



Kennet School

Prospectus

DISCOVER YOURSELF

Where curiosity meets possibility

A faint, light-colored watermark of a crest or seal is visible in the background, centered behind the text. The crest features a shield with a laurel wreath and other heraldic elements, typical of a university or institutional emblem.

WELCOME



Choosing a new school for your child is a significant decision, one guided by the deep belief that they deserve the very best. You're looking for more than just academic excellence; you want a place where they feel supported, inspired, and optimistic about their future.

Ms G Rigg, Headteacher

At Kennet School, we share that belief. We offer a high-quality learning environment built on a culture of care, collaboration, and trust — a place where curiosity is nurtured and every child is encouraged to achieve their potential.

As a top-performing, award-winning school, Kennet is a place where ambition and care go hand in hand. Our highly skilled teachers and support staff work closely to deliver an exceptional education for every pupil, inspiring curiosity, supporting personal discovery, and encouraging growth in all areas of school life.

We believe education is about more than just strong academic results, although our outcomes are among the best in the country. It is also about helping each child uncover their strengths, explore new interests, and build the confidence to shape their future.

Our ambitious curriculum, alongside a rich co-curricular programme, gives pupils the chance to develop knowledge, creativity,

lifelong learning habits, self-belief, and a strong social conscience. The Kennet House system adds to this by creating a joyful sense of competition, a deep feeling of belonging, and the reassurance of clear, supportive boundaries.

The strength of our school has been recognised through a range of national awards, reflecting the commitment and shared purpose which define life at Kennet.

From the moment a new pupil arrives, we begin building a meaningful partnership with their family, rooted in trust and open communication. We work hard to ensure every child is both challenged and supported, and their individual talents are recognised and developed.

OUR GOAL

Our aim is simple: To nurture pupils into responsible adults who will positively contribute to their community, town, nation and the wider world.

OUR PRIORITIES

- **An Ambitious Curriculum:**
We provide an enriched, exciting, and ambitious curriculum which equips pupils with the social and cultural capital necessary for successful and fulfilling adult lives.
- **Responsive Teaching:**
We ensure high-quality teaching where every lesson has a clear purpose, offers opportunities to assess and respond to pupils' understanding, and helps them retain and apply their knowledge over time.
- **Positive Attitudes to Learning:**
Through a celebratory approach, we support pupils in developing exceptional learning attitudes and self-management skills, fostering readiness to learn with resilience, resourcefulness, respect, and reflection.
- **Strategic Leadership:**
We cultivate a pupil-centred leadership culture where leaders are strategic and reflective in their approach.

CONFIDENCE, CURIOSITY & COURAGE

Transitioning to secondary school is a significant step in a child's life which can be both an exciting, yet daunting experience.

To make sure it is a success, we focus on helping new pupils:

- Settle and embrace life at Kennet School
- Engage academically through inspirational lessons
- Engage in co-curricular clubs and opportunities
- Adapt to new routines, taking responsibility for many aspects themselves
- Develop their character through personal development plans.

Before they join us, we visit pupils in their primary schools to get to know them. Our prime objective is to support each pupil to make the most of every opportunity, both inside and outside the classroom. We work closely with local primary schools to ensure your child's new teachers have all the information they need to know about your child as an individual before they walk through our doors on their first day.

In addition:

- Your child will attend two induction days in the July before they join to experience life at Kennet School and smooth away any transition concerns
- We offer a great opportunity for your child to get involved in a fun-packed, two-day summer school in August
- Your child will be invited to join our Rising Year 7 choir
- You will be invited to attend our Rising Year 7 parents' evening - an informative evening for you to meet with our Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team and Head of Year to discuss the transition process, curriculum and pastoral care, as well as the opportunity to ask as many questions as you like
- You are welcome to see the school in action by visiting the school during September open week and experiencing first-hand what Year 7 lessons entail
- You will meet your child's Head of House and tutor in October to discuss how they are settling in.

But that is just the start of the journey and our partnership.



