

Kendrick School

Weekly Update

Friday 22nd January 2021

WEEKLY LETTER FROM MR SIMMONDS, ACTING HEADTEACHER

I want to start my update this week with the remarkable news that Ms Kattirtzi has had the frame and metal pins removed from her broken leg. This is over a year ahead of the schedule first proposed to her. This is the best of news and we are very excited to have a resurgent Ms Kattirtzi continue her return to work boosted by this huge step forward.

You might think that things have quietened down this week, but not a bit of it. I am very pleased to tell you that work to repair and upgrade the swimming pool has been commissioned and is due to start at the end of January. The pool is currently being emptied in preparation.

This week we recommenced our Widening Horizons Homework Club and there was a real buzz to this remote session run by Kendrick staff and students and attended by eligible Year 5 students from various primary schools. The Year 5 students worked in breakout rooms with our Sixth Form students on an English exercise and they were soon gaining confidence as the session progressed. The next session is on Tuesday 26th January when the students will be working together on a Mathematics exercise.

The Government continues to issue daily, and often twice daily, new or updated guidance to schools. This reminds us all of the rapidly changing situation we are in and how incredible it is that our school community continues to show how flexible and responsive to change it can be.

Of course we look forward to calmer times but just at the moment there are too many unresolved issues in education for that to be a likelihood. There is a small number of staff in school each day keeping all our systems running and taking the opportunity to undertake some of those tasks that rarely rise to the top of the to do list. We took delivery of furniture for our new student welfare base in Sidmouth House and this facility is now fully equipped with chairs, sofas, desks, computers and an adjoining staff office ready for when students return to school. We are very grateful to the Kendrick Parents' Society and School Council for their fund raising efforts to make this possible.

We continue to issue the ['Of the week'](#) sheet, which I recommend to you all. This coming week I see that both the quotation and word of the week are based on the word 'fortitude' which is one I have used a lot this year as a quality shown in abundance by the students and staff of the school. *'Fortitude is the marshal of thought, the armour of the will, and the fort of reason.'* - Francis Bacon

Last week I mentioned that I attended an online drawing lesson and a few people have been asking about this; this week I learnt about drawing 3D objects and spaces. Maybe my classes will see an improvement in my annotated mechanics diagrams in lessons! It also finally stopped raining long enough for me to cycle to work and pedalling along with the sun preparing to rise over my shoulder gave me a great feeling of energy and joy and I encourage you to start your day with something you really enjoy, it seems to make quite difference.

Finally please note that we have vacancies on our website for teaching posts in **Chemistry** and **English and Drama**; please point these out to someone you know who may be interested in one of these roles

Mr Nick Simmonds, Acting Headteacher

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.

If you're worried about a child or young person and you are contacting us out of hours (before 8am and after 5pm), 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.

TOP TIPS FOR UNDERSTANDING YOUR TEENAGER IN THE 'NEW NORMAL'

Being a teenager is tough at the best of times. But this isn't the best of times. So, as a parent, how do you continue to support your teenager? What do their behaviours and emotions tell you about what's going on for them? And how do you untangle those which are an understandable response to the restrictions of the pandemic, those which are typical of the teenage years, and those which might warrant more specialist help?

Please click on this [link](#) to read a very good article on BBC Bitesize about understanding your teenager in the 'new normal'.

ARGUMENTS, CONFLICT AND FAMILY TENSION DURING COVID-19

If you are worried about coping with family tensions or managing arguments, NSPCC has got tips and advice for you via this [link](#).

NEWS AND EVENTS - WHOLE SCHOOL

YEARS 10, 12 AND 13 BRITISH PHYSICS OLYMPIAD RESULTS

Physics students have continued to take part in competitions since the start of the year, despite extra logistics to running them safely. For the article in full please click [here](#).

SIGNING UP TO SCHOOL GATEWAY

Thank you to the parents/carers that have signed up to use School Gateway. However, there are only **42.2% of parents/carers** who have done so and only **36.9%** who use the School Gateway app.

Once you are signed up to School Gateway (either online or using the App) you will be able to:

- **View the contact details we have on record for you and inform us of any changes. It is very important that we have the correct contact details on record for you. This year we cannot send out paper version of the**

data sheets so it is very important that you sign up for School Gateway so you can check the details we have on record for you. It will also mean that you are receiving all the information from us that you need.

