

Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Friday 12th July 2024

LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

There has been so much activity in school recently, including a full programme of events this week: subject related trips, for example a Year 7 trip to a Hindu Temple yesterday to assist in the curriculum taught in RS in Year 7, a trip to the opera on Wednesday evening for music students, and yesterday a group of Silver Award Duke of Edinburgh students embarked on a three-day expedition with staff. In school, lessons have been proceeding as normal and end of term assemblies are celebrating some great achievements of students. Yesterday we acknowledged the outstanding victory we had in the National Badminton Championships earlier in the year and students were presented with the super trophies they achieved for winning at both KS3 and KS4 levels. Preparations for next year are taking place across the school and earlier in the week students in Years 7-10 were informed of their new Tutor, Tutor groups, and Tutor basis for next year to support the transition and ease any anxiety or worry they may have about moving to the next stage of school and what to expect when they return in September. Many students may have a new teacher next year as there will be many new staff joining us in September following the departure of current staff who are leaving or retiring this year. I will mention these colleagues next week when we say our final goodbyes.

Next week Sports Day activities begin with field events on Monday and on Tuesday the whole school will make their way to Palmer Park Sports Stadium to complete all the sporting events of our Sports Day. I understand it is going to be an extra special sporting occasion as our athletes and competitors will be accompanied by enthusiastic supporters, including our musicians and bands. I am so looking forward to this event! The Kendrick Student Leaders and many other sixth formers are busy getting ready to present a show to the school, as well as a Talent Show next week. Those students who have unfortunately had to finish term early for whatever reason will miss these super community events which support and establish the wonderful Kendrick community feeling and the shared experiences we have at Kendrick at this time of year, where friendships and relationships are established and consolidated.

This week our Year 12 students and parents received some important information about the UCAS process and other post 18 options, including degree apprenticeships. For many parents this may be the first time they are going through the process, so it can be slightly worrying and overwhelming. My colleagues, Mrs Hearn, Head of Sixth Form and Mr Wilson, Deputy Head of Sixth Form, explained the process to them carefully and clearly and reassured them that they are very experienced and knowledgeable in this important stage in students' life and that students will be supported and guided through their university applications and or degree apprenticeships or employment plans. Our level of expertise in this area is second to none and we asked parents to trust us as we take the students through this next stage. Many parents at the end of the evening told us how reassured they felt following the presentation. The success of how well we conduct our UCAS procedures was evidenced earlier in the day through the Insights Programme when over 40 former students gave online presentations about their journey through UCAS and where they are now, many at university and or employment. I am sure students and parents will now feel they can embark of this final stage of their educational career at Kendrick focused on what they need to do in their studies and confident in the process of achieving their further education aspirations. We wish them well.

On the website this week are a couple of reports. Please read about the achievements of our students:

[Eco Committee reports and a special message from Mrs Kaur our Eco Staff Leader](#)

[Chess Club Reports July 2024](#)

Finally, I would like to say a big thank you to our Kendrick Parents' Society who put on a fantastically successful Summer Fair last Saturday. Despite the rain, the event was a buzzing afternoon of fun and activities. I was hugely impressed by the number of student stalls and the entrepreneurial skills they showed persuading me and others to buy items, play games and eat food they had prepared for sale on their stalls. I came away having spent quite a considerable amount

of money on bracelets, candle holders, sweets etc, as well as a beautiful henna design on my hand and a tattoo (temporary) on my wrist. Thank you to everyone involved in putting on this great event. The amount of money raised has not been confirmed, but it is hoped it will be over £1k if we can also secure some matched funding. This money will be put towards buying more picnic tables and outside furniture for the students. At our final committee meeting last night we rounded off the year with pride about all the events KPS had put on this year and enthusiasm for what the committee would like to do next year. If you were unable to come to the fair last week or support KPS this year, you still can. Please contact kpstreasurer@kendrick.reading.sch.uk

Please read further in the Weekly Update for information about summer holiday activities, safety and online safety guidance and information, including keeping safe at festivals, for example Reading Festival, which some of our young people may be attend this summer.

Also, for some thoughtful diversion, please scroll down to the thought of the week and poem of the week.

Wishing everyone a pleasant 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.

STAYING SAFE ONLINE OVER THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS – ADVICE FROM UK INTERNET SAFETY CENTRE

With the summer holidays fast approaching children and young people will have more free time to spend with friends, family and online. For some, this will be spent using the internet to keep in touch with friends, catch up with the latest apps and online trends, and playing their favourite games.