MOTIVATING, INSPIRING & SUPPORTING

OUR HOUSE SYSTEM

At the heart of our school community is our House system which aims to:

- Provide a sense of belonging within the school community
- Challenge pupils to achieve their full academic potential and reward them for their progress
- Support pupils by offering them the right level of care and guidance to be successful at school
- Ensure active engagement and participation in House events, competitions and co-curricular activities
- Create opportunities to develop social, intellectual, physical and practical skills
- Provide an awareness of individual and collective responsibilities
- Develop character through the six Kennet Values:



Linked to our values are the 'Kennet 5' pupil expectations, which detail what we expect each pupil to demonstrate, every day, eliminating any ambiguity and setting a clear framework to support and guide pupils to realise success.

We take the welfare of our pupils extremely seriously. We want our pupils to be safe, secure and successful.



All pupils are assigned to one of our four Houses – St David House, St Francis House, St Michael House, St Patrick House – in Year 7 where they remain until the end of the Sixth Form (younger siblings also join the same House). Even our staff are attached to a House.

The House system provides a robust mentoring programme within which older pupils become a strong support network for their younger counterparts. These relationships are priceless, providing friendship and support in which every pupil can feel safe and cared for. In Year 7, for example, pupils are assigned a 'link student', a friendly face they can go to for help and advice.

The Houses are in competition with each other to achieve the highest number of House Points at the end of each term and year. Pupils can contribute to their House Point totals in a number of ways, both in and out of the classroom. Regular House competitions keep spirits high, creating fierce competition, as well as a sense of pride. A considerable emphasis is also placed on community links and charity work, with each House choosing a charity close to them.

We believe in giving our pupils the opportunity to take responsibility for their own behaviour. Positive behaviour for learning and achievements is rewarded: from House Points to Commendations; badges to trophies. Where pupils fail to meet our high expectations, we combine sanctions and restorative practice to ensure pupils learn from mistakes and these are not repeated.

KENNET

LIFE

THE SCHOOL DAY

At its basic level, each school day is broken down as follows:

Time	Activity
8:00am to 8:45am	Before School / Breakfast Co-curricular Clubs
8:45am	Arrive at School (<i>unless doing before school clubs</i>)
8:55am to 9:15am	AM Tutor Registration / Reading / Study Morning
9:15am to 10:25am	Period 1
10:25am to 11:35am	Period 2
11:35am to 11:55am	Break
11:55am to 1:05pm	Period 3
1:05pm to 1:55pm	Lunchtime / Lunch Co-curricular Clubs
1:55pm to 2:20pm	Afternoon Assemble into PM Tutor Registration / PSHE* / Assembly
2:20pm to 3:30pm	Period 4
3:35pm to 4:45pm	After School / After School Co-curricular Clubs / Period 4 & 5**

*Period 5 is used by pupils in Key Stages 4 & 5, depending on the courses they are studying. Some clubs may run longer than 4:45pm.

Note: A bell system indicates key moving times during the day.

ATTENDANCE

Excellent attendance at Kennet is an essential part of raising attainment, increasing pupil progress and helping them to fulfil their potential. We keep track of attendance as well as punctuality and encourage 100% in both.

READING

We offer a text-rich curriculum, with reading at its heart. We understand the importance of reading and, to help pupils continually improve, we dedicate time to it each day, with reading ages communicated home throughout Key Stage 3. Pupils are required to have a reading book with them every day.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Wearing the correct Kennet School uniform is an important part of being a pupil at our school and is mandatory for all in Years 7 to 11, without exception. It gives our pupils a sense of belonging and teaches them to dress professionally whilst taking pride in their appearance. A full list of school uniform requirements can be found on our website and can be purchased via Skoolkit and West Berkshire Clothing. We also offer a second-hand uniform service.

SCHOOL MEALS

We aim to provide our pupils with healthy, appetising food that sustains them throughout their working day. Our school canteen is open three times a day and caters for a wide range of tastes. It provides healthy choices, such as free porridge every morning, as well as accommodating special dietary requirements. We use a cashless payment system which requires money to be loaded via ParentPay and links to your child's fingerprint at the till. Your child can, of course, also bring a packed lunch and can eat with their friends in their designated social area or on the school field (weather permitting).

