

Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Friday 10th January 2025

LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

Welcome back to school! I hope everyone has had a restful and peaceful holiday and I wish you all a very happy New Year. We welcome one new member of staff to Kendrick this term, Mr Gulliford, who joins our caretaking team.

Staff had an INSET Day on Monday 7th January undertaking further professional training on important aspects of education. We looked at online safety for students, a regular theme in our training, plus elements of Learning and Teaching practice and SEND provision. In addition, I introduced an important initiative on Racial Literacy. This is a programme of training that all staff, students and trustees will receive over the next few months, which I will speak more about in due course.

School life has resumed quickly, and it was wonderful to welcome students back after the break. Students were straight back into lessons period 1 on Tuesday with Year 11 students very quickly settling to their mock examinations, which will be finish on Friday 17th January. Mock examinations are always an intense and stressful period, but they serve the purpose of identifying knowledge and understanding for students so that teachers can respond to their needs and support further learning and revision for the final exams in the summer.

On the website this week there are many articles charting the successes and achievements of students, please take time to read these.

- [Year 10 Pantomime Experience](#)
- [German Film Day](#)
- [Frisbee Club Update](#)
- [Into the Woods – A 'Forest' for success!](#)

Back to last term, on 17th December we had a most pleasant event when we welcomed back our former Year 13 students and their parents for the presentation of A Level certificates. This cohort of students joined Kendrick in September 2017 at the time of the school's 140th birthday celebrations. They studied their GCSE courses during the pandemic and were the first cohort of students who did sit GCSEs in the summer of 2022 following two years of no written exams. Throughout their time with us they were a most enthusiastic, hardworking, and lively group of students who focused well on their studies and contributed enormously to school life. Their results at A Level were excellent and the university destinations and courses they are now studying are impressive. We are so very proud of them and wish them all the best for the future. Click on this [link](#) for the results and destinations of these students.

As part of the presentation ceremony, a former student gives a speech. This year the speaker and presenter of the certificates was Isabel Irvine, who left Kendrick in 2017. Isabel pursued her passion for singing after she left Kendrick. She went on to study Music, Opera, at the Royal Academy of Music in London. She completed a degree and masters qualification and is now an Opera Singer. In her speech, Isabel spoke about how she has had to manage rejection and imposter syndrome in the world of the performing arts because of the immense competition in this profession. However, with passion and persistence she said that she is determined to do all she can to work and perform as an opera singer and develop her career in this field. At the end of the ceremony, Isabel delighted us by singing an aria called *Venite In ginocchiatevi* from *Le Nozze di Figaro*. Isabel's uniqueness in both the profession she has chosen to pursue and the voice and determination she has inspired us all.

To end I would like to share Isabel's concluding remarks to the students at the presentation event:

As you step into this next chapter of your lives, remember this:

1. Rejection is not a reflection of your worth.

2. Imposter syndrome is just a sign that you're stretching beyond your comfort zone—and that's where growth happens.
3. Your journey will not look like anyone else's, and that's the beauty of it. Celebrate your individuality and trust the process.

The world needs your ideas, your courage, and your voices even if you don't think it does. Embrace the challenges, because they will shape you into the person you're meant to become.

Wishing everyone a good 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 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.

SAFEGUARDING

SUPPORTING CHILDREN AT DIFFERENT AGES WITH THEIR USE OF TECHNOLOGY

SOURCE: NSPCC

There are no exact rules about the right age to give your child access to technology. Every child's different and will mature in their own time. Parents are making choices about whether and when to grant greater independence and freedom.

Whether you're handing down an old device or buying your child a new bit of tech, it's important to think about:

- The age you give your children their own device.
- The access your child has to online platforms and services.

NSPCC regularly speak to children and their families about access to technology and consider this alongside what evidence tells them about its impact. Click below for some helpful tips to help you determine what's right for your child in terms of tech ownership and usage throughout childhood.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/access-to-technology-for-different-ages/>

HOW TO STAY PROTECTED AGAINST AI SCAMS - TECHRADAR The next spam call you receive may not be a real person. Scammers are increasingly using voice-enabled AI models to automate their fraudulent schemes. The human ear was not designed to tell the difference. The tricking of individuals by imitating real human callers, has become a new and highly effective methodology enabled by AI advances. Tech Radar magazine, has recently published an article on how to tackle this new front in the war against scams. If interested, please follow the link below:

<https://www.techradar.com/computing/artificial-intelligence/ai-voice-clone-scams>

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](#)

KENDRICK SCHOOL WELLBEING NEWSLETTER

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

SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR TERM 3, 2024-25

Saturday 11th January

KPS Pre-Loved Uniform Sale (see KPS update below)