Sit down together

For parents, the summer holidays are a great chance to sit down with your children. Together you can visit their favourite sites and play their favourite games, this is a great way to stay up to date with online lives and show them that you're interested in what they are doing.

The holidays are also a good opportunity to have positive conversations about the internet, so if something ever does upset your child online they would feel more confident in confiding in you. [Our conversation starters](#) are a great tool to help encourage an open dialogue with your child.

Social media and staying in touch

During the summer holidays, young people may want to keep in touch with their friends through social networking sites or games. It's a good time to ask them about what sites they use, and check any age requirements as many social media sites require users to be at least 13 years old

Encourage your children to use the privacy tools on the services they use, so that the content they post is only available to people they know and trust in real life. To help your children set these up, we have [a guide to the privacy settings on the different sites](#). You can also download the UK Safer Internet Centre's [safety checklists for popular sites](#) such as Instagram, Snapchat and Facebook.

Talking about their time online

The holidays are also a good opportunity to talk to your children about their online friendships, the sites they use and encourage best practices online. Why not:

- [Watch Red and Murphy talk to Freddie and Alisha](#) about asking before they watch videos online
- [Read Digiduck's Big Decision](#) and help educate children aged 3 – 7 about how to be a good friend online
- [Take the 'Be the change' quiz](#) and help 8 – 13 year olds to explore how children and young people share images and videos online
- [Have an adventure with Kara, Winston and the SMART Crew](#) and help them to make SMART online decisions

Sharing holiday pictures

Some children may want to share photos and videos of what they are getting up to in their summer holidays online. Talk to your children about what types of photos are appropriate to share, and who they are okay to share with. Photos can hold clues that give away personal information. For example, if you share a selfie of you and friends, are there any landmarks or street signs that give away your location?

This is true for photos you might share of your children too! It's always worth asking children if they are happy with an image you want to share online. [Our Safer Internet Day research](#) found that 2 in 5 (40%) of 8-17s said that in the last year their parents or carers have posted a photo of them that embarrassed them, rising from 34% of 8-12s to 46% of 13-17s.

Make a family agreement

[A family agreement](#) is a great way to start a conversation with your whole family about how you all use the internet and discuss together how to behave in a positive way when online at home, at school or at a friend's house.

The agreement involves generating promises, these are positive statements about how your family want to look after each other online and how you should treat others online. The summer can be one of the best times to sit down as a family and agree these promises together.

READING FESTIVAL

Please click [here](#) for some safety and wellbeing information ahead of this year's **Reading Festival**. If your child/young person is attending the festival this year, we recommend going through this presentation with them.

STAYING SAFE ONLINE

SHARING INTIMATE IMAGES

The sharing of intimate images online can be a dangerous avenue through which abusers seek to exploit children and young people, forcibly exposing them to explicit material, coercing them into sharing self-generated intimate images, and extorting them with the threat of sharing such images more widely. From reputational impact to potential blackmail or emotional distress, and even legal consequences, exposure to this harmful behaviour can have a severe impact.



It's important to remember that the creation and distribution of explicit material featuring under-18s – even by the child themselves – is illegal under UK law. This guide looks at the serious concerns associated with this behaviour, and lets parents and educators know how best to address these issues and protect young people.

[WHAT PARENTS AND CARERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SHARING INTIMATE IMAGES](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING



YOUNG MINDS PARENTAL MENTAL HEALTH GUIDE – ABUSE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

If you or your child is experiencing abuse or domestic violence, or have done in the past, remember that you are not alone. On this page you can find a list of organisations that can help you.

Abuse and domestic violence are never okay or excusable. Everyone has the right to live a life free from fear, harm and control. Experiencing abuse in any form can have a huge effect on your child's mental health, both while it is happening and later in life.

If you would like to speak to someone to talk through what's happening, or reach out for help and support, there are [organisations you can contact](#).

For information on what is abuse and how to get help click on the link below.

[YOUNG MINDS PARENTAL GUIDE TO ABUSE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE](#)

KENDRICK SCHOOL WELLBEING NEWSLETTER

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

"Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time." **- John Lubbock**

POEM OF THE WEEK

The Summer Day

by Mary Oliver

Who made the world?
Who made the swan, and the black bear?
Who made the grasshopper?
This grasshopper, I mean—

the one who has flung herself out of the grass,
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and
down—
who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated
eyes.
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her
face.
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,
which is what I have been doing all day.
Tell me, what else should I have done?
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?
Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?



SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR TERM 6, 2023-24

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](#).

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 BfC; and much more.

NEWS, NOTICES, COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS

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](#).**

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](#).**

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

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](#) 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