HOMEWORK

All homework is set online and accessible to both parents and pupils via our website and an app personalised to each pupil/parent. Homework supports pupils to retrieve and recall core knowledge, as well as how to practise applying core knowledge. We use online platforms to support learning, so access to a laptop/computers at home is very helpful.

MOBILE PHONES/ ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Use of mobile/electronic devices is not permitted in school and will result in confiscation if visible during the school day.

UNIQUE LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Our curriculum is rich and varied. Each department comprises a highly qualified, specialist team of teachers based in well-resourced subject areas. Outstanding practitioners use research to inform cutting edge teaching and learning practices, resulting in a first-class, personalised curriculum which leads pupils to academic success and engenders a love of learning.

KEY STAGE 3 (YEARS 7–9)

Year 7:

Pupils engage in a broad and balanced curriculum, including subjects such as English, Mathematics, Science, French, Geography, History, Art & Design, Computer Science, Music, Design & Technology, Drama, Ethics & Philosophy, Physical Education (PE), Dance, Food Preparation & Nutrition, and Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education. English and Mathematics are taught in sets based on primary school data and Kennet School's baseline assessments, which are regularly reviewed. All other subjects are taught in mixed-ability groups.

Year 8:

The curriculum structure remains consistent with Year 7, ensuring continuity and progression. Most lessons are taught in broad ability bands, with setting based on attainment and regularly reviewed after assessment points.

Year 9:

Pupils continue with a similar curriculum structure, maintaining breadth while beginning to focus on areas of interest. This year serves as a foundation for Key Stage 4, with pupils making informed choices about the subjects they wish to specialise in during Years 10 and 11.

KEY STAGE 4 (YEARS 10 & 11)

Pupils follow one of four learning pathways tailored to their needs and prior attainment. These pathways determine the number and combination of GCSE or equivalent qualifications pursued. All pupils study a core curriculum comprising English, Mathematics and Science, alongside selected option subjects. Depending on ability, dedication and motivation, pupils can study up to 11 subjects at GCSE/Level 2. Courses commence in Year 10, culminating in final examinations at the end of Year 11.

Revision & Examination:

Daily study sessions teach a range of revision strategies, supplemented by parents' evenings, external training, and bespoke online resources. Regular assessments, including mock examinations, are conducted to ensure pupils can confidently recall and apply their knowledge. Kennet School collaborates with various examining boards, including AQA, OCR, Pearson Edexcel and Eduqas/WJEC.

Next Steps:

Comprehensive careers and pastoral programmes provide extensive advice and guidance, supporting pupils in making well-informed decisions about their future, whether pursuing apprenticeships or joining our excellent Sixth Form (rated Outstanding by Ofsted), which the vast majority of pupils do. See also page 10.

KEY STAGE 5 (YEARS 12 & 13 / SIXTH FORM)

