

# Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025

## LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

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I have just come back from a fun event in the Hall where I found myself colouring! As part of [Children's Mental Health Week](#), our [Wellbeing Ambassadors](#) and staff organised some activities around the theme *Know Yourself, Grow Yourself*. Tables were set out with activities highlighting the different emotions that can affect how we feel at any time in the day: anger, joy, sadness, disgust, fear, anxiety, envy and embarrassment. These emotions are based on the film *Inside Out 2*, which was the popular choice for Film Night for Year 7 earlier in the year. On other days of the week, we had Emotional Bingo Wednesday and chalk drawings on Thursday, all of which have been organised to engage and provide students with some relaxation and therapeutic wellbeing activities during their lunch break. I really enjoyed my 10 mins of colouring with Zaynab and Aadya putting me in a relaxed frame of mind to write the Weekly Update!

At the KPS hosted drop-in for Year 8 and 9 parents last night, we had some useful conversations about student life in school. Accompanied by Miss Hyde, Head of Key Stage 3, we responded to several very sensible questions from parents. It was useful to be able to give some clarity on processes and procedures which enables parents to understand why we do what we do. Questions around trips came up and as always, I presented the school position on trips which is that all trips in term time are linked to curriculum related themes, including residential. We do not offer a vast array of residential trips for several reasons: cost and time out of school and the burden on staff. Some schools offer more trips, some fewer. I feel at Kendrick we have a good balance that supports our staff and students. The issue of parent consultations was also mentioned and the question about whether we will revert to face to face meetings. This will not happen for some very basic reasons related to the efficiency and effectiveness of the online meetings, environmental factors and teacher workload. Parents of students currently in Years 7-11 have not had face to face consultations as the online meetings started in March 2020 at the start of the lockdown period. As in most work places, the issue of making work more flexible emerged and in some situations has proved to be a better way of doing things. When we explained the reasons in more detail, parents were most understanding. As Year 9 parents were present, the topic of GCSE options came up and the options process for Year 9 begins after half term. I am grateful to the 40 parents who engaged in the evening and to KPS for organising the event. The next drop in is for parents of Year 10 and 11 students on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March at 5.30-6.30pm. I will be joined at that meeting with Mme Hulley Head of Key Stage 4.

At the end of last week four of our students Sophia, Elizabeth, Swathi and Anya went to Reading School as part of 'The Great Debate Competition'. Having got through the first round of this competition organised by the Historical Association and Mr Curran, Head of History, they each addressed the question *how can your local history tell a global story?* Each student looked at different theme related to Reading's history and delivered a most engaging and intelligent speech on their chosen topic. The winner of the local round, which included students from other schools was Anya, who now goes through to the national heat. Well done to Anya and to the other students who got to the local final and the many others who applied for the competition.

A couple of reminders: firstly, House Drama next week on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February. The theme of *Out of Time* will be represented by all three Houses, and I expect some interesting and intriguing interpretations on this theme. Doors will open at 6.10pm for a 6.30pm start, tickets are £3 and can be bought [here](#). Also, a reminder from last week about the careers event we are holding in March, Design Your Future, here is the [poster](#) with details of the event.

Wishing everyone a good weekend

**Ms Christine Kattirtzi**  
**Headteacher**

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## KENDRICK SCHOOL'S SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

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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.



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## SAFEGUARDING/WELLBEING

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### 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 the Designated Safeguarding Leads, Mr Simmonds, or a Deputy Safeguarding Lead.

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](mailto:studentwelfare@kendrick.reading.sch.uk).**

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## SAFEGUARDING

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### SAFER INTERNET DAY – 11<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2025 SOURCE [UK SAFER INTERNET CENTRE](#)

This Safer Internet Day is about starting conversations about how to spot, respond to and report all types of scams online. Scams can take many forms and may target anyone, including young people. Use these top tips to keep you and your family safe online.

**Enjoy going online together and talk regularly about your family's online lives** The internet is amazing and can help us all to access information and entertainment. Spend time online with your child to understand how they are using technology and talk together about the good and the bad parts of being online. Talk about your own experiences and find other opportunities to get the conversation started, like stories in the news. Make sure your child knows they can talk to you about anything that they see or experience online.

