

Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Friday 28th March 2025

LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

Joining us in school today are members of the Trustee Board for a strategic discussion day. This is an annual event which enables us to work with our Trustees setting the vision and direction of the school for the next year and beyond. Our focus is often determined by the direction of travel that the Department for Education may set or priorities specifically relevant to our school. This year the programme combines a bit of both. The first part of the day the Trustees will attend assemblies, visit a School Council meeting, attend registration time across the school. Then they will drop into lessons during the first part of period 1, followed by a discussion led by me and Mr Simmonds about the changes proposed by Ofsted regarding the new framework for inspection due this autumn. We are very fortunate at Kendrick to have Mr Simmonds, who is Deputy Headteacher and an experienced Ofsted Inspector, and he will lead and guide our discussions around the new proposed *Record Card* that Ofsted has proposed to use for inspections. Instead of five judgments there are 10 judgments set against five headings ranging from causing concern to exemplary. Although Ofsted have said that the new framework reflects the views of parents and teachers based on the feedback survey they did last year, many/most teachers and the teaching unions have not responded to the proposed changes quite as enthusiastically as Ofsted would have liked. The process does seem onerous and time consuming although it covers many key areas that are important to assess in schools. Our discussions today will be an opportunity for our Trustees to work with us to shape our development planning which always reflects the headings that Ofsted use to inspect schools.

Another key agenda item of the of the day, again driven by the government's agenda, is curriculum review, a piece of work launched by the government last autumn when Professor Becky Frances was commissioned to look at the current school curriculum across all key stages and assess whether it is still fit for purpose. As a history teacher for most of my career, one of the topics I enjoyed teaching to A Level students was Education in the 19th Century in a paper called English Social Conditions 1832- 1914. The focus of this paper and history was how the education system evolved to meet the needs of a fast growing and changing economic and political landscape. The theory we examined was that very rarely does an education system keep out of step with societal change and how education must reflect the needs of the current society. In the 19th century this meant the growth of education for the people who were not the elites or privileged and followed changes in the extension of the franchise, initially to working men and then women. Interestingly it was in this emerging period of education growth that Kendrick School was founded in 1877, seven years after the First Education Act, 10 years after the Second Reform Act. Today, as I often tell the students, our education system has evolved and changed and still endeavours to meet the needs of a rapidly changing society. Hence, we welcome a review of the curriculum, which we regularly do ourselves, confident that our current provision at Kendrick still meets the needs of our students and society's needs. We will also look at AI and the use of this tool in education, we will reflect on the racial literacy training we have all undertaken so far, and finally we will discuss the school's energy strategy under our Climate Action Plan - a packed day!

As always, the school and our students have been very active these last few weeks. On the website there are several articles featuring some key events we have had and celebrated recently.

- [International Women's Day](#)
- [Mock Trial Competition](#)
- [German on- campus day at Reading University](#)
- [Geography Innovation Challenge](#)

In addition, we have had Neurodiversity Week, Comic Relief, AI Safeguarding assemblies, Profiling Day, Poetry by Heart competitions, elected and appointed the new Kendrick Student Leadership Team for 2025-2026 and today an A Level History Conference is taking place in school where we are working with two local schools. Next week, the last week of term, is also very busy with the Spring Concert on Tuesday 1st April, celebration days for Year 13 and 11, Eid celebrations on Thursday 3rd April with a Kendrick Parents' Society run Disco in the evening for Year 7. Friday 4th April, we end the term in the usual way having a whole school assembly in the morning when we will receive reports

from the outgoing Student Leaders, plus a House round-up report and award the House Cup. We will also reflect on the year so far. The day will finish at the normal time of 3.15pm.

Wishing everyone a good weekend and a happy Mothering Sunday for mothers everywhere and others who take on mothering roles in their families and amongst their friends.

Please continue to read the rest of the update for important information.

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 add 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


COMMUNICATING ONLINE IN 'CODES' SOURCE: CR2 SECURITY

Online, young people are communicating in ways that most adults completely misunderstand. What looks innocent could potentially have a very different meaning.


Here are some of the 'codes' which may be being used by your child:


 Red Pill – “I see the truth.” Used in toxic male spaces to mean waking up to supposed hidden ‘truths’ about women and society, often linked to misogynistic ideologies.