A Levels

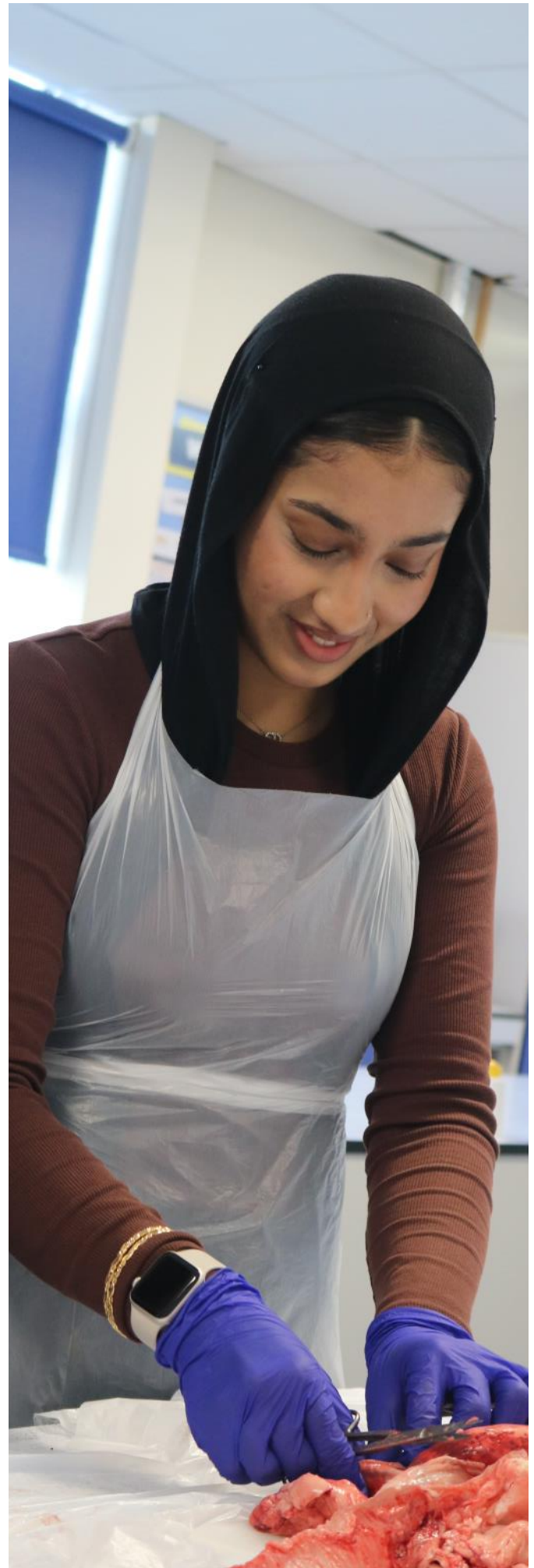
Our Sixth Form offers a wide-ranging curriculum, including A Levels, T Levels and vocational qualifications. Facilities include well-equipped classrooms, large study rooms, computer facilities (including a coding lab) and social area with a dedicated café. The Sixth Form experience bridges the gap between school life and study or employment. Students typically make exceptional progress during these two critical years. They benefit from extensive monitoring, assessment and comprehensive support for university or apprenticeship applications. A programme of external speakers addresses wider social, political and cultural issues, whilst all Sixth Formers are encouraged to take on leadership roles, from School Council to House Captains to working with the local community and mentoring younger pupils.

Our enrichment programme is second to none and allows students to engage in activities as diverse as sports, cooking, drama, Sixth Form band and the Extended Project Qualification. Consequently, our students graduate with excellent examination results, enriched character and the confidence to lead.

T Levels

We are proud to be the first Sixth Form in the local area to offer T Level qualifications. Designed with employers and businesses, T Levels provide learners a head start towards their chosen career and address workspace skills gaps through industry engagement and development.

We offer T Level qualifications in Business Management & Administration, Education & Early Years, Health and Media. In May 2024, we opened a new, state-of-the-art T Level Hub, designed to support practical learning across all pathways. The facility includes hospital beds, a fully equipped media studio, office-style spaces, and a flexible workspace with break-out areas. This facility offers students and staff an exceptional learning environment.



UNLOCKING POTENTIAL

EXAMINATION RESULTS

Results across the vast majority of curriculum areas, including English, Maths and Science, far exceed the national averages at GCSE, and in 2024 an impressive 23% of all grades were awarded at grade 9-7.

In addition, results at A Level put Kennet School pupils consistently in the top quarter of all schools for progress, and we are proud of the excellence demonstrated here too with 24% of all grades achieved awarded at an A or A*.

These excellent results demonstrate the hard work, tenacity, and effective learning habits instilled in our pupils.

BUILDING CHARACTER

Opening doors is not simply about having the right grades but the right character traits to succeed. This is why Kennet places such emphasis on joining in and participation via our pupil participation programmes, our co-curricular offer and our enrichment programme.