**Take online security measures seriously** The internet can be a tool used by criminals to target their victims, but a few [simple steps](#) can help keep you and your accounts secure. Use [strong and separate passwords](#) for online

accounts and [set up two step verification](#) (2SV) where it's available. You may also be able to [set parental controls](#) to prevent unwanted online purchases and limit children's access to harmful content.

**Look out for warning signs that someone or something online cannot be trusted** "It just seems too good to be true!" – Other common signs of a scam include contact that you weren't expecting or being asked for money or personal information (think: bank or contact details, passwords, or phone numbers). Scammers use [other tactics](#) to manipulate their victims into paying, like playing with your emotions, or building a sense of urgency so you are rushed into making a decision. If you aren't sure it's reliable, don't risk it.

**Remember that anyone can be a victim of a scam** Scammers are good at what they do and will target anyone. We all need to stay vigilant and support those who are most vulnerable including children and the elderly by helping them recognise what to look out for. If anyone in your family has been scammed, talk openly about it. There should be no shame in being victim to a scam and it's never your fault.

**Know where to get help if something goes wrong** If you or someone you know has been the victim of a scam online, you're not on your own. Help is available and you are not to blame for what has happened. In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, you can report fraud and cyber crime online to [Action Fraud](#) or by telephoning 0300 123 2040. In Scotland, report to Police Scotland by calling 101.

You may also be able to report via social media, if the scam has taken place there or to another relevant organisation, like your bank, if you think your account is at risk.

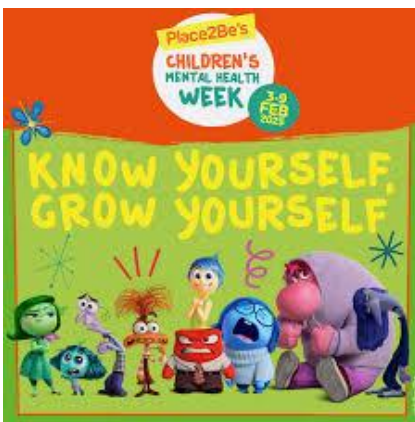
**Remember, if you or anyone else is in immediate danger, call 999 immediately.**

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

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### CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK SOURCE [NSPCC](#)



This week has been **Children's Mental Health Week**. The theme this year is **'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself'** to encourage children, young people and adults to embrace self-awareness and explore what it means to them. Place to Be partnered with Disney Inside Out 2 to help children and young people to discover how getting to know who they are can help them build resilience, grow and develop.

At school our students took part in chalk drawing to express their emotions creatively, emotional bingo to match feelings with fun in tutor time and on Friday we held a fun event in our hall with stalls of fun games, compliment boards, and challenges, each themed around a different emotion.

Parents and carers are key to supporting young people in their lives and helping build resilience and recognise their emotions. Five top tips from [Place to Be](#) for families are as follows:

**Encourage journalling** Just like Riley, encourage your older children and young people to express their emotions and thoughts through journalling. It can be less confronting than speaking out loud and is a helpful way to process what is going on.

**Make space for reflection** When children and young people reflect on their different emotions, it can help them better understand themselves and what they need. Go for a walk, drive, or try some mindful colouring or baking together

**Be visual** Use imagery, such as emojis or flashcards to help children and young people recognise and label their feelings.

**Practice mindfulness** Try mindful activities, and quiet family time, to enjoy being in the present moment. This can help children and young people be aware of their thoughts and emotions and learn a useful new coping technique.

**Communicate** Feedback is crucial for helping us see our blind spots and gain greater insight. Children and young people are no different. Creating safe and supportive ways to share your own experience with your child can help them understand themselves and their impact on the world around them.

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**MANAGING STRESS - ADVICE FROM THE WELLBEING AMBASSADORS** Our Wellbeing Ambassadors have produced some very informative information on managing stress which you can access via the links below.

[Studying with Less Stress](#)

[It's fine not to be fine](#)

[Exercise - the ultimate antidote to stress and anxiety](#)

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## KENDRICK SCHOOL WELLBEING

For all our wellbeing information please click [here](#).