 Blue Pill – Represents those who are “blind to the truth” or still believe in mainstream views about relationships and gender dynamics.


 Dynamite Emoji – An “exploding red pill,” meaning someone is a radicalised incel.


 Kidney Bean – A symbol linked to incel culture, sometimes mocking women.


 100 Emoji – Tied to the “80/20 rule,” the belief that 80% of women are only attracted to 20% of men.


 Black Hole – Used to express depression, hopelessness, or being sucked into negative online spaces.


 Tornado – Represents chaos or feeling overwhelmed, sometimes used to indicate mental distress.


 Frog Emoji – Associated with alt-right and extremist meme culture, often linked to Pepe the Frog, which has been co-opted by some toxic online groups.


 Eagle – A symbol of extreme nationalism, sometimes used in far-right online spaces.


 Skull – While often just slang for “that’s funny” or “I’m dead (from laughing),” in certain groups, it can signal darker themes like nihilism or self-harm.


 Heart colours and what each one can represent.

 = Love

 = Lust

 = “Are you interested?”

 = Interested but not in sex

 = “You’ll be okay”

So what should parents do and some advice?

- Get Curious, Not Combative – Ask open-ended questions: “I saw something about emojis meaning different things. Have you heard of this?” Keep the conversation light.
- Create a Judgment-Free Zone – If your child feels like they’ll be punished for opening up, they won’t. Make it clear you’re there to listen, not just lecture.
- Decode Together – Ask them to explain their digital world. What do different symbols mean? Who are the influencers they follow? Don’t assume—ask.
- Teach Critical Thinking – Help them question online content. “Why do you think some groups push this idea? Who benefits?” Arm them with questions, not just rules.
- Monitor Without Spying – Open conversations work better than secret surveillance. Make checking in on their online spaces a normal part of parenting, not a crisis move.
- Be Real About Manipulation – Explain how toxic online groups groom young people by making them feel special, included, or like they have ‘insider knowledge.’
- Build Their Offline Confidence – The more they feel valued and confident in the real world, the less they’ll seek validation in dangerous online spaces.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

TIPS FOR MANAGING WELLBEING ONLINE SOURCE NSPCC

Have regular conversations with your child *“It would be very nice if they wouldn’t say ‘Be careful who you are talking to online, they might not be who you think they are’, and instead ‘if anything at all makes you even slightly uncomfortable, then you can talk to someone’ Jess, aged 17*

- Give children/young people the chance to talk about what they're experiencing online, what apps and sites they use and who they're talking to.
- Talking regularly, like you would about their day at school, will help your child feel relaxed and mean that when they do have any worries, they're more likely to come and speak to you.
- Remind them that it isn't just you that they can talk to – another trusted adult or a [Childline counsellor](#) might be easier sometimes.

When children communicate online, misunderstandings can lead to disagreements or arguments. Encourage your child to look at the Childline website, which has lots of useful advice articles:

[Feeling good on social media](#)

[Coping with stress](#)

[Worries about the world](#)

[Childline’s Calm zone](#) is also packed with tools and activities to help children de-stress and discover new techniques that can support them when they’re feeling down. Young people can also talk to each other about their worries on the [Childline message boards](#).

Consider that what children see online is often through a filter. It isn't just images and videos that can be filtered or edited, but bodies and lives too.

Take breaks Our devices are designed to keep us coming back. Features like infinite scrolling, app notifications, auto play and rewards for playing games every day are all persuasive designs to increase our use.

Mobile and wearable tech such as phones and smart watches can make us feel like we're always online and it can help everyone to take a break sometimes, to help switch off from online pressures.

You can use the settings on individual apps, or in the device settings, to silence notifications for a period of time.

You can also use the 'do not disturb' mode available on most devices to mute calls and notifications, to help avoid distractions.

Use wellbeing settings and apps These sites and apps are specifically designed to help children with their online wellbeing:

[BBC Own it](#) which gives advice as they chat to their friends online.

[Headspace for Kids](#) is an app to teach children the basics of mindfulness in a fun way. It's aimed at 3-12 year olds, with different content for the different age groups. Free for Headspace subscribers, limited access for non-subscribers.