NEXT STEPS

With a dedicated Leader of Careers and Aspirations, our commitment to high quality careers work is seen in our award of Investors in Careers.

Following the Government's Gatsby Benchmarks, we aim to inspire pupils via a programme of opportunities which contains information about what lies beyond school life. These include:

- Work-related learning events involving local businesses both on and off site
- A monthly outside speaker programme, often by past pupils, parents or members of the local community
- Personalised Unifrog accounts for every pupil
- Interview days
- Access to the Careers Corner in the library
- Access to numerous careers websites (through our Frog virtual learning platform)
- Visits to and from local universities
- Support for apprenticeship applications from Level 2 to sponsored degree pathways
- Psychometric testing, with personalised support and development
- Education Business Partnership workshops for targeted groups
- Extra help through their tutor as required
- Year group-focused careers fairs, both on and off site
- Targeted, bespoke interventions for disadvantaged pupils
- Industry-specific webinars.



EVERY PUPIL

KNOWN

Each pupil at Kennet is recognised as an individual. Supporting pupils to achieve their potential means recognising and nurturing their distinct talents, abilities and aspirations.

Every pupil is supported by a strong pastoral framework and individual mentoring by tutors, pastoral leaders and the senior leadership team. This personal approach is the bedrock of Kennet School and ensures our pupils enjoy ongoing guidance to develop their aspirations to the full.

In the classroom, we have a robust monitoring of pupil understanding, providing regular feedback on progress and placing dialogue between pupil and teacher at its heart. This is supported by a range of intervention programmes to ensure all our pupils, whatever their ability or learning need, are able to flourish and thrive. Lessons are tilted to meet the needs of each and every pupil.

There is a strong sense of belonging here at Kennet and it is the pupils themselves who create the unique Kennet atmosphere that is so conducive to learning. This is underpinned by our values - respect, integrity and kindness.



SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

We recognise individuality and utilise a whole range of support to remove barriers to learning and celebrate every success with pupils. As a truly inclusive school, every pupil's education is equally important and we recognise that support required may take different forms – whether they have a medical condition, learning difficulties or just need to work through some issues, there is always someone on hand to help.

HEARING RESOURCE BASE/ PHYSICALLY DISABLED RESOURCE

We are also justifiably proud of both our Hearing Resource Base and Physically Disabled Resource. Not only are we well-equipped with specialist equipment, teachers and teaching assistants, but our pupils thrive academically and socially due to the outstanding support and encouragement provided by the whole school community.

MORE ABLE, GIFTED AND TALENTED

The Kennet Scholars Programme is a tailored programme for high-achieving and ambitious pupils, providing specialist academic enrichment, mentoring, and guidance. It is designed to develop the knowledge, skills and mindset required for success at the most competitive universities and careers.

This dynamic and stimulating programme goes beyond standard classroom learning. The Kennet Scholars Programme is open to all pupils who demonstrate:

- A passion for learning and intellectual curiosity
- High academic achievement
- Ambition to apply for competitive university courses.

While it is important for us to offer a range of co-curricular activities, we prioritise quality teaching first for all our pupils in the classroom.

DEVELOPING PASSION & ENRICHING LIVES

We provide an unrivalled programme of co-curricular activities, with over 200 day trips, exchanges and tours provided each year, all giving our pupils the chance to stretch themselves, gain insights beyond the classroom, learn new skills and even compete at an international level.

Our budding artists experience an array of opportunities to develop their skills, creativity and abilities further, including acting, choreography, photography, textiles, cookery, woodwork, set design and production.

Our musicians enjoy a wide range of ensembles including orchestras, choirs, jazz and soul bands, which provide opportunities for both beginners and experts alike. We also put on many concerts through the academic year, not to mention tours.

Our keen sportsmen and women benefit from some of the finest sporting facilities in the county from extensive playing fields, floodlit tennis and netball courts, a four-bay set of cricket nets, a weights gym, a huge sports hall, an indoor heated swimming pool and a host of other facilities including purpose-built dance studio.

