

Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Friday 5th July 2024

LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

This week has been a whirlwind of creativity and competition at Kendrick!

The Creative Arts Festival continued. From stunning visual art displays in the A Level and GCSE Art exhibition last week to captivating performances of music, dance, drama, and poetry at the evening event this week, students across the school, have been showcasing their talents. For our musicians the event on Tuesday started with the Classical and Carnatic Performer Series. We invited professional singers to work with our students. Isabel Irvine, former student of Kendrick, and graduate of Royal Academy of Music in London and Gita Nagaswary Thavaratnem an established Carnatic vocalist and teacher who has performed in multiple cultural events. Both musicians worked with some of our students in a masterclass after which the students were able to perform solo and ensemble pieces to a select audience of parents and friends. Following this the Creative Arts Festival continued with an evening of more music, dance, drama, and poetry. The music continued at the Summer Concert yesterday evening with a fantastic selection of musical items including jazz, brass, saxophone, orchestra, wind, harp, and flute pieces, concluding with a mass choir item from our Year 9 students. Another super concert performed by our talented student musicians. Students who have left Kendrick and students in Years 11 and 13 who have just completed their GCSEs and A Levels, returned paly in the ensembles and support music at their school, thank you to them. Thanks also to our incredible staff in the music and creative arts departments.

Elsewhere in the school there were other activities taking place this week. The Chess Club, led by Mrs Conlon and accompanied by Mr Simmonds took part in a Chess Tournament at Blessed Hugh Farringdon School and came second in the competition. At the same time a very large group of Year 8 students led by Mrs White walked up to Reading School for Combined Cadet Force (CCF) taster course, a chance to learn more about the exciting world of the CCF, experience some basic drills, and get a taste of what it's like to be a cadet.

On the website this week are articles on the following events that have taken place:

[MFL Trip to Germany](#)

[MFL Trip to France](#)

[Poet Luke Wright visits Kendrick](#)

[Music Outreach at the Avenue School](#)

The Kendrick School Mock Election was also a lively event at Kendrick this week. Not quite reflecting the national picture, four parties presented themselves to the students and staff for consideration in a parallel election: Conservative, Labour Liberal Democrats and Greens. Each party rose to the challenge of identifying a party leader and a team. Reflecting the manifestos of the national parties, they created videos and posters to persuade the Kendrick electorate of their plans. Then in a proper styled Polling Station equipped with voting booths and ballot papers, students and staff exercised their right to vote. The turnout was 63.8% (higher the national turnout) with 483 votes cast. The results were as follows:

- Green Party – 230 votes – 47.6% - winner
- Liberal Democrats – 118 votes – 24.4%
- Labour Party – 64 votes – 13.2%
- Conservative Party – 43 votes – 8.9%

Spoiled ballots – 28 total – 5.9%

I am delighted with the outcome of our mock election as it sends a strong message to us about what matters to our students at Kendrick. It also demonstrates our school's commitment to Green issues which was confirmed by another huge accolade we received this week when we received the Eco Schools, Green Flag Award with merit. As well as certificates, we were also given a Green flag which we will display in school. Very well done to our Eco Group and to Mrs Kaur who have worked tirelessly on Green issues in school and achieved this award.

Finally, we look forward to the weekend and Saturday, and [Kendrick Parents' Society Summer Fair](#). From 11.00-3.00pm tomorrow the fair will take place at school, and I hope many students and parents will come along to this exciting event and enjoy a variety of activities and raise funds for the school.

As always, I am immensely proud of the accomplishments of our students and staff. It has been another remarkable week of activities and achievements at Kendrick. Thank you to everyone.

Wishing everyone a super 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

WORRIED ABOUT A CHILD?

If you have a concern about a child at Kendrick School, please email studentwelfare@kendrick.reading.sch.uk or telephone 0118 9015859 and ask to speak to a Designated Safeguarding Officer.

If you're worried about any child or young person and you are contacting us out of hours (before 8am and after 4pm and at weekends and holidays), you can contact the NSPCC helpline for support and advice for free - call us on **0808 800 5000** or **contact NSPCC online**. Children can contact **Childline** any time to get support themselves. **In an emergency please call 999 or for a non-emergency call 101.**

We have created a library of resources for parents, carers and students including support avenues which you can find on our website via this [link](#). We will be adding to these on a regular basis.

[CAMHS Resources](#) - This site was created for young people, carers and professionals to pool together lots of helpful resources from across the internet that are available to help support your mental health and well-being.

For wellbeing support in school, students can visit the Student Welfare Team in the General Office or Sixth Form Office or email studentwelfare@kendrick.reading.sch.uk.

