

Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Friday 8th November 2024

LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

Welcome back to Term 2, I hope everyone has had a refreshing break and is now ready to start the new term. Slightly shorter than last term, the next six weeks are probably some of the busiest of the year and I hope students, staff and parents will enjoy the events and activities that mark this time.

There are several super articles for you to read about student achievements and awards from last term. Please take time to do so:

- [Imperial College Science in Medicine](#)
- [Foyle Young Poet of the Year](#)
- [Black History Month](#)

Many of the activities and opportunities which occur in school are because of the enthusiasm of staff guiding and encouraging students to enter competitions or take part in an initiative. At the same time, students show such curiosity and interest to extend their knowledge and understanding of key themes and ideas. The combination of the two results in some incredible achievements.

This week the Kendrick Parents' Society (KPS) held its annual AGM at which the committee of 2023-2024 stepped down and a new committee for 2024-25 was elected. It was a very pleasant evening with around 20 parents attending, some for the first time and willing to take on a role in the committee this year. We all agreed that the last academic year was most successful in raising money for items in school including: the sports facilities on the front lawn, IT equipment, Department Wishlist items, outdoor furniture. More than £20k was raised as a result of numerous well planned and fun events for both students and parents. I hope we can continue to support the new committee this year and I have been asked to consider what the school might need for the coming year for which money can be raised. Thank you to our small and dedicated members of KPS and the new committee for their enthusiastic commitment to supporting the school this year. Details of the new roles and KPS team for 2024-25 have been shared with you below in the Weekly Update.

The musical production 'Into the Woods' is less than two weeks away. Performing over three nights, 20th, 21st and 22nd November, students will be displaying their musical and drama talents in what is looking and sounding like an amazing show. A letter went was sent to parents this afternoon with a link to the tickets. Please buy your tickets quickly before they run out!

Finally, it is Remembrance Day on Monday 11/11/24. As I have done in previous years, I will be attending a Remembrance Service at Reading School on Sunday at the invitation of the Headteacher Dr Chris Evans. At Kendrick we will have our assembly on Monday morning including at 11.00am a minute silence. For this event a display of information about the purpose and significance of [Remembrance](#) has been prepared by our Librarians Mrs Williamson and Mr Kassianos. The display is in the vestibule for all to see as well as on our website.

Please read the rest of the Weekly Update for important information, in particular for parents and students and parents in Year 11, please note our **Sixth Form Open Event** which will take place in the afternoon of Thursday 14th November.

Wishing everyone a pleasant 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 **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.

SAFEGUARDING

ONLINE GROOMING CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN INCREASE BY 89% IN SIX YEARS Source NSPCC

As offences rise to record levels, NSPCC is calling for a strengthened approach from Ofcom and for tougher legislation from the UK government.

- More than 7,000 Sexual Communication with a Child offences were recorded by police last year (2023/24) – up 89% since 2017/18 when the offence first came into force.
- Almost half of offences were on Snapchat (48%), where a means of communication was known.
- Most grooming cases (81%) take place against girls while primary school children are also being targeted by offenders.
- NSPCC is urging Ofcom to significantly strengthen its approach to child sexual abuse and for the UK government to ensure the regulator can tackle grooming in private messaging.

Online grooming crimes have reached record levels across the UK, with offences topping 7,000 for the first time, new data compiled reveals.

The figures, provided by 45 UK police forces, show 7,062 Sexual Communication with a Child offences were recorded in 2023/24 – up 89% since 2017/18 when the offence first came into force.²

The data in detail

The data reveals the most common platforms that perpetrators used to target children online, in cases where the means of communication was disclosed.

1. Snapchat 48%
2. WhatsApp (Meta) 12%
3. Facebook and Messenger (Meta) 10%
4. Instagram (Meta) 6%
5. Kik 5%.

Perpetrators typically used mainstream and open web platforms as the first point of contact with children.

This can include social media chat apps, video games and messaging apps on consoles, dating sites and chatrooms. Perpetrators then encourage children to continue communication on private and encrypted messaging platforms where abuse can proceed undetected.

