

Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Friday 15th November 2024

LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

On Monday morning, 11/11/24, we had a whole school assembly to mark [Remembrance Day](#). At the assembly I was accompanied by Joshika, Senior Contingent Cadet and Sudiksha, Deputy Senior Cadet responsible for the training and leadership development of 300+ Cadets. We spoke to the students about Remembrance Day and the work of the British Legion who support serving and former service men and women of the British Armed Forces. We also talked about conflicts and how they arise, including the conflicts that we are seeing and hearing about every day in Middle East and Ukraine. The students also spoke and explained the symbols of Remembrance, the red poppy, but also other poppies that can be worn - purple, black and white poppies. They highlighted women who had significant and prominent positions during World War Two. The assembly was complemented by the display in the Vestibule which we encouraged people to look at to deepen their understanding of this national occasion. It can be difficult for young people to understand and appreciate the issues that relate to war and the personal, social, economic, and political consequences of conflict. At the end of the assembly, I spent a few moments reflecting on how in our own everyday actions and behaviours we should try to be kind, peaceful, tolerant and understanding and how we must always endeavour to resolve conflicts that we have in our lives. I suggested to them that at Kendrick there are a few things we can do as a community to promote and uphold peace in our lives:

- We can remember those who have died in war
- we can reflect and consider that war is an argument/disagreement on a major scale that has not been resolved.
- We can look at what unresolved conflicts and arguments we have with each other and how we can try to resolve these peacefully and amicably.
- We can be the person that tries to keep the peace in disagreements and tries to find common ground.
- We can 'call out' people when they are being mean or unkind to others.
- We can recognise and appreciate the warmth and kindness of others and be welcoming to people who join our community.
- We can support the charities and organisations that work in countries where war exists.
- We can try to live our lives in peace

In a week that is also [Anti Bullying Week](#), these messages are even more relevant and I urge parents to have conversations with their children and talk about what can peace and harmony feel and be like so that we can all endeavour and work towards this ideal.

The assembly was accompanied by music played by Year 13 students Ananya and Jodie. At 11.00am we paused for a two-minute silence following the playing of The Last Post by Year 12 student, Connie.

We welcomed parents and students in Year 11 last night to the Sixth Form Open event and parents and students from other schools wishing to consider Kendrick for their sixth form studies. The format allowed us to speak separately to the two cohorts for them to better understand the process of entry into Kendrick and our expectations. For Kendrick students, they all have a guaranteed place at Kendrick; for students from other schools, they need to go through an application process. Our Year 11, have now started the process of thinking of their future plans: A Levels and subject choices, as well as, where they would like to study. Obviously, we would like all our students to continue to study at Kendrick, which most of them do, but this is a time for everyone to pause and think about their options. Last night, Mrs Hearn, members of the Kendrick Student Leadership Team and I, strongly made the case for studying at Kendrick for all the obvious reasons such as continuity in studies, familiar environment, established relationships and excellent pastoral support and careers, particularly UCAS guidance. The Open Day for Year 11 was preceded by a Post 16 Conference, organised by Mrs McManus, Careers Coordinator at Kendrick and Learning to Work, our Careers Information and Guidance providers. At this event on Tuesday, students heard from our own Mrs White, who started the day giving the keynote speech about her journey from the Kendrick sixth form to university and eventually into Teaching. The students were absorbed by Mrs White's story and asked pertinent and sensible questions. Year 11 have also had one-to-one careers interviews, talks by employees and information

about degree apprenticeship, plus details about the Kendrick Sixth Form in the [prospectus](#). There is more to come with our bi-annual Careers Fair, Design Your Future, in March 2025. Lots of information to help them think and plan their post 16 journey.

More wonderful news and articles about activities students have done or been involved in can be found here:

[National Poetry Competition on the theme of Counting](#)

[Biology Spelling Bee Competition](#)

[Biology Week October 2024](#)

Please read these articles showcasing the talents and creativity of our students, in particular, the poetry that has been written. Also, a reminder of the production next week and the lovely poster for [Into the Woods Poster](#) with performances on 20th 21st 22nd November. Tickets are selling fast.

To finish, I would like to return to the Remembrance Assembly on Monday. At the end of the assembly and by means of reflection, I asked Sudiksha and Joshika to read a well-known prayer that was also part of the Remembrance Service at Reading School I attended on Sunday and our [Kendrick Pledge](#).

*God grant me the serenity
To accept the things I cannot change;
Courage to change the things I can;
And wisdom to know the difference.*

Wishing everyone a peaceful and 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 **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

TALK TO FRANK – HONEST AND USEFUL ADVICE FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS ABOUT DRUGS AND ALCOHOL Source: [Frank](#)

You probably can't stop your child from coming into some contact with drugs and alcohol, but by staying as informed as possible, you can help them make the right choices when they do.

Visit this [link](#) for honest and useful advice for parents and guardians on drugs and alcohol.

Feeling pressured to take drugs? Below are 10 ways from **Talk to Frank** to deal with it.