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## SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR TERM 3, 2024-25

<b>Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Year 11 GCSE PE Practicals
<b>Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Safer Internet Day
	Year 13 A Level PE Practicals
<b>Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Year 8 Parent Consultations
<b>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Trustees P&R Committee, 4.30pm
	House Drama
<b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February</b>	End of Term 3, 3.15pm

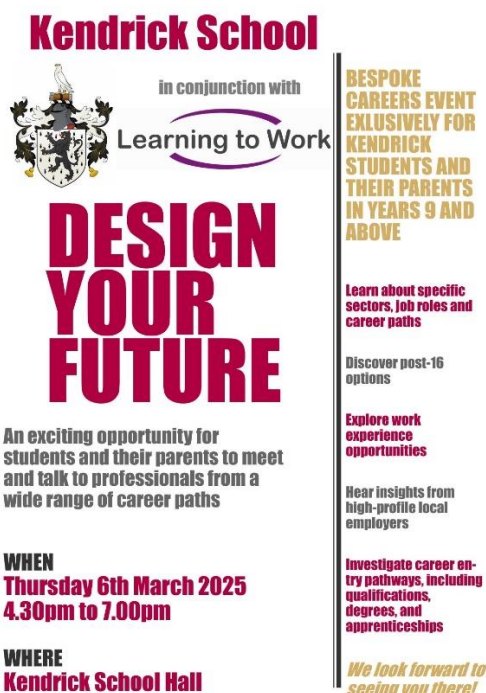
Term dates for 2024/25 and 2025/26 can be found [here](#). Please check these carefully before booking holidays and trips.


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## NEWS, NOTICES, COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS

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### DESIGN YOUR FUTURE CAREERS EVENT



**Kendrick School**  
in conjunction with  
 Learning to Work

**DESIGN YOUR FUTURE**

An exciting opportunity for students and their parents to meet and talk to professionals from a wide range of career paths

**WHEN**  
Thursday 6th March 2025  
4.30pm to 7.00pm

**WHERE**  
Kendrick School Hall

**BESPOKE CAREERS EVENT EXCLUSIVELY FOR KENDRICK STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS IN YEARS 9 AND ABOVE**

- Learn about specific sectors, job roles and career paths
- Discover post-16 options
- Explore work experience opportunities
- Hear insights from high-profile local employers
- Investigate career entry pathways, including qualifications, degrees, and apprenticeships

*We look forward to seeing you there!*

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## HOUSE DRAMA 2025 'OUT OF TIME' Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February at 6.30pm.

Our House Drama Competition will take place as an evening event, with two guest judicators: Associate Director of Reading Rep Theatre, Chris Cuming and Senior Technician of Reading Rep, Hilda Harper to present this year's awards and decide the winner of House Drama on the night. This year, each house will present their plays based on the theme of 'the candidate'. Our house captains, vice captains and sixth form directors have been working tirelessly to put together their own short plays with very different perspectives of the theme. They have rehearsed their plays for a number of weeks to ensure they provide an exciting and enjoyable event for all.

This year we will be having two judicators: Chris Cuming and Hilda Harper from Reading Rep Theatre. Hilda Harper has over twenty years of experience in theatre and events, having started out as a student with University of Sheffield Theatre Company in 2000. She has worked in theatres around the country, and was previously Technical Manager at Corn Exchange, Newbury, before joining Reading Rep Theatre as Senior Technician in September 2023. Hilda is passionate about giving young people routes into careers in the arts and is delighted to have been asked to help adjudicate this event. Chris Cuming trained at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama as a Director and Producer and has since gone on to direct and work on plays and musical across the UK, Korea, Kenya and China. Chris is currently the Associate Director at Reading Rep Theatre having directed A Midsummers Night Dream A Christmas Carol, Peter Pan, It's a Wonderful Life and Potted Panto. Chris is also the Artistic Director of the National Youth Music Theatre.

KPS will be serving refreshments before the performance and during the interval and I expect the competition to finish at approximately 8.30pm. **Tickets for this event are £3 and can be bought via ParentPay.** There is a limit of five tickets per family and a maximum of 250 seats available, so please book early to avoid disappointment. All proceeds will go to the Drama Department and towards future drama and theatre events/productions at Kendrick.

As always, we (students and staff) really appreciate the support of parents, family and friends to make this an entertaining event. We are therefore hoping that as many of you can attend as possible as a fuller audience makes an enormous difference to the overall atmosphere of the evening.

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## HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2025 POETRY COMPETITION

This Holocaust Memorial Day, we all have an opportunity to act for a better future. A time where people are not suffering prejudice or persecution because of their faith, ethnicity or other characteristic.