Of total cases where gender was known in 2023/24, 81% of children targeted were girls.

The youngest victim of online grooming in 2023/24 was a 5-year-old boy.

Thomas was 14 when he was groomed online. He said:*

"Our first conversation was quite simple. I was just chatting. The only way I can describe it is like having the most supportive person that you could ever meet.

"After about a month, the pressure started to build of him trying to prove that I was gay. That's when he started sending explicit pictures and pressuring me to send images to him. I did send him pictures, but I didn't like it and I didn't want to do it anymore.

"He said he had saved the images and would send them to everyone if I stopped sending more pictures. There was a constant fear in the back of my mind. It wasn't easy but I managed to block him on all sites and carry on with my life."

STAYING SAFE ONLINE

PARENTS' ULTIMATE GUIDE TO SNAPCHAT Source: [common sense media](#)

What is Snapchat?

Snapchat is a popular messaging app that lets users exchange pictures and videos, called snaps, that are meant to disappear after they're viewed. The essential function is to take a picture or video, add filters, lenses, or other effects, and share it with friends. The app is free to download, and also has a premium subscription plan called Snapchat+. (Note: If you're looking for more parental insights on your kids' favourite things online, sign up for our [family movie night newsletter](#).)

How does Snapchat work?

All you need to sign up is your name, an email address or a phone number, and your birth date. To add friends, you can upload your contacts or search for people you know. You can also automatically add someone by taking a picture of their "Snapcode," a special QR code unique to each user.

After that, things get a little confusing. On Snapchat, you usually start the communication by sending a photo or video, not a text message. To begin a conversation, you tap the big camera circle and take a snap. There are all sorts of photo-editing tools, as well as filters to decorate your images and videos. Once you customize your "snap," you can send it to anyone on your friends list, add it to your story (which is a record of the day that your friends can view

for 24 hours), and add it to Snap Map (which displays your photo on a map of your location that can be viewed by anyone on Snapchat).

Snapchat provides several options for sharing and managing snaps. In addition to individual messaging, Snapchat offers group chats that everyone in a group can contribute to. You can delete the text messages you send, though in a group chat the other people will see that you've deleted something.

How old do you have to be to use Snapchat?

According to the [terms of service](#), users must be 13. You have to enter your birth date to set up an account, but there's no age verification, so it's easy for kids under 13 to sign up. Common Sense Media rates Snapchat OK for [teens 16 and up](#), mainly because of the exposure to age-inappropriate content and the marketing ploys, such as quizzes, that collect data.

For more information on Snapchat, click on the links below.

[Do messages really disappear on Snapchat?](#)

[What are Snapstreaks?](#)

[What's Snap Map?](#)

[What's a Snapchat story?](#)

[What's a Snapcode?](#)

[What's Snapchat Discover?](#)

[What are Snapchat's other features?](#)

[Is Snapchat safe for preteens and teens?](#)

[How do I monitor Snapchat and use the settings?](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

HOW TO HELP A CHILD WHO FEELS LONELY SOURCE NSPCC

It's not unusual for children to experience loneliness, and there are many reasons why they may feel this way. There are things you can do to help, from talking things through to making a plan together.

Loneliness is a difficult feeling for anyone, so it's not surprising that children can really struggle when they feel lonely. By learning more about loneliness, you can work with your child to help them.

- [What does loneliness mean?](#)
- [What should I do if I think my child feels lonely?](#)
- [My child has said they feel lonely. What should I do?](#)
- [Why does my child feel lonely?](#)
- [What can I do to help my child feel less lonely?](#)
- [How often should I check in with my child?](#)
- [What if things seem to be getting worse, not better?](#)

KENDRICK SCHOOL WELLBEING NEWSLETTER

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

SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR TERM 2, 2024-25

Saturday 9th November	KPS Pre-Loved Uniform Shop, 9am – 11am
Monday 11th November	Anti-Bullying Week
Thursday 14th November	Sixth Form Open Event
Tuesday 19th November	Widening Horizons Information Evening, 4pm
Wednesday 20th November	Into the Woods performance

