practice.

[WHAT PARENTS AND EDUCATORS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT QR SCAMS](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

SELF-CARE: BAKING AND COOKING If you have the equipment, baking or cooking can be a relaxing activity – at least for some people! It's not everyone's favourite thing to do, but for those who enjoy it, spending some time making a nutritious meal or sweet treat from scratch is a satisfying and rewarding experience. Lots of people report that it allows their mind to switch off as they become absorbed in the task of preparing food, almost like a mindfulness exercise.

If you're looking for an easier version of this, you could try out some microwave recipes, which will save you time and energy if you're having an off day. For example, this [microwave mug cake](#) is perfect if you want to rustle up some quick comfort food. And there are various websites which can help you [cook great meals on a budget](#). We're pretty sure you already know this part, but make sure to be careful when handling hot objects and set a timer so you don't forget about what's in the oven. If cooking/baking feels like more of a chore to you, don't put any pressure on yourself to make complex meals from scratch – you could always save this for special occasions when you can get a friend or family member to help.

Recipe writer, food judge and demonstration Chef, Suzy Pelta, discusses how baking has helped her manage her wellbeing in this [video](#).

KENDRICK SCHOOL WELLBEING NEWSLETTER

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

SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR TERM 1, 2024-25

Tuesday 17th September
Friday 20th September

Year 7 Welcome Evening, 6pm
Admission test day, school closed to all students

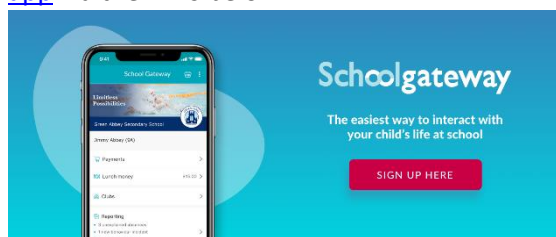
Monday 23rd September	School Birthday
Thursday 26th September	Year 10 Welcome Evening, 6pm
Tuesday 1st October	Year 8 Welcome Evening, 6pm
Wednesday 2nd October	Year 13 Slapton residential (to Sunday 6 th)
Thursday 3rd October	Trustees L&T Committee, 4.30pm
Thursday 10th October	World Mental Health Day
	Trustees Resources Committee, 4.30pm
Wednesday 16th October	Upper School Chamber Concert
Thursday 24th October	Sixth Form French/History trip to Paris
Friday 25th October	End of Term 1, 3.15pm

The school calendar for the academic year can be found [here](#). For the Term Dates for 2024-25 please click [here](#)

NEWS, NOTICES, COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS

DINNER MONEY – PARENTPAY This is a reminder to please ensure that you check your child's ParentPay account regularly to ensure they have enough money on there to purchase their lunch or snacks in the canteen. We never allow a child to go hungry and will always provide them with an overdraft for purchase their food that day, but please ensure that you pay back this money through ParentPay as soon as possible. Thank you.

SCHOOL GATEWAY AND REPORTING A STUDENT ABSENCE Please download the [School Gateway app](#) via the links below.



[Apple iPhone users, download the app here: schoolgateway.co.uk/iosdownload](#)

[Android phone users, download the app here: schoolgateway.co.uk/androiddownload](#)

All school related communication, newsletters, reports, timetables, attendance figures, and school reports go through School Gateway – it is the central hub of information for our parents – so to stay up to date with what's going on at school make sure you download the app for free. This app is also where you will report any absences. If you cannot use the School Gateway App, please email admin@kendrick.reading.sch.uk

Please report an absence before **9am**. If your child is absent from school, and we have not been informed, we will send a message via School Gateway. We will ask you to contact the school to give the reason for their absence. If we do not receive a response enquiry will be made to ascertain the students' safety, and the absence will be recorded as unauthorised. The Attendance Team monitor the attendance and punctuality of all students, and will work with any students, and parents, to offer any support needed to ensure students achieve their full potential by being in school every day on time. Cases of persistent absence and lateness will be escalated as appropriate.

WORLD OF EMOTIONS PARENT WORKSHOP Brighter Futures for Children is delighted to offer parents/carers the opportunity to attend World of Emotions, an online workshop, from September 2024. These workshops run monthly and last 3 ½ hours. To access the workshop parent/carers can either complete the MHST referral form themselves online, or school staff can do it on their behalf (with their consent). Please put 'WoE' in the referral reason on the form. <http://www.brighterfuturesforchildren.org/MHST-referral-form>

If you would like us to refer you, please email studentwelfare@kendrick.reading.sch.uk.