1. Remember that you're not alone. It's easy to think you're the only one who's not tried drugs but, actually, most young people don't take drugs.
 2. Work out where you stand on issues like sex, drugs and alcohol. Knowing your own mind makes it easier to stay true to yourself.
 3. Prepare yourself. Think about how you'd like to respond when someone offers you drugs so you know what to say.
 4. Try to understand who's offering you the drugs and why. Friends should understand if you say no, people you don't know you very well may expect something in return.
 5. Say no firmly but clearly and without making a big deal about it. If they try to persuade you, don't feel like you have to change your mind.
 6. Remember that, although they may not show it, your mates will respect you more if you're assertive and clear about what you do and don't want to do.
 7. Take a look around. You'll soon see that you're not the only one worrying about what other people think of you. Try to focus on your own opinion of yourself - in the end, that's all that matters.
 8. [Worried about your mates](#) being pressured? Don't keep it to yourself, talk to them, or someone you trust.
 9. If you're finding it hard to be yourself within your group, take a step back, and think about whether it's time to find a new crowd to hang out with.
 10. Before trying anything new it makes sense to know what's what. You can find out more about different drugs on the [Drugs A to Z](#) or call FRANK on [0300 123 6600](tel:03001236600) at any time, day or night.
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ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

This week was Anti-Bullying Week and the theme this year was 'Choose Respect'. We reminded ourselves of the Kendrick pledge which emphasises the importance of respect, tolerance, friendship and kindness.

"We, the students, staff and friends of Kendrick School, pledge to uphold the values of friendship, kindness and respect. We promise to stand against prejudice, ignorance and injustice in all its forms, promoting the values of equality, tolerance and justice for all"

This year's token of solidarity was wearing odd socks! Students wore their oddest socks on Wednesday to show their support towards Anti-Bullying Week.

The Anti-Bullying Alliance developed a FREE Parent and Carer Pack to help bring Anti-Bullying Week 2024 and Odd Socks Day to life at home. This resource will help you start the conversation about bullying no matter the age of your child and give you other ideas about anti-bullying at home.

<https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week-2024-choose-respect/parents-and-carers>

STAYING SAFE ONLINE

ARE YOU AN ACCIDENTAL CYBERBULLY?

Have you ever left an online comment you regret? Sometimes you might be a cyberbully without realising. Cyberbullying is easier than you think. Try this CBBC online quiz to find out if you are an accidental cyberbully.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/quizzes/cyberbullying-quiz>

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

FRIENDSHIP PROBLEMS SOURCE [CHILDLINE](#)

Friends can be there to enjoy the best, worst, and everything in-between. But if you're having problems with your friendships then Childline has got advice and tips to help.

- [Falling out with friends](#)
- [Dealing with friendship issues](#)
- [Making friends](#)
- [Having a crush on a friend](#)
- [Fake friends and bullying](#)

For a reminder on 'when does banter become bullying?' read our Wellbeing newsletter [here](#).

KENDRICK SCHOOL WELLBEING NEWSLETTER

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

SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR TERM 2, 2024-25

Wednesday 20th November	Into the Woods performance
Thursday 21st November	Into the Woods performance
Friday 22nd November	Into the Woods performance
Tuesday 26th November	Widening Horizons Information Evening, 4pm
Thursday 28th November	Profiling Day Year 7 Study Skills Trustees Resources Committee, 4.30pm
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

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

ARCH EVENT - EXPLORING HEALTHCARE If you're interested in a career in healthcare, have you thought about which area you would want to specialise in? Abbey Alumna Dr Shonelle Novintan will share her career story of becoming a plastic surgeon, why specialisms are so important and how, when they work together, they can truly change lives.

Dr Novintan will be joined by dentists, a speech and language practitioner, a clinical psychologist and a trainee Maxillo-facial surgeon who all support the charity CLEFT (cleft.org.uk)

This is an amazing opportunity to learn about the pathway into their roles, how they're all giving back through the charity and take part in some hands-on activities! How good would you be with a suture kit? Come and find out!

Join us for an evening of inspiration and insight on Thursday 28 November, from 19.00 to 20.35. Please register your place via the following link on The Abbey's Eventbrite page:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/arch-exploring-healthcare-tickets-1049443613097?aff=oddtcreator>

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BRITISH PSYCHOLOGY OLYMPIAD – FIRST ROUND ON SUNDAY 17TH

NOVEMBER 2024 The British Psychology Olympiad is designed for students in Years 9–12 who are keen to challenge and grow their psychology knowledge and research skills. The first round is a 1.5-hour online multiple-choice test, and we are still accepting entries. We also provide a free study guide to support last-minute preparation (this is included in the link below). Registration Deadline: Saturday 16th November, 9am GMT [British Psychology Olympiad](#) Competition Rounds: Several rounds, including a Global Essay Competition Top Awards: Prestigious prizes, including an Oxford Summer Camp for top achievers.

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

<https://airtable.com/appgXnyzN5ZD9lwk6/shrBuiR7SBAC19kE>

GET INTO MEDICINE CONFERENCE: Saturday 23rd November from 9:30am - 3:30pm

Sunday 24th November from 9:30am - 3:30pm

<https://airtable.com/appgXnyzN5ZD9lwk6/shry7MZYtt3MGPjvO>

NEWS, NOTICES, COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS

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

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 [ParentPay](#) 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 and have exceeded your maximum allocation, please email Finance@kendrick.reading.sch.uk as they will be able to check availability once the initial allocations have been made. There is a limit of 188 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
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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.

Caretaker. To join us in January 2025. 10am to 6pm Monday to Friday. Deadline for applications Monday 2nd 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 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)

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.

LAUNCH OF YEAR 2025 WISH LIST PROJECT

Some of you may remember that last year we had successful **Wish List Project** during festive season, i.e. Dec. This year as well KPS will be relaunching this special initiative 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 for any ideas, input and feedback on this initiative.

PRE-LOVED UNIFORM SHOP



Next pre-loved uniform store **opens on Saturday 11th January 2-25 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.

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 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