

# Kendrick School - Weekly Update

## Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024

### LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

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This week has been one that has marked both beginnings and endings for key groups across the school. Feelings of excitement are combined with reflections of times past, with some sadness, as well as joy about what the future might hold. On Tuesday we said goodbye to our Year 13 students and parents at a delightful and very well attended tea party at school. Some parents were recalling their first encounter with Kendrick back in 2016 when they came to our Open Day and then again at the first information evening they had when their child started school with us in September 2017. All the parents I spoke to reflected on the how the time, seven years, two years, or something in between, had passed so quickly. All parents and their children - now young adults - felt proud and pleased with the development of their child and thanked me for the contribution of Kendrick to that growth and maturity. It was exciting to talk about the university plans and courses that students are looking forward to next year. We will see them again in August when the results come out, but for now, they all have a wonderfully long summer holiday to enjoy. We wish them well and thank them for being such an important part of the Kendrick community.

On Wednesday we welcomed our new Year 7 students and parents, this time what we encountered was the excitement but also slight trepidation of both parents and students about new beginnings and the prospect of their secondary education. Guided and supported by our staff and students, it was a joy to speak and answer questions from the next cohort of Kendrick parents. I know and hope that many of them are reading the Weekly Update as they are now being included in this communication. As I said to all groups, please get into the habit of reading my messages every week so that you can gain a glimpse into life at Kendrick, albeit from my perspective, which may be a bit different to how the story is told by the students! Yesterday we also welcomed our new Year 12 students who will be joining us in September. We will speak to them again and their parents at the start of the new academic year.

In speaking to new parents this week, Mr Simmonds and I tried to convey the business and activity of the school in just this week: the GCSE and A Level Exhibition was open to staff and students, and what an impressive display of creativity it was. On Monday there was an Economics Enterprise Competition for Year 12s organised by students and judged by Mr Wilson, Head of Economics and Business. The task for the competitors was to answer to the question: *Evaluate possible policies which could be used to improve UK competitiveness*. The winning team of students were Sophie, Amelie, Ananya, and Jasmine. Congratulations to them. Perhaps their thoughts and suggestions might be useful to the incoming government next week! The team was awarded a special trophy, and each student received a commemorative gold badge to pin onto their Kendrick lanyards. Elsewhere in the English Department, a poet, [Luke Wright](#), visited this week and delivered workshops and gave a recital of his poems to students and staff. Given that poetry is such a passion at Kendrick this was a real treat and delight for us. Luke explained types of poems he had written and read many to us. One poem written in a style called *univocalic*, was very cleverly composed using just one vowel! In a completely different area of the school, we received the news this week that we have received the International Eco Schools Award for 2024-25 which has been awarded to us for '*excellence in improving sustainability and environmental learning in our setting*'. As well as receiving a certificate, we have also been given a Green Flag!

Reminders of the key events happening next week, importantly it is Creative Arts Week in which the Summer Concert is a key part on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July at 6.30pm. Please buy your tickets, particularly Year 9 parents whose children will be performing in a mass choir at the concert. On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> of July between 11.00am -3.00pm is the [Kendrick Parents' Society Summer Fair](#). I hope many parents and students, as well as new parents and students, will come along to enjoy the activities and at the same time raise money for the school.

Finally on the front lawn today at second break we had the last of our Pride events with a variety of stalls and activities celebrating and valuing diversity and difference.

Wishing everyone an enjoyable 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

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

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### STAY TRUE TO YOU – HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE STAY OUT OF HARM'S WAY

[Stay True to You](#) includes resources for professionals, parents and children and is tailored to the Thames Valley area.

Conversations between young people and adults can be challenging, especially when it comes to talking about safety.

As someone working with young people, in whatever capacity – you play a vital role in empowering them. Building their confidence and emotional resilience. Ensuring they feel heard and respected. Helping them make the right decisions for themselves.