World of Emotions is not a parenting course, but rather an opportunity for parents/carers to gain more skills to understand and support their child/young person's wellbeing. It covers a range of emotions and difficulties (e.g. low mood/depression, anxiety, self-harm, disordered eating, challenging behaviour towards others etc). Parents/carers, and anyone else who may be closely involved in the child's life, e.g. grandparents/close family friend, is welcome to attend. We would just need to know in advance 'household' numbers. Children/young people should not attend.

if you have any questions please email MHST@brighterfuturesforchildren.org

COFFEE MORNINGS The new MHST coffee morning timetable for autumn term 2024 is available on the Brighter Futures for Children website). Coffee mornings are an opportunity for parent/carer(s) to learn about mental health in a relaxed and informal setting, understand how mental health might affect their child and learn practical tools to help them support their child through any mental health difficulties they may experience, whether short or long-term. These informal coffee mornings are run by Amanda Mavunga (Reading MHST CAMHS Senior Clinician at BFFC). Amanda will deliver a presentation followed by an opportunity to ask questions. Parent/carer(s) can attend any session, even if their child does not attend the hosting school. Places are on a first come, first served basis.

[Autumn-term-MHST-Coffee-Mornings-at-Reading-Schools-Sept-2024-April-2025.pdf \(brighterfuturesforchildren.org\)](#)

VACANCIES

We have the following vacancies at Kendrick School. More information on each of the roles can be found on our website [here](#). Please pass on this information to family and friends.

English Teacher to cover a maternity leave (for November 2024)

Caretaker (for as soon as possible), full time

School Administrator and Student Welfare Assistant – 28 hours a week, Monday to Thursday, 8am to 3.30pm

Library Resource Coordinator – 22 ½ hours a week, alternate weeks - 8am to 12.30pm; 12.30pm to 5pm.

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.

KENDRICK PARENTS' SOCIETY (KPS)

Warm Welcome to Everyone KPS Committee welcomes all parents and students including new Year 7s and Year 12s to another exciting and memorable year with Kendrick. We hope your initial few days with Kendrick has been eventful and we wish you good luck for the year. KPS newsletter with details of planned events and activities will be sent to you next week.

New Official KPS Whatsapp Groups KPS do manage official Whatsapp groups for parents to communicate with all of you apart from the email channel. Expect an email from our Class Rep Coordinator, Pauline Phillips with details shortly and please do join the groups. This way we will be able to communicate with you faster and can reach every parent when a comms needs to be circulated.

Upcoming KPS Committee Meeting We would be having first KPS Committee meeting in the next few days and specific details of date, time and agenda will be circulated next week.



Volunteering Opportunities at KPS Are you looking to get more involved in our school community? Please see below on how to get involved. Your involvement is greatly appreciated!

Refreshment Helpers

Does your child participate in music or drama performances at the school? We need volunteers to help serve refreshments during these events. This is a great way to be part of the school activities and support our students.

Please note, your help is needed only when your child is performing. To join our team of Refreshment Helpers, please join the WhatsApp group using this link: [Refreshment Helpers Group](#)

Pre-loved Uniform Shop Volunteers

Are you available on Saturday mornings? We're looking for volunteers to help run our pre-loved uniform shop. This initiative not only helps raise funds for the school but also supports environmental sustainability by reusing uniforms. It's a fantastic way to provide great value to parents while ensuring students have access to quality uniforms at reduced prices

Join our team by clicking on this WhatsApp group link: [Uniform Shop Volunteers Group](#)

Join KPS Since KPS operates as a registered charity, we invite you to become a part of our community by joining us. Connecting with your daughter's school through KPS is a simple process.

Please take a moment to complete our [online membership form](#) making your involvement seamless and effortless. Your participation is highly valued, and we look forward to welcoming you to the KPS family.

KPS Facebook Closed Group KPS runs a closed Facebook group where we provide details of upcoming events and other important information. To join this group, search for the "Kendrick Parents' Society" group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1514675551882470/>) and ask to join – once we have confirmed that you are a member of the KPS, we will approve your request.

KPS Team