

# Kendrick School - Weekly Update

## Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024

### LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

---

It is wonderful to receive positive feedback about our students, particularly from members of the general public. On Wednesday this week Miss Hyde and several other members of staff took 77 GCSE Drama students to the New Theatre Oxford to see a production of Dear Evan Hanson, a show which is part of their GCSE Component 3 course. Sat in front of our students in the theatre were a couple who were clearly impressed by the engagement and behaviour of the students and wrote the following email to me:

*Dear Ms Christine Kattirtzi*

*This afternoon (27.11.24), my husband and I attended the matinée performance of Dear Evan Hansen in Oxford. We are both retired teachers. The performance itself had lots of school children attending. We were sat directly in front of the group of girls from your School.*

*Firstly, I would like to praise your members of staff for their excellent organisation and for their consideration for members of the general public. They are a real credit to you. Secondly, even more praise goes to the pupils. They were polite, considerate and well-behaved. Moreover, we feel that their presence enhanced our enjoyment of the performance. Their enthusiasm and appreciation of the actors was heartfelt and contagious.*

*Please take the time and make the effort to praise all parties involved and we wish the girls all well in their future studies.*

*Your sincerely*

I would like to thank this couple for their time and effort in getting in touch with us and sharing their observations and also thank my colleagues and students for making such a good impression of themselves and their school on this trip.

Another example of exceptional presentation and engagement from our students has been the recent Assemblies students in KS3 and KS4 have given. On topics wide ranging and interesting, each form is required to present an assembly that has some thought, meaning and is topical and of interest to their peers. The assemblies so far this term have included: the history and significance of the Paralympic Games, portrayal of women in Disney films, the Pink Tax and an in-depth analysis of the American Presidential Election earlier this month. As you can see, these assemblies are on topics of interest and relevance to everyone. Elsewhere the Curriculum and Current Affairs Committee has been discussing the impact on university students of the increase in fees.

Last week I mentioned the Year 12 Work Experience initiative that we launched for our Year 12 students for June 2025. On Wednesday evening we had an online meeting with Year 12 parents and presented them with the information we gave the students the previous week. Over 50 parents joined us which was most pleasing and indicated to me the support we will receive from parents on this project. All parents will receive a letter from me early next week asking to support the work experience initiative by offering a work experience placement at their workplace if they can. The dates again are Monday 9th June -Thursday 12th June 2025. Students have been asked to try to find their own placement but if our parents offer one or two or more places from the company they work for, this will help provide placements for everyone.

Finally, for the last few months we have been working on a new website for the school and I am happy to announce that on Monday 2nd December our new website will go live. I am told that the transition will be seamless, and all the content will transfer magically from the old website to the new. There will be some changes to the look and function

qualities of the website, which will make it more visually pleasing and easier to navigate. We have taken the opportunity to slim down the content and archive very old news items and information. All the photographs are of current students during a school day in May 2024 which I am sure parents and students will be eager to look at.

Please read further into the update.

Wishing everyone a restful 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](mailto: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 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](mailto:studentwelfare@kendrick.reading.sch.uk).**

---

## SAFEGUARDING

---

### DANGEROUS CHRISTMAS GIFTS SOURCE: [CHILD ACCIDENT PREVENTION TRUST](#)

The Child Accident Prevention Trust has published a list of eight gifts most likely to cause an accident this year. Cheap gifts from unknown sellers on online marketplaces can come from anywhere in the world and can be dangerous.

Super-strong magnets can rip through your child's belly. Easy-access button batteries can kill your child if swallowed. Dangerous electrical goods can start a fire in your home.

Find out which products could be dangerous and how to shop safely.

<https://capt.org.uk/8-dangerous-gifts-to-avoid-this-christmas/>

---

## YOUNG CARERS

A young carer is someone 18 years old or under who helps look after a relative with a disability, illness, mental health condition, or drug or alcohol problem. This could be a parent or a sibling. Some children begin giving care from a very young age, and others become carers overnight. Caring for someone can be very isolating, worrying, and stressful. For young carers, this can negatively impact their experience in education. Over a quarter of young carers aged 11-15 regularly miss school. This can have a lasting effect on their life chances.

Please see the information from Action for Children below and if you believe your child is a Young Carer, please email [studentwelfare@kendrick.reading.sch.uk](mailto:studentwelfare@kendrick.reading.sch.uk). There is help within school for Young Carers and we can put them in touch with organisations that can support you.