With your support and a safe environment, young people show us that they are capable of making the right choices to keep themselves out of harm's way. As a trusted adult, you can be there for them when they need someone to turn to, or to share a concern.

If you're trying to help young people make the best choices they can, then we're here to help you start the best conversations that you can

Please click [here](#) for the resources and more information.



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## STAYING SAFE ONLINE

### WHAT PARENTS AND CARERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT GAMBLING

Online gambling has become more prevalent over the years, with such practices widely advertised on social media and even incorporated into various apps and games. It's growing easier for children and young people to come across opportunities to gamble online, putting parents at greater risk of financial loss or mental and emotional strain.

That said, there are steps you can take to keep these youngsters as safe as possible from the impacts of gambling, and this free guide details these for you. At the same time, our expert points out the most significant risks posed to under-18s, to help you

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

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING



### YOUNG MINDS PARENTAL MENTAL HEALTH GUIDE – DEPRESSION AND LOW MOOD

Going through different emotions is part of life. While it can feel worrying, it's normal for a young person to have some down days. This can be part of growing up or a natural response to something that's happening in their life. If your child or young person is feeling low, they may seem more flat, tearful or irritable. But usually, they'll start to feel better in a few days or week. You may also notice that their mood lifts after a small change in their life. For example, after resolving a fall-out with a friend or getting to the end of a stressful time at school.

When a young person is feeling depressed, low feelings last longer. This can make it difficult to enjoy things they normally would. It can also start to affect everyday activities like school or work. When a young person is experiencing depression, it's often difficult to feel better without extra support.

Knowing that your child or young person is feeling depressed can be really worrying. Remember that lots of young people go through this, get help and start to feel better. We're here to help you support them and find the right help when they need it.

[YOUNG MINDS PARENTAL GUIDE TO DEPRESSION AND LOW MOOD](#)

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### KENDRICK SCHOOL WELLBEING NEWSLETTER

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

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### THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

"Like a welcome summer rain, humour may suddenly cleanse and cool the earth, the air and you." - *Langston Hughes*

## POEM OF THE WEEK

**Midsummer, Tobago** by *Derek Walcott*

Broad sun-stoned beaches.

White heat.  
A green river.

A bridge,  
scorched yellow palms

from the summer-sleeping house  
drowsing through August.

Days I have held,  
days I have lost,

days that outgrow, like daughters,  
my harbouring arms.



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## SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR TERM 6, 2023-24

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<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July</b>	Creative Arts Festival Week
<b>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July</b>	Performer Series, 4-5.45pm
<b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Full Trustee Meeting, 4.30pm Summer Concert, 6.30pm
<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July</b>	INSET Day, school closed to all students
<b>Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July</b>	KPS Summer Fair
<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Year 12 Futures Week
<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Year 12 Insights Day
<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Profiling Day Marriage of Figaro Trip
<b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July</b>	UCAS Parents' Information Evening Year 7 Hindu Temple trip
<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Sports Day (half day)
<b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Sports Day (half day)
<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July</b>	End of Term for students, 3.15pm
<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July</b>	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](#)

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## VACANCIES

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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 21<sup>st</sup> June.

**School Caretaker** – 37 hours week, 10am – 6pm for August 2024. Closing date for applications – 9am Monday 1<sup>st</sup> 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.*

## READING SCHOOL VACANCIES

Teacher of PE (1-year Fixed Term) – deadline 31 August 2024

Teacher of PE and Head of Cricket – deadline 31 December 2024

Library Assistant – deadline 9am, 4 July 2024

Student Support Assistant – deadline 9am, 5 July 2024

For more details, go to: <https://www.reading-school.co.uk/vacancies>

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## SEND INFORMATION

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### 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 BfC; and much more.

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## NEWS, NOTICES, COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS

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### 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](#).

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### 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/EVSEENQ?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/EVSEENQ?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.

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## PARENTPAY 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.*

### 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 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024  
Year 7 The Wheelie Fun Business Challenge – 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024

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## KENDRICK PARENTS' SOCIETY (KPS)

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For the latest KPS newsletter please click [here](#).