Activity: **Write a poem highlighting the theme for this year 'For A Better Future'**

Further information can be found at: <https://www.hmd.org.uk/>

Please submit to the library either by hand or via email: [library@kendrick.reading.sch.uk](mailto:library@kendrick.reading.sch.uk)

Deadline: **Monday 3rd March 2025, 17:00**

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## 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.*

**ONLINE INSIGHT INTO NHS CAREERS SESSIONS** These are tailored for school and college students, parents, carers, career leads/teachers, and even career changers.

Please find the details below:

**Allied Health Professions Insight Event (Including Podiatry)**

Date: Monday, 10th February

Time: 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

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**SOLICITOR APPRENTICES** Osborne Clarke are looking for Solicitor Apprentices to join in Reading in September 2025. Solicitor Apprenticeships offer the opportunity to study an undergraduate law degree and train as a Solicitor whilst earning a salary, without the cost associated with going to university.

Find out more at our open evening for students and parents/carers:

**On Monday 10 February From 5.30pm until 7pm At Osborne Clarke, No. 3 Forbury Place, Forbury Road, Reading, RG1 3JH**

To secure your place sign up here - <https://osborneclarke.app.candidats.io/event/8b24dc43-cd7a-491a-8f30-4025059aa21f>. Additional information can be found online at <https://www.osborneclarke.com/solicitor-apprenticeship/>

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## STUDY IN THE NORTH: WEBINAR AND LIVE Q&A

Universities of Sunderland, Newcastle, Lancaster and Sheffield talk through the benefits and opportunities that come from studying in the North of England. You can also ask your questions to a selection of current students!

**When:** Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025

**Time:** 17:30 - 18:30

**Location:** Online

Register via the link [here](#).

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**WARNER BROS. DISCOVERY WEBINAR** Warner Bros. Discovery's Early Talent Team is hosting a virtual event - Championing Apprenticeships - on **Tuesday 11th February at 6:00PM GMT** in support of National Apprenticeship Week.

[REGISTER YOUR INTEREST](#)

What to Expect:

- Hear from current apprentices as they share their personal journeys and experiences.
  - Discover the exciting projects they've worked on and how these have equipped them with invaluable #SkillsforLife.
  - Celebrate their achievements and gain insight into the impact of our apprenticeship programme.
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**DELOITTE READING OFFICE – INSIGHT EVENT** **Tuesday 11th February 5-7.30pm** for those interested in a career in Business and Accounting. Workshops, network, gain understanding - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Deloitte-Reading-Feb>

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**FREETH'S LAW FIRM VIRTUAL INSIGHT EVENT** **WEDNESDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 5-6PM**  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Freeths-virtual>

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**HM TREASURY** virtual insight event for apprenticeship careers in Business, Finance, Policy, Economics, HR, Management. Also covers GES DAP, degree in Econ whilst working in government (Government Economics Service Degree Apprenticeship Programme)

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025

5-6pm

Register here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HMTreasury-Insight>

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## ORACLE WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP AND TECHNOLOGY | VIRTUAL WORK

**EXPERIENCE | 17-19 February | 10am-3pm | Age 16-19 / [Young people apply here by 30/01/25](#)**

Are you looking to explore career paths and gain real insights into the tech world? Oracle is the 3rd biggest software company in the world with over 160,000 employees across 75 different countries. This unique experience is tailored to help you explore your future career options in tech—whether you've thought about it before or are just curious. Discover diverse roles in areas like marketing, design, social impact, and engineering—there's so much more behind the scenes of a tech company than you might think. Our programme is delivered by Oracle interns from prestigious universities, many not much older than you! They've built a program that addresses what they wish they'd known at your age. You'll walk away with an experience you can talk about on your CV and through interactive workshops, we'll equip you with the skills to talk about it well. This experience is designed for anyone interested in exploring diverse career paths—no technology background required! Just bring your curiosity and an open mind, and we'll take care of the rest.

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### **PWC VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE DAY** Tuesday, 18th February - 10am - 3pm

***Gain Real-World Experience with PwC***

Are you a Year 11, 12, or 13 student interested in gaining work experience with one of the world's leading professional services firms?

Join the PwC Virtual Experience Day during February half term to explore career opportunities in business, finance, accounting, and professional services while developing key employability skills.