<https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/blog/young-carers-who-are-they-and-how-are-they-impacted/>

---

## STAYING SAFE ONLINE

### CHAT APPS SOURCE [NSPCC](#)

#### Help children stay safe on chat apps

Messaging and chat apps are a great way for a child to stay in touch with their friends and family but it's important both of you are comfortable with who they're talking to.

Talk to your child about who they're chatting to and how they know them. Remind them to be conscious of who they're sharing personal information with and not to share information with people they haven't met before. This includes information like their name, location, email, phone number and school name.

#### What are chat apps?

Chat apps allow the user to send messages, photos, videos and documents, as well as creating large group chats. Some apps allow users to message people they don't know, so your child could receive messages from people they don't know - most apps have settings to allow this to be changed so that they only receive messages from people they know. With your child, make sure these settings are in place and show them how to reject requests from people they don't know.

Even with friends, your child might see something that upsets them. Explore each app to see if there are reporting and blocking features. Show your child how to use these features and talk about situations when they might want to report or block.

#### Popular chat apps

**WhatsApp:** Age rating: 16+

Main features: text, photo & video sharing, one to one and group chats, disappearing messages. End to end encrypted. Live location sharing.

**Omegle:** Age rating: 13+

Main features: text chat or video call with strangers.

**Telegram:** Age rating: 16+

Main features: text, photo & video sharing, one to one and group chats. End to end encrypted.

**Viber:** Age rating: 13+

Main features: text, call, share photos and send video messages, secret chats. End to end encrypted.

**Signal** :Age rating: 13+

Main features: text, photo & video sharing, one to one and group chats, disappearing messages. End to end encrypted.

**Facebook messenger**: Age rating: 13+

Main features: messages, photos, videos and audio recordings, and play games with your Facebook and Instagram friends and phone contacts. You need a Facebook or Instagram account to use Messenger.

**Discord**: Age rating: 13+

Main features: a chat app that's popular with gamers. It is often used to talk to other players while playing game

**Snapchat**: Age rating: 13+

Main features: photos, short videos or messages, disappearing messages called Snaps.

**Kik**: Age rating: 13+

Main features: text, photo and video messages one to one or groups. The 'Meet New People' feature lets you start a conversation with random users

For more information including safety settings in chat apps, end to end encryption, randomised chat forums and apps, disappearing messages, gaming chat, chat rooms, and how to talk to your child about what they are sharing, click [here](#).

---

## MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

---

### TIME AWAY FROM TECHNOLOGY SOURCE [ANNA FREUD](#)

Sometimes technology and social media can be a lifeline but sometimes they can be completely overwhelming and it feels like notifications and messages are never ending.

When we feel like we are constantly attached to everyone and all that is happening in the wider world it can become exhausting. That's one of the reasons why lots of people find time away from social media a really important part of their daily self-care (even if it does feel weird at first!)

*As much as I love my phone and everything I use it for I feel like I'd be much less anxious without it. I have to be really strict with myself sometimes and just turn it off for a bit because I can get kind of addicted.*

There are, ironically, a [range of apps](#) which can help you manage your use of technology if you feel you spend too much time on social media.

*"I find that I sleep better when I stop looking at my phone earlier in the evening".*

---

### KENDRICK SCHOOL WELLBEING NEWSLETTER

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

---

## SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR TERM 2, 2024-25

---

<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December</b>	GCSE Presentation Event, 2.15pm
<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December</b>	KPS Meeting, 6pm
<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Year 11 Parents' Consultation
<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Former Students and Staff Reunion event, 3.45pm
<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Start of Fringe Fortnight Dance Enterprise Day
<b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Dance Performance Day Year 13 Parents' Consultations

<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Christmas Concert, 6.30pm
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Full Trustee Body Meeting, 4.30pm
<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Christmas Jumper Day
<b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Year 13 Presentation Event
<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Christmas dinner day in the canteen
<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December</b>	End of Term 2, 3.15pm

The school calendar for the academic year can be found [here](#). For the Term Dates for 2024-25 and 2025-26 please click [here](#)

---

## CAREERS GUIDANCE AND EVENTS

---

*Please note that whilst we are happy to share these opportunities with you, we are unable to endorse or recommend them.*

### FREE ONLINE KING'S COLLEGE LONDON MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY LECTURE

**SERIES** - now open! [application form](#) for students who are interested in becoming a **doctor** or **dentist**.

Applications will close on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January.