USING AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS, TUITION AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES – SAFEGUARDING ADVICE

This guidance is for parents and carers. It explains what school and activities clubs, tutors and coaches should be doing to provide a safe environment for the children that attend their setting. This includes:

- community activities - for example, youth clubs
- before- and after-school clubs
- holiday clubs
- supplementary schools - for example, language, cultural and religious
- private tuition
- music lessons
- sports training and coaching

These are sometimes referred to as out-of-school settings.

[Download a leaflet on choosing safe out-of-school settings.](#)

STAYING SAFE ONLINE

ONLINE TROLLING

The term “trolling” refers to sending hurtful or provocative comments – often done anonymously online – to provoke a reaction or cause emotional distress. Anonymity can embolden people into saying things they wouldn’t dare say in person. Euro 2024 and other tournaments tend to put an emphasis on this, with the abuse of both players and fans often increasing during such events.



This free guide explores the phenomenon of online trolling, detailing its risks and letting you know how to safeguard children from this harmful behaviour.

Some people online simply get a kick out of hurting people’s feelings, making it their mission to get a rise out of anyone they encounter. These people – known as “trolls” – are known for intentionally engaging in offensive or abusive behaviour to upset others online or provoke them into sinking to their level. At the height of events such as Euro 2024, when rivalries between various supporters reach an apex, trolling tends to see a bit of an uptick.

Unfortunately, while “just ignore them” is genuinely good advice, it can prove very difficult to put into practice. This is especially true for children and young people, who are often still learning how to manage their emotions and sometimes react impulsively to name-calling and other mistreatment. This Wake up Wednesday, however, we’re offering expert guidance on how to keep youngsters safe from online trolling – both avoiding it entirely and responding to it effectively

[WHAT PARENTS AND CARERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ONLINE TROLLING](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

YOUNGMINDS YOUNG MINDS PARENTAL MENTAL HEALTH GUIDE – CHALLENGING BEHAVIOUR

Most children and young people will behave in challenging ways at some point. Feeling upset, [angry](#), stressed or disappointed is a normal part of life. Because we develop our ability to manage our emotions as we grow up, children and young people do sometimes act out when they’re going through big feelings. In response to their emotions, they may display a range of behaviours. It’s normal for younger children to hit or

'have a tantrum' sometimes. And it's normal for teenagers to shout, lash out or storm out sometimes. Most children and teenagers will also push boundaries as they test their independence.

But sometimes, challenging behaviour can become more frequent and difficult to deal with. It may start to have an impact on someone's day-to-day quality of life, on relationships and learning at school, and on other family members.

[YOUNG MINDS PARENTAL GUIDE TO CHALLENGING BEHAVIOUR](#)

KENDRICK SCHOOL WELLBEING NEWSLETTER

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

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

"If I had my way, I'd remove January from the calendar altogether and have an extra July instead." **Roald Dahl**

POEM OF THE WEEK

Mother, Summer, I

by Philip Larkin

My mother, who hates thunder storms,
Holds up each summer day and shakes
It out suspiciously, lest swarms
Of grape-dark clouds are lurking there;
But when the August weather breaks
And rains begin, and brittle frost
Sharpens the bird-abandoned air,
Her worried summer look is lost,

And I her son, though summer-born
And summer-loving, none the less
Am easier when the leaves are gone
Too often summer days appear
Emblems of perfect happiness
I can't confront: I must await
A time less bold, less rich, less clear:
An autumn more appropriate.



SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR TERM 6, 2023-24

Saturday 6th July	KPS Summer Fair
Monday 8th July	Year 12 Futures Week
Tuesday 9th July	Year 12 Insights Day
Wednesday 10th July	Profiling Day
	Marriage of Figaro Trip
Thursday 11th July	UCAS Parents' Information Evening
	Year 7 Hindu Temple trip
Monday 15th July	Sports Day (half day)
Tuesday 16th July	Sports Day (half day)
Thursday 18th July	End of Term for students, 3.15pm
Friday 19th July	Staff Administration Day

The school calendar for the academic year can be found [here](#). For the Term Dates for 2023-24 and 2024-25 please click [here](#)

VACANCIES

We currently have vacancies for the following roles:

SUPPORT STAFF ROLES FOR SEPTEMBER 2024. More information can be found [here](#).

Music and Drama Technician. 10-15 hours a week, term time only. Closing date for applications – Friday 21st June.

School Caretaker – 37 hours week, 10am – 6pm for August 2024. Closing date for applications – 9am Monday 1st July

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.

SEND INFORMATION

SEND LOCAL OFFER SUMMER NEWSLETTER

The summer edition of the new look [SEND Local Offer newsletter](#) is here, packed full of information, blogs and opportunities for children and young people. This edition includes updates from the early years sector; upcoming events and workshops; details of summer Short Breaks; blogs from Jackie Perrin, Autism Advisor and Joyshree Saikia, Community Engagement and Research Officer at BFFC; and much more.