Our promising actors thrive in various avenues such as school productions, House Performing Arts and co-curricular clubs. Sixth Formers can enhance their understanding of performance through the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts (LAMDA) qualification.

Enrichment trip opportunities also feature highly with language trips abroad, art trips to galleries, theatre trips in Drama and English, field trips in Geography and music tours to name but a few.

Internationally, past opportunities have included trips and tours to France, Germany, Italy, Malta, Austria, Spain and Switzerland, as well as expeditions to Borneo, Ecuador, Mongolia, Peru and Kenya. An exchange to Korea is our latest exciting international experience for pupils.

Regular expeditions, camping (Year 7s), climbing lessons, ski trips and sports tours, all provide further opportunities for pupils to develop their confidence and self-awareness.

Kennet School believes in the value of outdoor pursuits and is a highly successful registered provider of the Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) Award Programme, as well as the Combined Cadet Force (CCF), run in partnership with Bradfield College.

There is definitely something for everyone and, if you have not been to one of our school concerts, dance shows or productions, you are missing out!



**Artsmark
Platinum Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England



**MUSIC
MARK**
PROUD TO BE A
MUSIC MARK
SCHOOL

COMMUNICATION

IS KEY

Education is very much a partnership between our pupils, their parents/carers and our staff. Co-operation and communication is crucial for all our pupils' development, so we endeavour to keep you fully informed through a number of communication channels:

Phone/Email: We are always pleased to see you to discuss your child's progress. We try to respond as quickly as possible but the majority of staff will be teaching during the school day, so please bear with us. Your child's tutor, subject teacher, Head of House or Head of Year are the people who will have the greatest knowledge of your child. We aim to respond to all enquiries within 48 hours.

Website: There is a wealth of information on our website from term dates to enrichment, sporting fixtures to job opportunities.

Mobile Apps: Kennet uses two mobile apps:

- MyFrog for keeping an eye on your child's homework tasks;
- Epraise to monitor your child's achievements, accolades and behaviour.

Social Media: Keep up-to-date with our activities and achievements via our Facebook or X accounts. Ex-pupils are also encouraged to connect with us on LinkedIn.

Newsletters: We publish regular newsletters, containing information on recent activities and achievements.

Letters: We email letters on a regular basis, depending on what's relevant to you and your child.



Parents' Evenings: You will be invited to an evening where you can meet teachers to discuss your child's progress and attitude to learning.

Reports: Issued twice a year to ensure you are kept up-to-date with how well your child is progressing through the curriculum and allowing pupils to reflect on their learning habits.

Parent Dashboard: Available across devices computers, tablets, smartphones, as well as via the MyFrog app, parents are able to securely access Frog, our virtual learning platform, to view their child's timetables, homework tasks and update the school more easily, such as changes to their details or child's medical conditions.

PARENT/TEACHERS ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY (PTAC)

You will automatically become a member of our PTAC when your child joins Kennet, a voluntary body which supports the school (both socially and financially) through fundraising activities. Whether you support the PTAC as a committee member, a helper or simply just turn out to the events, you are helping to provide our school with valuable resources to give all pupils, your children, the best education possible.



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/KennetSchool



IN BRIEF

- We are immensely proud of all our pupils, aged between 11-18 (around 1,800 on roll; 400 of which are in Sixth Form)
- Our four houses (St David, St Francis, St Michael and St Patrick) are key in encouraging our pupils to be tenacious in their endeavour to be the best they can be in all aspects of their lives
- SSAT has recognised our practice to be amongst the most exceptional nationally. Within the last year alone, we have been accredited for transforming practice in 'Principled Assessment' and 'Principled Curriculum Design', and reaccredited in 'Climate for Learning'. These accomplishments reaffirm our commitment to maintaining the highest standards of educational excellence
- Every pupil's education is equally important, and, as an inclusive school, we recognise support required may take different forms
- Our staff make a real difference every day, contributing to our vibrant learning community

Headteacher: Ms G Rigg

Chair of Governors: Mr G Curren




DISCOVER WHAT KENNET CAN OFFER YOU



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