[JoyPoP](#) is an app designed to help users find their inner resilience to deal with the highs and lows in their day to day lives. By rating mood for the day, users are directed to complete different activities to help switch to positive emotions. App costs £6.99.

You can also find out what apps your child uses the most and have a look to see if there are wellbeing guides which explain their settings to help support children's wellbeing.

SWIM YOUR WAY TO A BETTER LIFE: 20 OF THE BEST BENEFITS OF SWIMMING

SOURCE: SWIM NOW



We are extremely lucky to have our own swimming pool at Kendrick School. Swimming is an ancient activity that has evolved over the centuries, from a survival technique to a popular sporting and recreational form of exercise.

When you dive in the cool, tranquil water, you're not just participating in an activity; you're taking part in a history-rich practice that benefits the body, mind and soul.

However, the benefits of swimming extend far beyond the enjoyment of a refreshing dip. Swimming is a comprehensive form of exercise that has amazing effects on the body, ranging from enhancing physical health and mental wellness to developing important life skills.

It is also a sport that helps social engagement and family bonding, proving that its significance extends well beyond the pool.

In this [blog post](#), there are 20 compelling reasons why swimming deserves to be an integral part of our lifestyle.

KENDRICK SCHOOL WELLBEING

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

SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR TERM 4, 2024-25

Tuesday 1st April

Spring Concert

Wednesday 2nd April

KPS Sixth Form Online Drop In with Ms Kattirtzi

Thursday 3rd April

Year 13 Celebration Day

Year 11 Celebration Day

Year 7 KPS Disco

Eid Celebrations

Friday 4th April

End of Term 4. 3.15pm

Tuesday 22nd April

Start of Term 5, 8.25am

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

NEWS, NOTICES, COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS

KENDRICK SCHOOL SPRING CONCERT – TUESDAY 1ST APRIL AT 6.30PM Our **Spring Concert** is a time to celebrate all that has been achieved by our most senior students as they enter their final formal concert at Kendrick before they go on study leave in May. As such, selected students from Year 13 who have contributed a lot musically to the school during their time at Kendrick are given the opportunity to perform as a soloist either by themselves or in performing with a senior ensemble. Furthermore, this year, we have a student who will be performing her own composition!

Alongside our wonderful Year 13 students, we have not only our exceptional students of Chamber Choir, Symphony Orchestra, Wind Orchestra and Jazz Band, our outstanding chamber groups, Harp Ensemble, Brass and Saxophone Ensemble, Flute Ensemble and Guitar Ensemble, but we also celebrate the diverse range of instrumentalists and singers and musical cultures at our school. These will be heard in our new groups, Mass Choir, Percussion Ensemble

and Carnatic Vocal Ensemble. We hope there is something for everyone to enjoy and expect the concert to finish at approximately 8.45pm.

Arrangements for between the end of school and the concert: students are encouraged to go home between the end of school and the concert itself. However, where this is not possible, they may go to the library or conservatory until 5pm. Hereon after, they must go to M1 and let a member of staff know they are there. They will then remain there until 5.45pm, when the meeting rooms open and all students will be taken over to the Hall and assigned meeting rooms. There should be no wandering around the school between 3.30pm and 5.45pm, nor waiting outside the school gates, particularly as there are external hirers on site from 4pm, but also in order for us to know who is and isn't on site at any one time.

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

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

Concert tickets tend to sell out quickly and will be going on sale from 14th March 2025. We therefore urge you to order your tickets as soon as possible through Evolve Shop in order to avoid disappointment. Ticket price or suggested donation is £5.00. In the first instance, tickets will be restricted to five per family. We politely ask that you do not leave ticket requests or queries until the day of the concert.

If you would like tickets for the Spring Concert on Tuesday 1st April please complete the order on Evolve Shop using the link below;

https://evolve.edufocus.co.uk/shop/shop_item_public.asp?site=rbcvisits&estab=3359&id=4195

SCHOOL LIBRARY BOOKS A number of manga titles are missing from the shelves in our Library, and they do not appear to have been checked out on the Oliver Library System.

We trust this is simply an oversight by one or more students in the rush to attend lessons or head home. If this is indeed the case, we would greatly appreciate it if these books could be returned to the blue box on the library returns desk as soon as possible. Please could you ask your child to check whether they have these books. Thank you.