Thursday 21st November	Into the Woods performance
Friday 22nd November	Into the Woods performance
Thursday 28th November	Profiling Day Year 7 Study Skills Trustees Resources Committee, 4.30pm
Tuesday 3rd December	GCSE Presentation Event
Wednesday 4th December	KPS Meeting, 6pm
Thursday 5th December	Year 11 Parents' Consultation
Friday 6th December	Former Students and Staff Reunion event, 3.45pm
Monday 9th December	Start of Fringe Fortnight Dance Enterprise Day
Tuesday 10th December	Dance Performance Day Year 13 Parents' Consultations
Wednesday 11th December	Christmas Concert, 6.30pm
Thursday 12th December	Full Trustee Body Meeting, 4.30pm
Friday 13th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Tuesday 17th December	Year 13 Presentation Event
Friday 20th December	End of Term 3, 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

KENDRICK SIXTH FORM - OPEN EVENT

YEAR 11 PARENTS/CARERS AND STUDENTS

We would like to remind you about some significant events for Year 11. Our annual **Post 16 Conference** will take place on **Tuesday 12th November**. This event will take place throughout the day, students will receive information about post-16 choices and expectations of the universities and industry. Students will also hear about the subjects available at Kendrick School and life in Kendrick's Sixth Form.

The **Sixth Form Open Evening** will take place on Thursday 14th November and will allow students and parents a chance to speak with departments about their potential A-level choices. The event will take place between **4pm and 5.30pm** and this session will be for Kendrick students and their parents only. The subject areas will be open between 4pm and 5pm and there will be a talk in the Hall at 5pm from Ms Kattirtzi, Headteacher, Mrs Hearn, Assistant Head and Head of Sixth Form and some current Kendrick Sixth Form students. **Tickets are not needed for this event.** Students should meet with their parents outside of school and re-enter and register for the event via the East Street entrance. The subject areas will close promptly at 5pm in order for the talk to start on time, so please allow plenty of time to visit all the subjects your child is interested in. Each student can have up to two adults with them, however, unless there are exceptional circumstances (for example, a single parent), for health and safety and capacity reasons, we ask that younger siblings do not attend this event.

Y11 Parents' Consultation will be held online on **Thursday 5th December**. The timings of all of these events have been deliberately organised so that we can support both the students and parents/carers in the decisions to be made about options post-16. In **December 2024**, the students will be asked to indicate subject preferences and from these, option lines will be drawn up and presented to the students at the end of **January 2025**. Students will be expected to confirm whether they will stay on at Kendrick to attend the Sixth Form in **March 2025**.

EXTERNAL APPLICANTS

Kendrick School welcomes new students into its Sixth Form. Prospective entrants into Year 12 for September 2025 are invited to attend our Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 14th November 2024.

Session 2: 5.00pm to 6.30pm for external Year 11 students and their parents. The first hour is a tour of the school and a chance to visit the subject departments. The session will finish with a talk from the Headteacher, Head of Sixth Form and current Sixth Form students. No tickets are required for Session 1. Kendrick students must wear their school uniform. Entry for Session 2 is by ticket only and are available on our [website](#) from Eventbrite.

Before booking tickets please read the Frequently Asked Questions [here](#).

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

The next Get Into Dentistry Conference is:

- Sunday 10th November, 9:30am - 3:30pm

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

These conferences offer tailored advice for medicine and dentistry, covering a range of crucial topics:

- Tactically choosing universities
- Personal statements
- UCAT
- Medical & Dental school interview skills
- Medical Leadership Programmes
- Awards Programmes
- Extracurricular activities
- Work experience
- Building a CV
- Applying for scholarships

NEWS, NOTICES, COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS

SCHOOL PRODUCTION OF 'INTO THE WOODS' Will you join us on a journey *Into the Woods*?

An email was sent to you today on how to buy tickets.

Join us for a fairy-tale night of magical live musical entertainment, full of twists and turns, with our whole school production of *Into the Woods*. With a 19-piece band, and a combined cast and crew of more than 130 people, we assure you that you will not want to miss out on the adventure.