#### **Event Details**

Date: Tuesday, 18th February

Time: 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Location: Virtual (join from anywhere)

Who Can Attend? Year 11, 12, and 13 students

#### **What to Expect?**

- Learn about PwC's degree apprenticeship and early career pathways, providing alternatives to university
- Take part in interactive sessions and real-world business case studies
- Gain insights into careers in finance, tax, consulting, and accounting
- Hear from current apprentices and senior professionals about their experiences at PwC

#### **Why Attend?**

This one-day virtual experience is designed to give students valuable exposure to the world of professional services, helping them build confidence, develop key skills, and gain an understanding of career opportunities at PwC.

Whether you are considering an apprenticeship, exploring work experience, or simply want to learn more about the industry, this event will provide first-hand insights and career advice to help you take the next step.

Register now to secure your place! Register Here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PwC-WExDay>

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## **VACANCIES**

We have the following vacancies at Kendrick School. More information on each of the roles can be found by clicking on the roles below. Please pass on this information to family and friends.

**[Governance Officer](#)**. To join in April 2025. 200 hours over the academic year. To be worked flexibly in school and at home although applicants must be able to attend pre-arranged meetings which take place after school, remotely or face to face. Deadline for applications 9am Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

*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.*

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## **PARENTPAY AND EVOLVE REMINDERS**

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*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.*

### **PARENTPAY**

School fund Donation  
Whitley Community Food Cupboard – cash donations  
Year 7 Profiling Day – November 2024  
Year 10 and 11 GCSE English set text contributions  
Year 12 and 13 A level English set text contributions  
A level Geography Slapton – October 2024  
A Level Sociology in Action conference – November 2024  
Year 10 and Year 11 GCSE Drama trip to Oxford November 2024  
The Legacy of East Germany in film – 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024  
Year 10 2025 MFL trip to France or Germany instalments

### **EVOLVEPAY**

*Payment can be made via trip payment emails or a myEVOLVE account if you have set this up.*

Year 11 Geography Rural villages trip – January 2025  
GCSE and A Level Art trip to London – January 2025  
A Level Classics Trip to Warwick University – January 2025  
Year 12 and Year 13 French BFI visit – February 2025  
Year 13 Spanish BFI visit – February 2025  
Year 11 English Macbeth trip – March 2025

### **EVOLVESHOP**

*Purchase can be made via payment links or a myEVOLVE account if you have set this up*

GCSE Science revision guides/bundles  
GCSE Drama set text (The Crucible, Arthur Miller)

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

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### **PREVIOUS AND UPCOMING KPS COMMITTEE MEETING**

This week, on Tuesday, 4th February, we held our latest KPS meeting. We are thankful to all the members, parents, and carers who made the time to attend the meeting. We provided updates on the initiatives and activities KPS has been involved in since our last meeting and discussed about the upcoming projects.

Please mark your calendars for our **next meeting**, which will take place on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> of March 2024 from 6pm to 7:15pm.**

We will be sharing further details and the agenda for the meeting closer to the date.

### **DROP-IN SESSIONS WITH MS KATTIRTZI**

**Drop-in sessions with Ms Kattirtzi and Miss Hyde** Yesterday evening, we hosted our second drop-in session for Year 8 and Year 9, with Ms. Kattirtzi and Miss Hyde. Many parents actively participated by sharing their thoughts and engaging in meaningful discussions. It was a valuable opportunity for them to voice their opinions, seek



clarifications, and gain insights directly from Ms. Kattirtzi and Miss Hyde. We truly appreciate everyone who joined and contributed to the session's success!

Next session is for Year 10 and Year 11: Tuesday 4th March with Ms Kattirtzi and Mme Hulley

Year Group: Years 10 & 11

Date: Tuesday 4th March

Time: 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm

Google meeting link: To join the video meeting please use the link sent in an email to you.

The protocols for the sessions will be explained before the meeting starts. We look forward to meeting with everyone. Please take advantage of this opportunity.

The dates for other year groups are as follows, meeting links will be circulated nearer the date:

6th Form: Tuesday 1st April with Ms Kattirtzi and Mrs Hearn

## **PRE-LOVED UNIFORM SHOP**

Our next opening will be on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025, 9am - 11am in the Conservatory.

Please note that donation point has been moved to the outside of library.

## **VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES AT KPS**

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

As you are aware, we run many events and support school activities like music or drama performances during 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**