SPRING SEND LOCAL OFFER NEWSLETTER The spring edition of the new look SEND Local Offer Newsletter 2025 is now available. It's packed with lots of information including:

- Blog – Lara Patel, Executive Director Children's Services
- Blog – Carly Price, Strategic Lead for SEND Brighter Futures for Children
- News items, what's on/events available throughout the Easter holidays
- Early years – updates from the sector
- What's on, events and workshops
- Preparing for adulthood – updates for 16–25-year-olds
- Short breaks, support services and much more...

Remember, this newsletter is just a snapshot of the wealth of information found on the www.readingsendlocaloffer.org.

WHITLEY FOOD BANK The Food Bank is collecting again for two weeks in the run up to Easter. They have requested the following items if possible as these things will be very useful over the Easter holidays: *some Easter*

treats (like eggs!) for the children and other items that maybe useful- cooking oil, toilet roll, washing up liquid, toiletries and sanitary products, washing detergent, pasta sauces, part baked bread, squash, cereals, snacks.

Please remember that donations through ParentPay are also greatly appreciated.

NO.5 SCHOOL TRANSITIONS PROJECT No5 are running a free 4-day School Transitions project this Easter Half-Term, in partnership with local musicians, composers, actors and drama practitioners, to support young people in Years 6-10 who may be struggling with school, or feeling nervous about moving up to a different year group.

There will also be a follow-up week in the Summer Holidays (11th – 15th August), which young people will be invited back to attend.

Young people will have the opportunity to use performing arts, drama, drums, music, and storytelling throughout the week, and will be supported by 2 No5 counsellors alongside the delivery team.

Free lunch will be provided every day and school uniform does not need to be worn.

The workshops aim to:

1. Improve confidence and self-esteem
2. Improve communication
3. Build and maintain healthy and positive relationships
4. Understand consequences and being equipped to make better choices
5. Better self-understanding and understanding of emotions

When: Monday 14th April – Thursday 17th April **Time:** 10:00am to 3:00pm **Where:** All workshops will be held away from No5's building, at The Abbey Junior School, 30 Christchurch Rd, Reading RG2 7AR (what3words ///makes.these.feel)

If you/ a young person is interested in the School Transitions Workshops, please email No5 via projects@no5.org.uk for a registration form.

Young people, their parents or the school contact can email projects@no5.org.uk with any questions and to register.

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.

*If you are successful in gaining a place to an opportunity and it is in school time, you **must** request absence from Mrs Hearn. If granted you should then ensure you notify attendance@kendrick.reading.sch.uk, your form tutors and the teachers of the lessons you are missing.*

KPMG VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE DAY: MONDAY 14TH APRIL 10-3PM (IN THE HOLIDAYS)

Learn about KPMG's early career pathways. Take part in interactive sessions and real-world business case studies. Gain insights into careers in professional services. Hear from current apprentices and senior professionals about their experiences at KPMG

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KPMG-Virtual>

INTERNATIONAL LAW FIRM UNDERGRADUATE BURSARY PROGRAMME If you are in Year 13 and

hold an offer to study law at a UK university, you could be eligible to apply for Sidley's Undergraduate Bursary programme!

As part of our commitment to increasing diversity at Sidley and within the legal profession, we are proud to introduce our bursary programme to support talented law students from less advantaged backgrounds.

What the bursary offers:

- ✓ Financial support throughout your undergraduate law degree
- ✓ Guaranteed work experience at Sidley
- ✓ Mentoring opportunities from legal professionals
- ✓ A chance to focus on your studies without financial concerns

Applications will open on 24 March 2025 and will close on 17 May 2025

EASTER STEM WORK EXPERIENCE WITH SPECTRIS PLC

Wednesday, 16th of April from 9am - 3pm

Registration Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Spectris-Easter>

CLINICAL TRIAL SPECIALIST APPRENTICE

[5 yr Degree Apprenticeship \(BSc BioScience\) in United Kingdom-Europe - GBR-Farnborough-1-Pinehurst, - Syneos Health](#)