### KPS SUMMER EVENT – 6TH JULY 11AM TO 3PM

We are excited to announce that tickets for the KPS Summer Fair are now available! There is a **£2 entry fee per adult**, while **children** can attend **for free**. **Don't miss out – get your tickets here -** <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/DNTL>

**Invite your friends and their families** to join us for this grand gala. It promises to be a fantastic day filled with fun and community spirit!

**Volunteers:** To ensure the **Kendrick Summer Fair is a fantastic success, we need your help!** We are **looking for volunteers** to assist with various tasks such as setting up booths, helping with stalls and activities, and ensuring everyone has a great time. If you are available to volunteer, please join the group by clicking the link [Summer Fair Volunteers Group](#)

Your support is greatly appreciated and essential to the fair's success.

**Thank you to the parents who have offered to lend us their marquees.** We are still in need of marquees of various sizes for the lawn area. Your assistance and participation would be greatly appreciated. Please contact us if you can help!

We had incredible interest from **the students** and the individual teams are being contacted to finalise the details. While there is no fee for having a stall, students are encouraged to **donate their profits (part or full) to KPS in support of our fundraising efforts, living up to the school motto: Lead, Inspire, Make a Difference.**

You can reach out to us using these emails - [kpsmembership@kendrick.reading.sch.uk](mailto:kpsmembership@kendrick.reading.sch.uk) & [kpschair@kendrick.reading.sch.uk](mailto:kpschair@kendrick.reading.sch.uk).



**The Summer Fair is fast approaching!** At KPS, we are working incredibly hard to make arrangements for the fair to ensure it is a great event for everyone to enjoy.

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

Ticket link is now open and can be booked. There is a £2 entry fee per adult, while children can attend for free.

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.

Click this link to [Book Tickets / Make a Donation](#)

**Invite your friends and their families** to join us for this grand gala. It promises to be a fantastic day filled with fun and community spirit!

## PRE-LOVED UNIFORM SHOP

The next shop will be **open for the New Year 7 Parents' Information Evening (2024 Cohort) on Wednesday, 26th June.**

Additionally, we will be hosting a pre-loved **uniform stall at the KPS Kendrick Summer Fair on Saturday, 6th of July from 11 am to 3 pm.** Please stop by to say hello and grab some bargains.



## VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES AT KPS

Are you looking to get more involved in our school community? Please see below on how to get involved. Your involvement is greatly appreciated!

### Refreshment Helpers

Does your child participate in music or drama performances at the school? We need volunteers to help serve refreshments during these events. This is a great way to be part of the school activities and support our students.



Please note, your help is needed only when your child is performing. To join our team of Refreshment Helpers, please join the WhatsApp group using this link: [\*\*Refreshment Helpers Group\*\*](#)

### **Pre-loved Uniform Shop Volunteers**

Are you available on Saturday mornings? We're looking for volunteers to help run our pre-loved uniform shop. This initiative not only helps raise funds for the school but also supports environmental sustainability by reusing uniforms. It's a fantastic way to provide great value to parents while ensuring students have access to quality uniforms at reduced prices

Join our team by clicking on this WhatsApp group link: [\*\*Uniform Shop Volunteers Group\*\*](#)

### **JOIN KPS**

Since KPS operates as a registered charity, we invite you to become a part of our community by joining us. Connecting with your daughter's school through KPS is a simple process.

Please take a moment to complete our [\*\*online membership form\*\*](#) making your involvement seamless and effortless. Your participation is highly valued, and we look forward to welcoming you to the KPS family.

### **KPS FACEBOOK CLOSED GROUP**

KPS runs a closed Facebook group where we provide details of upcoming events and other important information. To join this group, search for the 'Kendrick Parents' Society' group and ask to join - once we have confirmation that you are a member of the KPS, we will approve your request. (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1514675551882470/>)

**KPS Team**