

# Kendrick School

## Weekly Update

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2018**

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### LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

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Dear Parents/Carers, Students and Staff

This week all students have had a profiling session with their Tutor or Head of Year. Profiling meetings are one to one sessions between a student and their Tutor/Head of Year to discuss the interim report that has been produced by teachers. The discussions focus on a student's general progress in the subjects they study, as well as how they are managing school life and the contribution they may be making to school. We greatly value these sessions as they allow Tutors/Heads of Year and students to have quality conversations which often enable students to share any concerns they have as well as celebrate successes. This activity with its individual and personalised focus on learning takes place now and in the summer, and precedes reports that will eventually go to parents. In the conversations we have with students some regular themes come up: How they are getting on in their subjects, how much they like school, how they enjoy the activities that go on, etc. There are also discussions on the pressure and stress that students feel to perform and achieve highly, particularly to be in the top bands of our assessment framework. Often students will say "My parents will expect me to be in the top bands and I don't want to disappoint them". Therein lies a pressure. Our assessment system is personalised to Kendrick and the students we have at our school, so performance is referenced to our students and not national measures. In the main, all our students do work at a very high standard and they do very well, they do not need additional pressure to feel that they are not doing well enough. Sometimes students feel that this pressure comes from home, friends and school. In school we are doing a lot of work to support students in this area. We want students to achieve in line with their ability and potential but we do not want to place unrealistic expectations on them, which then have adverse effects on their mental health and wellbeing. All staff at Kendrick are concerned about this issue and you will have noticed the small changes we have made to our practice and the expectations we have of our students to address this concern.

One of the key initiatives we are developing to assist us in our work with students is a joint project with the Educational Psychology and Primary Mental Health Worker Services at Reading Local Authority, through which we are now a hub school for mental health in Reading as part of the Reading Young Peoples' Wellbeing Partnership. Ms Stacey, Head of Sixth Form and SENDCo, is leading the project and has done a lot of work with personnel in Reading and other schools and with our own students. We have a Student Wellbeing Ambassador Team currently composed of Year 11 and 13 students who are championing good mental health initiatives and practices. As well as work being done in school with staff and students, our own staff are able to attend workshops on key mental health difficulties in order to deepen their understanding of issues that students may experience, and individual cases receive support and advice through mental health surgeries with the team from Reading. There are also workshops for parents and families to attend so that they can get support, knowledge and advice about how to best support their child. We will be notifying you of these as they come up but the full list of dates can be found in the article linked [here](#).

**Mental Health issues affect all of us in some way and there should be no stigma in recognising this.** At Kendrick we are committed to supporting everyone in our school to have good mental health and wellbeing. We hope parents can support us in this work.

Once again our Physics Department has been very active. As I have mentioned before, our Head of Physics, Mrs Theresa Conlon is a tireless advocate for Physics and is always trying to encourage more students to think about taking Physics at A Level and beyond into a future career. Mrs Conlon is also a Fellow of the Institute of Physics and is regularly called upon to comment about the teaching of Physics in schools and how to promote Physics and Science amongst girls. A couple of weeks ago she was interviewed for an article in the New Scientist magazine and Kendrick was featured as one of the few schools in the country which is bucking the trend with regard to girls taking Physics at A Level. Please read the article via this [link](#). Thank you to Mrs Conlon for leading Physics at Kendrick and making it fun for students to learn.

You may have noticed the announcement in the press this week of the BBC 100 Women list of 100 inspiring and influential women from around the world for 2018. Ranging in age from 15 to 94, and from more than 60 countries, the list includes leaders, trailblazers and everyday heroes. You can explore their stories of achievement against the odds - from the British woman who used her jail time to create an inspiring business, to the Afghan girl who was almost swapped for a boy. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-46225037>

Wishing everyone a good weekend.

***Ms Christine Kattirtzi, Headteacher***

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## SAFEGUARDING

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### Musical.ly has a new name - TikTok (Safer Internet Centre)

The social network app Musical.ly has often given adults cause for concern, because of the way that children use it to generate and share their own short videos and lip sync to popular audio clips. The app has a new name and new features, and now includes live streaming. Although the app has an age-limit of 13 years old, in practice there will be younger children using it, and the content may not be suitable.

Profiles on TikTok are automatically set to public, so that any content you post can be seen by anyone within the app. There is also a Restricted Mode which can help to filter out inappropriate content and prevent the user from being able to start their own live streams.

You can find out more here: <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/what-tiktok-looking-latest-lip-syncing-app>

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## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

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*The following quote is one of the '140 quotes for 140 years' collected by Year 9 students on the occasion of Kendrick School's 140<sup>th</sup> birthday.*

**"If we can be taught to hate we can also be taught to love because love comes more naturally"**

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# WHOLE SCHOOL NEWS

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## News on our Website, Local Press and Social Media

[Senior Team Mathematics Challenge](#)

[Kendrick School as 'Best in Class' in New Scientist magazine's special report on Women in Physics](#)

[Success in the UK Mathematics Trust Competitions](#)

## Lost property display: Thursday 29th November in SC2, 1st and 2nd Break

All the lost property will be on display in SC2 on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November. Please encourage your daughter to go along and check if anything belongs to her. All the unclaimed items will be disposed of after the event.