The program is a 5-year commitment, with 80% on-the-job work and learning, and 20% distance learning for a BSc in Applied Bioscience with the University of Kent. During the 5 years, the successful applicants will cycle through the Clinical departments here at Syneos Health, gaining invaluable working experience in all facets of Clinical Research. Please note, this is office, not lab-based work. The position will be office based in our Farnborough offices 4 days a week, with 1 day distance learning from home. Eligibility Criteria: Must hold 5 GCSE's - grades 9-4 (Including Maths and English Language) Be predicted a minimum of 80 UCAS points Ideally be studying for a Biology A level or Health related B-Tech, but Chem or Maths also considered Be eligible to work within the UK. Be able to be office based in Farnborough 4 days per week Able to start in September 2025. Opportunity to not only enter the highly competitive Clinical Research industry, but to be paid a competitive salary with benefits and have all tuition fees covered too.

OXFORD SOMALI ACCESS CONFERENCE Wednesday 21st May 2025, for Somalis in Year 12

<https://forms.gle/M4BUxRyzzRCgg1oL7>

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.

[Chemistry Teacher](#) for September 2025. Deadline for applications 9am Monday 24th March 2025 INTERVIEWING ON 2ND APRIL

[Science Teacher for Terms 5&6](#). 0.5 FTE. Short term contract. Deadline for applications 9am Monday 24th March 2025 INTERVIEWING 2/3 APRIL

[Physics Teacher](#) for September 2025 to cover a maternity leave for a year. Deadline for applications 9am Monday 24th March 2025 INTERVIEWING 3RD APRIL

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 AND EVOLVE 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.

PARENTPAY

School fund Donation
Whitley Community Food Cupboard – cash donations
Year 10 and 11 GCSE English set text contributions
Year 12 and 13 A level English set text contributions
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 Rural Villages Geography field trip – January 2025
Year 8 Bushcraft -May 2025
Year 12 Hengistbury Head – March 2025
Year 12 Work Experience - June 2025
Year 12 UCAS Discovery Day – April 2025
GCSE Drama trip to The Globe – May 2025
A – Level Biology – Sutton Courtenay – June 2025

EVOLVESHOP

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

GCSE Drama set text (The Crucible, Arthur Miller)
Year 8 Careers Event – January 2025
Year 9 and Year 10 French and German plays
Spring Concert – 1st April 2025

KENDRICK PARENTS' SOCIETY (KPS)

DROP-IN SESSIONS WITH MS KATTIRTZI

Last one of this year's drop-in sessions is with 6th Form parents and Ms Kattirtzi and Mrs Hearn. The date has been changed because of a calendar clash and will be rescheduled after Easter.

KPS SPRING RAFFLE

Preparations underway for this year **Spring Raffle** and we want to make it a huge success. This year, **fund raising** will be to support **Music Department enhancements** which will benefit students directly.

We need your support in getting some more amazing prizes and if anyone can and know others who can donate something – big or small – it would be really helpful. You can email kpsraffle@kendrick.reading.sch.uk or kpschair@kendrick.reading.sch.uk.

YEAR 7 DISCO – ONE WEEK TO GO



We're absolutely thrilled to invite you to Kendrick Year 7 Disco! Get ready for an electrifying night filled with music, dancing, laughter, and unforgettable memories. It's the perfect chance to mingle, make new friends, and have an absolute blast—so **bring your best moves and get ready for loads of FUN!**

Here are the details:

Date: Thursday, 3rd April 2025

Time: 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm (Gates open at 6:00 pm)

Venue: Kendrick School, Main Hall

Ticket Price: £8 (includes water & squash)

Drop-off & Pick-up: East Street Entrance

Parking: Parking is not available onsite so find nearby places

Yr7 Parents Meet and Mingle: In

Conservatory, during the event

Snacks & treats available for purchase.

Cash and cards are accepted at both the disco and the parents meet and mingle.

Looking forward to an evening full of fun and dancing! Do not wait until the last minute to buy your tickets.



Link to the tickets -

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/EQIY>



Call For Volunteers:

We invite parents to join us as a volunteer to support the invite. .

Contact

KPSTreasurer@kendrick.reading.sch.uk

or KPSChair@kendrick.reading.sch.uk to express your interest and get more details.

KPS COMMITTEE MEETING

Last meeting was held on **Tuesday, 18th March** and thanks for those participated. Minutes of the meeting will be circulated in the coming days.

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