- **View your child's medical details and can inform us of any changes**
- **View your child's timetable**
- **View your child's report (when it is available)**
- **Report your child's absence and see their attendance stats**

To register for School Gateway please log in using the link below. **Please ensure that you are registering as a new user if you are logging in for the first time.**

<https://login.schoolgateway.com/0/auth/login>

The **FREE** app for your phone can be found in the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google play](#) and follow the instructions below.

We look forward to **100% of parents/carers** being signed up to School Gateway in the very near future.

Creating an account is simple and will take no more than a couple of minutes:

1. Register

Register using the same email address and mobile number held by the school

2. Four digit PIN

School Gateway will send you a text with your PIN

3. Login

Login, you are ready to go

KENDRICK SCHOOL VACANCIES

We have two exciting full time teaching vacancies for **September 2021!** We welcome applications from NQTs or more qualified teachers for both roles.

ENGLISH AND DRAMA TEACHER

Both the English and Drama departments are constantly evolving and developing to suit the needs of the students in the 2020s. We are seeking innovative and creative practitioners, who are keen to engage with the enquiring minds of the students, and to contribute to the ongoing development of the departments, across the key stages. Kendrick School provides an environment which allows students and teachers alike to work and develop in a purposeful atmosphere, which is both dynamic and studious.

The school offer an extensive extracurricular programme across the Arts and we are looking for someone who could contribute to this in the Drama Department. There may also be opportunities for further responsibilities in English.

This role would suit both experienced teachers and NQTs. Kendrick School provides wide-ranging CPD opportunities and a full and supportive NQT programme.

Applicants need to be able to teach Chemistry throughout the school including A Level and Science at KS3. Kendrick School is a centre of academic excellence with a track record of high performance and achievement. Our expansion makes this an exciting time to be joining the school.

CHEMISTRY TEACHER

The Chemistry Department has benefitted from Specialist School status and there are large numbers of students who study the subject at A Level with many students going on to study Chemistry related subjects at university.

This position would suit a recently qualified teacher or more experienced teacher who is able to impart passion and enthusiasm for the subject to highly motivated, creative and engaging students. Kendrick School has a very good track record of developing NQTs and the successful candidate would be joining a supportive and experienced

department. There would be opportunities for professional development within the department and the school as a whole.

For more information on both roles and an application forms, please click [here](#). Please forward this information to family and friends that you think may be interested in applying.

KPS SHOPPING LINKS

AmazonSmile donations

We encourage you to continue your purchases at smile.amazon.co.uk, (not www.amazon.co.uk or the mobile app) These are helping us generate AmazonSmile donations for our school. Amazon donates 0.5% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT, returns and shipping fees) of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases.

Easy Fundraising Charity

KPS has also signed up to other easy ways of raising funds for the school especially when you are shopping online - **easyfundraising charity site** : <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/kendrickschoolreading/> . Please continue to use these links and let's all together contribute to something that our daughters can benefit from.

TheGivingMachine

Another opportunity for you to raise more donations and funds for the School when you shop online. Go to this site and give for free: Here is the link: <https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/>

GAYL

Give As You Live (GAYL) is one way with which you can help KPS receive additional funds with no cost to you! Please use this link <https://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/kendrick> and help us raise additional funds.

NEWS AND EVENTS - STUDENTS

HOUSE JOKE COMPETITION

Q: How do astronomers organise a party?

A: They planet!

Students and staff are invited to enter the House Joke Competition for the chance to show off their subject/interests with a cheesy joke! The deadline is 5pm on Monday 25th January. The link to enter is here:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf-uWG1pNSgiku7s6tP71LmrEQkVCnD5T9niBLNe7YhOcaOdw/viewform?usp=sf link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf-uWG1pNSgiku7s6tP71LmrEQkVCnD5T9niBLNe7YhOcaOdw/viewform?usp=sf_link)

HOUSE READING COMPETITION

Please see this [reading list](#) for the Inter-House Reading Competition. The idea is to read as many books as you can from the list of 100 titles and gain a house point for every book read. You must read the books between now and the February Term Break. Keep a track of the titles you have read because we will be asking you to inform your House & Vice House Captains at a later date.

Many of the books are classics, so you should be able to download them onto your devices. If anyone is having huge problems accessing books please contact either Mrs Cavaciuti or Mrs Williamson in the library and they will do their best to help you.