Lectures include;

- Medical and dental specialties: cardiology, oral surgery, renal transplant, and many more!
- Q&A's each week with current medical and dental students.
- Support with the application process: UCAT, personal statements, and interviews.
- Q&A with admissions colleagues in the school of medicine at KCL, UCL, St George's, Queen Mary, Brunel, and Imperial. [students should follow this link](#).

For students studying at a **state selective** school, they must meet one of our **widening participation criteria**. For full details, please see the application form.

### VIRTUAL BUSINESS & ACCOUNTING EVENT TAKING PLACE WITH KPMG on Monday 9th December 5pm – 6pm.

This is an opportunity to hear from one of the largest accounting and professional services firms in the world. During the event they will hear about the consulting, audit and tax degree apprenticeship options, work experience and in-person events at their offices.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/29X225X>

### NHS ALLIED HEALTHCARE WORK EXPERIENCE - PAEDIATRIC PATHWAYS

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December - exploring the journeys of two patients from initial presentation to full recovery. Students will gain invaluable perspectives on patient care dynamics and the collaborative efforts within the NHS

Sign up here:

<https://alliedhealthmentor.org/nhs-healthcare-careers-virtual-work-experience/>

### APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITY WITH THE BBC IN BERKSHIRE. Closes November 28<sup>th</sup>.

<https://careers.bbc.co.uk/job/Reading-Journalist-Apprenticeship-Level-5-Reading-RG1-1PT/805710602/>

### DENTISTRY CONFERENCE: Sunday 1st December from 9:30am - 3:30pm

<https://airtable.com/appgXnyzN5ZD9Iwk6/shrBuiR7SBACc19kE>

---

# NEWS, NOTICES, COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS

---

## KENDRICK SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CONCERT - WEDNESDAY 11th DECEMBER 2024 AT 6.30pm

Our Christmas Concert will feature seasonal songs from Chamber Choir, Christmas favourites from Harp Ensemble and Brass and Saxophone Ensemble, as well as a range of instrumental pieces from Flute Choir, Jazz Band and Symphony Orchestra. This concert sees our Year 7 students singing as a year-group choir, as well as our newly formed Carnatic Vocal Ensemble, all within a shortened concert, which we expect will finish at approximately 7.45pm.

Please note that refreshments, including mince pies and our famous samosas, will be available from KPS before the concert.

Please may we remind you that no parking is available on the school site unless you have a disability. If this is the case, then please contact Reception.

Our Christmas concert tends to sell out quickly and tickets will be going on sale from 28<sup>th</sup> November. We therefore urge you to order them as soon as possible through ParentPay in order to avoid disappointment. Ticket price suggested donation: £5.00. In the first instance, tickets will be restricted to five per family. We politely ask for you not to leave ticket requests or queries until the day of the concert.

If you would like tickets for the Christmas Concert on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December, please complete the order on ParentPay. Please provide your name at the table by the entrance to the Hall on the night of the performance.

Information about concerts and events in 2025 will be in your programme and sent out at the beginning of next year.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the concert.

---

## CHRISTMAS CHARITY APPEALS

The school is having an appeal to raise donations on behalf of two local charities to support local families over the Christmas period: Reading Family Aid 'Toys and Teens Appeal' and the Whitley Community Food Cupboard. Both charities seek to provide for families and young people in the local area. As a school we have been working with the Whitley Food Cupboard for some time and are one of the charity's biggest supporters. Last year we had a similar appeal around Christmas for Reading Family Aid and you can read more about the Toys and Teens Appeal here: <https://www.readingfamilyaid.org/toys-teens-appeal.html>

It would be wonderful to have the support of the whole school community in contributing gifts and donations, however small, to make a real difference to the thousands of people locally who are in need. There is no expectation that everyone has to make a contribution, but if you are able to support in any way, that will be hugely appreciated. Lists of items that would be suitable/unsuitable to donate for each of the two appeals have been shared with students in school. More detailed lists can be found on the Reading Family Aid website following the weblink above, but in summary:

### **Reading Family Aid:**

Suitable items include: most toys; stationary; most books; toiletries; bags; hats, scarves, gloves.

Unsuitable: used or damaged items; soft toys; school or religious books; electrical items; CDs/DVDs; clothing; very large items.