Tuesday 14th January

Year 12 Parents' Consultations

Wednesday 15th January

KPS Meeting, 6pm to 7.15pm

Thursday 16th January

Trustees L&T Committee, 4,30pm–

Monday 20th January

Year 13 Mock German speaking exam

GCSE / A Level Art & Textile trip

Tuesday 21st January

EPQ Exhibition

KPS Year 7 Online drop in with Ms Kattirtzi, 5:30 – 6:30pm

EPQ Presentations

Monday 27th January

Year 11 Rural Geography Trip

Tuesday 28th January	Holocaust Memorial Day
Wednesday 29th January	Year 8 Careers Option Event 'People Like Me'
Thursday 30th January	Year 10 Parents' Consultations
Friday 31st January	Music from Around the World Workshop
Monday 3rd February	Sixth Form Classics Trip
	Children's Mental Health Week
	Fairtrade Week
Wednesday 5th February	KPS Online Meeting, 6:00 – 7:30pm
Thursday 6th February	Time to Talk Day
	Year 12 & 13 French Trip
	Year 10 Hitler on Trial
	KPS Year 8 & 9 Online drop in with Ms Kattirtzi, 5:30 – 6:30pm
Monday 10th February	Year 11 GCSE PE Practicals
Tuesday 11th February	Safer Internet Day
	Year 13 A Level PE Practicals
Wednesday 12th February	Year 8 Parent Consultations
Thursday 13th February	Trustees P&R Committee, 4.30pm
	House Drama
Friday 14th February	End of Term 3

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.

APPRENTICESHIPS AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

BCH, in collaboration with ASK, is hosting a series of community roadshows to provide valuable information about Apprenticeships and Technical Education to students and their parents/carers. Each roadshow will take place in a different local authority but is open to everyone, allowing attendees to choose a date and location that best suits their schedule.

The next roadshow will be held at:

Earley Crescent Resource Centre
 Friday, 17 January 2025
 15:30 – 17:00

UNIVERSITY OF HERTFORDSHIRE ONLINE EVENTS

Tuesday 14 January, 16:30 – [Preparing for Healthcare Interviews](#)

Thursday 23 January, 16:30 – [Mental Health Nursing Masterclass: Therapeutic Communication in Mental Health](#)

Tuesday 28 January, 16:30 – [Sport Taster Lecture: Learning Musculoskeletal Anatomy for Sports Courses](#)

GET INTO DENTISTRY CONFERENCE: Sunday 12th January 2025 from 9:30am - 3:30pm

Register here for FREE: <https://airtable.com/appgXnyzN5ZD9lwk6/shrBuiR7SBACc19kE>

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.

PWC EXPERIENCE DAY – Thursday 16th January. [PwC](#), is running an Insight Experience day in their Reading office, for female students in Year 12 and 13 who are **on track for AAB** and have an [interest in finance](#) careers - taking place on **Thursday 16th January between 10am - 3pm.**

The event will involve presentations and experiences from staff and apprentices, with the aim of raising awareness of careers in finance and accounting. PwC will be hosting a panel with their current apprentices to inspire and inform students about their best next steps, delivering a Dragon's Den style challenge which will prepare students for any application process as well as providing career tips and an office tour.

If you are interested please email ishaw@kendrick.reading.sch.uk who will put your name forward.

NEWS, NOTICES, COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS

ARRANGEMENTS FOR INCLEMENT WEATHER In the case of inclement weather (such as snow), parents and carers will be sent an email by 7am to outline the arrangements for the school day. The website will also be updated. **If you do not receive an email, and the website is not updated, the school is open as normal.**

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.

[Attendance Officer and Student Welfare Assistant.](#) To join us in January 2025. 35 hours a week. Monday to Friday. 8am to 3.30pm. Deadline for applications 9am Monday 13th January 2025

[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
Kendrick School Christmas Concert 2024- tickets £5
Year 7 Profiling Day – November 2024
Year 10 and 11 GCSE set text contributions
Year 12 and 13 A level set text contributions

Trips

Year 12 Wokingham Waterside Centre September 2024
Year 12 and Year 13 French and History trip October 2024
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 – 12th December 2024
Year 10 2025 MFL France or Germany deposit

KENDRICK PARENTS' SOCIETY (KPS)

YEAR 2024-25 WISH LIST PROJECT

Happy New Year 2025 to all! We are in to last few days of fund raising activity for **this year's Wish List Project**. So far we raised **£2865 out of our target £4000, which is 71%**. Thanks for those who supported, and we are in need of your generous support to achieve the goal.



£2,865
raised of £4,000 target
by 97 supporters

**A MASSIVE
THANK
YOU**

We request your continued support and

link to the donation page is -

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/kendrick-wishlist2024>

Kendrick School : Wish List Project

As the festive season draws near, the Kendrick Parents Society (KPS) is thrilled to announce the return of the Wishlist Project, now in its second year! Last year's Wishlist was a huge success, allowing us to purchase many useful items that have greatly benefited our students. With your generous support, we aim to make this year even

Help us reach our £4,000 target!
Make a donation with **JustGiving**

Match Funding Opportunity: If your employer offers match funding, we'd love to hear from you! It's a fantastic way to double the impact of your donation. Kindly reach out to us via this email if you are interested - KPSChair@kendrick.reading.sch.uk

UPCOMING KPS COMMITTEE MEETING

Next KPS meeting is taking place on Wednesday, 15th January 2025 from 6pm to 7:15pm.

Google meeting link: To join the video meeting, click this link: <https://meet.google.com/fqx-ckti-gjp>

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.

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 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