NEWS, NOTICES, COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS

HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND

Reading residents on a low income and struggling financially due to the ongoing cost-of-living crisis may be eligible for support from RBC through the Household Support Fund. The £125 payment per household can be used for whatever will help the most, such as energy bills, housing costs, food or more. Applications can be made once between May and the end of July 2024 and full details can be found [here](#).

WOKINGHAM LIBRARY TEEN CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOPS

The creative writing workshops are full of fun writing activities and are a great chance for aspiring young writers to come together and share imaginative ideas, develop their writing skills and build friendships with others. Both experienced writers and beginners are welcome. A brief summary of each workshop is listed below:

Legends Unleashed, Saturday 27th July, 10:30am to 3:00pm, Wokingham Library

Myths and legends are some of the earliest forms of storytelling, full of incredible quests and larger than life characters that captivate readers. Join us to create mythical heroes, write your own adventure stories and explore how they fit into the modern world through urban legends and superheroes! **Book your place**

here: <https://wokingham.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/WPAC/EVSESENQ?SETLVL=&RNI=615107>

Utopian Worlds, Saturday 3rd August, 10:30am to 3:00pm, Wokingham Library

Utopias are all about escapism, exploring the problems we face in the real world and creating a fictional paradise to try and solve them. Join us to craft your own utopian world, write a story set within it and consider the balances and compromises that come with chasing perfection! **Book your place here:** <https://wokingham.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/WPAC/EVSESENQ?SETLVL=&RNI=615108>

The workshops are available for all pupils in Year 6-13 and **each workshop costs just £5 to attend** (to be paid in cash on the day). Attendees will also need to **bring a packed lunch**, as there will be a lunch break for both workshops.

We also have an additional creative writing session during the summer holidays at Bracknell Library on Saturday 17th August from 10:30am to 12:00pm, which is completely free and can be registered for by calling 01344 423149.

Before the summer holidays start, Igniting Writing is still holding regular free creative writing sessions at Wokingham Library every Saturday. They are held from 9:45am to 11:15am for Year 6-8 pupils and from 11:45am to 1:15pm for Year 9-13 pupils. Places are limited for these regular sessions, so attendance must be booked in advance. To register, please visit Wokingham Library's booking page (<https://wokingham.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/WPAC/EVENTS?HOMEPRMS=EVSESPARAMS>) and under the 'Audience' dropdown select 'Secondary School' (though it is available for Year Six pupils too!), which will show our upcoming sessions.

PARENTPAY REMINDERS

We would like to bring to your attention the following ParentPay items, please login to your ParentPay accounts for details.

School Fund Donation

Whitley Community Food Cupboard – cash donations
Year 10, Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 English set texts
Year 7, 8 and 9 Food and Technology voluntary contributions
Year 10 and Year 11 Art and Textiles voluntary contributions
Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 English set texts
The Poets; Society Anthology – launch on 29th April 2024
Year 7 The Wheelie Fun Business Challenge – 23rd May 2024
Year 12 German set text: Der Besuch Dear Alten Dame – May 2024

Trips

Year 10 French and German trips - June 2024
Year 12 Biology field trip 11th and 12th June 2024
Year 12 Career interest destination trip and CV feedback June 2024+
Year 12 World of Work Insights Programme June 2024
Year 7 Swaminarayan Hindu Temple trip 11th July 2024
Geography A level residential course at Slapton Ley October 2024
Year 12/13 French and History trip October 2024
The marriage of Figaro by Garsington Opera 10th July 2024
A production of The Duchess at the Trafalgar Theatre Thursday 10th October 2024

KENDRICK PARENTS' SOCIETY (KPS)



Just 1 more day to go! July 6th 11am to 3pm. Let's come together to support our children, have a great time, and make lasting memories!

Thank you to everyone who has already bought their tickets and for your generous donations!

We are thrilled to announce that this year's fair will feature 28 student stalls and 8 external stalls offering a variety of crafts, foods, games, ice creams, tea/coffee, and much much more.

Our students are bursting with excitement as they experiment with new recipes, prepare unique craft items, and organise engaging games. We eagerly look forward to seeing our students proudly present their stalls, and we are confident they will be spectacular.

This year, the funds raised from the Kendrick Summer fair will be used to purchase outdoor benches and equipment for the school.

[Book Tickets / Make a Donation](#)

If you are unable to attend **but wish to donate**, you can still do so by clicking the ticketing link and using the donations tab.

Tickets can be purchased on the day of the event by the door too! Spread the word bring your family and friends and help us make the event a grand success!

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 child's school through KPS is a simple process. Please take a moment to complete our **[online membership form](#)**.

KPS Team