### **Whitley Community Food Cupboard:**

Suitable items include: non-perishable food items (pasta, tea/coffee, tins, cereals, pasta sauces, packet soups, cooking oil); Christmas treats (selection boxes of chocolate, nice biscuits); cleaning products; toiletries.

Unsuitable: perishable items and foods with allergens (e.g. nuts)

It is also possible to make a donation to the Food Cupboard via the School Parent Pay system.

The aim is for donations to be brought into in school by the end of this week: Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November. However, the donated items will not be collected from school by the charities until Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December, so we are still able to accept donations at the beginning of next week.

There is also an event in school for KS3 students (Years 7-9) in the Main Hall at lunchtime on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. This will be a lot of fun as the students take on various mini-challenges. Students will have the opportunity to make a voluntary donation at that event too.

Many thanks for your support with this appeal. Once again, any help you can give will make a real difference and is very much appreciated.

Mr Simmonds and Mr Hodge

---

## TEEN POSITIVE PARENTING PROGRAMME (run by Brighter Futures for Children)

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January – Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Fairview Community Centre, 90B Great Knollys Street, Reading RG1 7HL

- Is your child 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 parents 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 Tuesdays, term time only.

To enquire or book your place, please contact [parenting.reading@brighterfuturesforchildren.org](mailto:parenting.reading@brighterfuturesforchildren.org) or call 0118 9374858.

---

## 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.

**Caretaker.** To join us in January 2025. 10am to 6pm Monday to Friday. Deadline for applications Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024.

**Exam Invigilators.** We are looking for Invigilators for the 2024/2-25 exam season. If you are interested in this role, then please visit our [website](#) or email [exams@kendrick.reading.sch.uk](mailto:exams@kendrick.reading.sch.uk) for an informal chat. Please note that Year 11 parents would not be able to invigilate GCSEs and Year 13 parents would not be able to invigilate A Levels.

*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. Thank you for your continued support.*

School fund Donation

Whitley Community Food Cupboard – cash donations  
A level Maths graphical calculator  
Year 7 Profiling Day – 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024

### **Trips**

Year 12 Wokingham Waterside Centre September 2024  
Year 10 and Year 11 GCSE Drama trip to Oxford November 2024  
Year 10 2025 MFL (France or Germany trip) deposit  
Ultimate Frisbee, Bristol, 16<sup>th</sup> November 2024  
A level Sociology in Action conference – 25<sup>th</sup> November 2024  
The Legacy of East Germany in film, Southbank, London 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024

---

## **KENDRICK PARENTS' SOCIETY (KPS)**

---

**UPCOMING KPS COMMITTEE MEETING** Next KPS meeting is taking place on Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024 from 6pm to 7:15pm. Google meeting link: To join the video meeting, click this link: <https://meet.google.com/fqx-ckti-gip> Otherwise, to join by phone, dial: (US) +1 234-714-0169 PIN: 274 794 119#  
*(In case of issues, copy-paste the above link in Internet browser and join WITHOUT signing in to Google meet)*

We look forward to seeing you all.

**SCHOOL PRODUCTION – INTO THE WOODS** What a fantastic performance, a great job done by students and staff. It's mesmerising vocal, acting, background and music, well supported by parents, carers and families.

KPS and volunteer team supported with refreshments all 3 days and happy to be associated with such an event which showcased exceptional talent.

**LAUNCH OF YEAR 2025 WISH LIST PROJECT** **Wish List Project** for this festive season, i.e. Dec is being setup to bring joy and generosity to our school, directly benefiting students and enhancing their school experience.

More details of the launch will be circulated shortly and we appreciate your continued support. Feel free to reach out to [KPSChair@kendrick.reading.sch.uk](mailto:KPSChair@kendrick.reading.sch.uk) for any ideas, input and feedback on this initiative.

**PRE-LOVED UNIFORM SHOP** Next pre-loved uniform store **opens on Saturday 11th January 2024, 9am - 11am in the Conservatory**, conveniently located in the Conservatory next to the school library.



**Parking is usually available in the Cedars car park** along London Road, just past the dentist near the traffic light.

Parents and carers are welcome to utilise the opportunity.

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.

### **VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES AT KPS**

#### **KPS Events and Refreshments Volunteers**

As you are aware, we run many events and also support school activities like music or drama the year. We need volunteers to help these events even if for few hours. To join our team of enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers, please join the WhatsApp group using this link: [KPS Events and Refreshment Volunteers](#)





### **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: [Kendrick 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**