The performances will be on **Wednesday 20th - Friday 22nd November**. Hall doors open at 6.10pm and the performance starts at 6.30pm. Our main cast will be performing on both Wednesday and Friday night, and our understudies will be performing on Thursday night, so you have multiple opportunities to see the production and with different castings, you're spoilt for choice!

Refreshments will be served in the servery by KPS before the show and during the interval, and programmes can be bought on the door.

Tickets will be sold via Parent Pay on a first-come, first-served basis, with a maximum of five per household initially. Seats will be allocated, and we will keep parties together wherever possible. If you know of others who may be interested in attending but are not on Parent Pay, please ask them to email Finance@kendrick.reading.sch.uk. There is a limit of 198 tickets per night, so get yours before it's too late! The ticket prices are as follows:

- Adults = £8/pp
- Concessions (students/65+) = £5/pp

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

Tuesday 14th January – Tuesday 18th 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 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.

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 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

Trips

Year 12 Wokingham Waterside Centre September 2024

Year 12 and Year 13 French and History trip October 2024

Year 10 and Year 11 GCSE Drama trip to Oxford November 2024

Year 12 and Year 13 MFL students' language event November 2024

KENDRICK PARENTS' SOCIETY (KPS)

KPS COMMITTEE MEETING AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) 2024 We had our first in person KPS Committee Meeting in Kendrick School which also coincided with Annual General Meeting for 2024 on Wednesday, November 6th 2024.

Thanks to all members, parents and staff for taking time and making efforts to attend. It was good to see and interact in person.

We went through KPS activities of last year, money raised and contributions made, also the accounts were approved. The meeting minutes with full details will be circulated shortly.

Another major activity of this meeting was reconstituting the KSP Executive Committee for the year 2024-25. Whilst majority of current members were re-elected, some members stepped down and new members inducted.

We would like to thank the members (Teresa Haynes, Dhanashree Chitnis and Mohan Kumar), who stepped down for their contribution to KPS over the years. Also appreciate and congratulate the new members (Satish Kopparty, Anya Alderslade, Victoria Dingle, Madhanika Pratap and Samiksha Dahal) for their interest and involvement.

Full list of year 2024-2025 KPS Executive Committee list is noted below and the KPS website will be updated with these details:

KPS New Committee 2024 - 2025	
Position	KPS Parent/Carer
Chair	Praveena Chillarigae
Deputy Chair	Ramesha Vaderahalli Balaraju
Co-Secretaries	Neha Doorwar, Satish Kopparty
Co-Treasurers	Sachin Nerkar, Jayanthi Bommana
Membership Secretary	Dhaval Patel
Class Rep Parent Coordinator	Pauline Phillips
Preloved/Second Hand Uniform coordinator	Jayne Green , Anya Alderslade
Sponsorship and Marketing Officer	Victoria Dingle
Events Support Manager	Madhanika Pratap, Samiksha Dahal
Parent Representative for Kendrick Trust	Sam Kumra

SCHOOL PRODUCTION – INTO THE WOODS KPS and volunteer team will be supporting the school production – Into the Woods being held during Wednesday 20th – Friday 22nd November (inclusive) with refreshments. This would be a great opportunity for students, parents and carers to support the event, so mark your calendar and book your tickets.

JOINING THE KPS COMMITTEE As part of the AGM, we will have an opportunity to induct new members to the KPS Committee. If you are interested in getting involved in the school community, please email us at KPSChair@kendrick.reading.sch.uk to express your interest or ask any questions.

There are multiple different roles available within the committee, and you can view all the job descriptions on the KPS section of the school's website or email for more information. However, if you have unique talents or ideas to bring to the table, we are more than happy to welcome new and creative contributions to the committee!

KPS section of the School's website link is here:

<https://www.kendrick.reading.sch.uk/page/?title=Kendrick+Parents%27+Society+%28KPS%29&pid=15>

PRE-LOVED UNIFORM SHOP



Next pre-loved uniform store **opens on Saturday 9th Nov from 9 am to 11 am**, 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.

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