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## YEAR GROUP NEWS

### Year 7

#### Transition Survey

Please could all Year 7 parents and carers complete the transition survey that was sent to them by ParentMail by **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018**.

### Year 11

#### Year 11 Parents' Consultation Evening and Study Workshop Event

Firstly, as per the dates given earlier in the year, next **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November** is Year 11 Parents' Consultation Evening. After experiencing some difficulties with the electronic system over the last year, students have been given an appointment sheet to liaise with their subject teachers to make appointments. Please discuss with your daughter what times would be appropriate.

In the majority of cases, teachers teach only one Year 11 class and will be able to see all students. In a small number of subjects, teachers teach multiple classes and will prioritise speaking to students where there is an academic concern.

If you would like to speak to Mr Stride regarding your daughter then he is more than happy to do so amongst seeing the students in his Mathematics class. Ms Kattirtzi will also be available during the evening.

In addition to the Consultation meeting with teachers, we are inviting you to come to a short talk about the A Level option plans we have for your daughter if she wishes to join our Sixth Form. Further to the information given at the Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 8th November, we feel that our own students and parents would benefit from a more personalised presentation about our offer. We will run two identical sessions lasting about 20 minutes, at

3.15pm and 6.00pm in SC2, on Thursday 29th November and hope that you can join us at one of these. No booking for these sessions is required.

Secondly, all Year 11 students will take part in a study skills session on **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2018**.

On this day your daughter will spend one period in a workshop titled "Studying with the brain in mind". The workshop will cover:

- Using time efficiently
- Remembering what you learn
- Improving sleeping habits
- Managing stress

**We would be very grateful if you would contribute a payment of £5.00, to help us to cover the cost of running this event.** Payment should be made through your ParentPay online account. If you have any difficulties in paying please contact our Finance Department or e-mail [finance@kendrick.reading.sch.uk](mailto:finance@kendrick.reading.sch.uk).

The session is planned to help your daughter with her preparations for the mock examinations, which are coming up in January, and for her GCSE examinations at the end of the academic year.

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## SCHOOL CALENDAR AND UPCOMING EVENTS

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### Calendar for Week Commencing Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2018 (B Week)

#### Kendrick 'Fringe' Events

Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	Dance Enterprise Day
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 10-13 Music Trip to Wicked
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 11 Parents' Consultation, 3.45pm including Sixth Form Options talks at 3.15pm and 6.00pm
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	Senior Mathematics Kangaroo/BMO

The full school calendar can be found via this [link](#)

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## MUSIC @ KENDRICK

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### Christmas Concert – Thursday 13th December 2018 at 6.30pm

Our Christmas Concert will feature a range of seasonal songs from Vox Choir, Senior Choir and Chamber Choir, with instrumental music from Tchaikovsky, Pentatonix, and Henry Mancini. All of the school's main ensembles will perform, including all of Year 7 singing, our Carnatic Singers and the staff band 'No Direction' will dust off their cobwebs to 'entertain' you again. We expect the concert to finish at approximately 8.30pm.

Please note that refreshments, including mince pies and mulled wine will be available before the concert from 6.15pm.

Please may we remind you that no parking is available on the school site unless you have a disability. If this is the case, then please contact Reception before the event.

Our Christmas concert tends to sell out quickly and tickets went on sale on **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November**. We therefore urge you to order them as soon as possible through Parentpay in order to avoid disappointment. Ticket price/suggested donation: £5.00. In the first instance tickets will be restricted to four per family. We politely ask for you not to leave ticket requests or queries until the day of the concert.

If you would like tickets for the Christmas Concert on Thursday 13th December please complete the order on Parentpay. Tickets will be distributed to students via the registers before the concert.

Information about concerts in 2019 will be sent out at the beginning of next year. We look forward to seeing many of you at the concert.

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## VACANCIES

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**Please forward to friends or family who may be interested in the following roles:**

### Exam Invigilators

To facilitate the public examinations held at Kendrick School we require a bank of invigilators. We are currently seeking to expand our existing team. Responsibilities include:

- Preparation of the examination room
- Monitoring candidates during the exam
- Distribution and collation of examination papers and supporting material
- Supporting students' needs as required
- Ensuring adherence to JCQ regulations

Person/skills required:

- Understanding of the importance of safeguarding in schools
- Attention to detail
- Calm and professional
- Reliable
- Medical background advantageous
- Must be IT literate and be able to attend face to face training at the school

Training is provided. Please note that this is a part-time seasonal position.

If you are interested please complete the application and declaration of convictions forms on our [website](#) and email to [exams@kendrick.reading.sch.uk](mailto:exams@kendrick.reading.sch.uk).

# PARENTPAY REMINDERS

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- A Level Dale Fort Field Trip (June 2019) – Deposit of £50 due
- Year 10 English trip to 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time' – 6<sup>th</sup> December - £31
- Year 11 Study Skills Roadshow – 7<sup>th</sup> December - £5
- Last chance to order GCSE PE Revision guides and workbooks