

Kendrick School

Weekly Update

Friday 1st March 2019

Letter from Ms Kattirtzi, Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

I hope that everyone had a pleasant and restful half term break and enjoyed the nice spring-like days we had. We are at the half way point of this academic year and it seems only moments ago that we were welcoming new staff and new students to our school. For our senior students it is a time when they begin to focus more keenly on preparing themselves for the summer and what lies ahead and how what they do now will affect some future decisions.

I am thinking in particular of Year 11 who are in the process of confirming their A Level choices. Most of our Year 11 students choose to stay at Kendrick, although a few want to try something new, often for very good reasons. In the process of making these decisions, Year 11 students are asked by Dr Perry to complete a form about what choices they want to make and why. One of the questions asked of them was: do you wish to stay at Kendrick and why? I have not read all the responses to this question but Dr Perry passed me a few which I was delighted to read. The general message they conveyed was that they want to stay at Kendrick because of the friendships they have developed, they are known to everyone and they know everyone too, they like the environment, they feel happy and included and they feel the school offers them everything that they could want. One particular comment seemed to sum up the views of many and I am sharing it with you below so that you can see the general view of some of our Year 11 students about their school.

The community spirit at Kendrick makes this school a wonderful and productive workplace, where students can share ideas, learn together and ask questions as they arise in class. Friendships continue to grow as further similarities are discovered, and differences are appreciated rather than criticised. The education I have received at Kendrick, tailored to meet the rigorous demands of enquiring minds, has been outstanding and I am grateful to staff for their hard work, effort and dedication. Motivated to do my best, I relish the opportunity to extend my knowledge beyond what is strictly on the syllabus and I am thrilled that teachers at Kendrick are willing to share knowledge of their subject solely for the love of learning. At Kendrick, many opportunities are provided to students that we would have otherwise been unaware of, and so I wish to take hold of these as I go into Sixth Form life.

At the same time as Year 11 are confirming their A Level choices, Year 9 students have been introduced to the choices they can make at GCSE, another big milestone in the life of a student. Once again I am confident that they and their parents will go through this process sensibly and make some good decisions.

We have a busy six weeks to look forward to which has started already with a brilliant House Drama evening last night. Thank you to the Captains and House Leaders of all Houses. We will send a report and photos of the event in due course. We have lots of other events taking place including, very importantly, our [KPS raffle](#) which will be launched at the beginning of next week. £15k is the amount we are aiming to raise which we hope will enable us to buy Chrome books for student use and also finance the upgrade of the lighting in the School Hall. Please, please support us in this whole school vital fund raising event. If every family could buy the 20 tickets that will be sent to

you we will be able to raise the money to meet our target. Your daughter will be bringing home 20 raffle tickets on Monday 4th March. The draw will take place on Thursday 4th April at the Spring Concert. You can see the wonderful prizes on offer and more information [here](#).

Next Friday is International Women's Day (IWD) and I am taking some students to a conference in London to listen to and discuss issues that are relevant to young women today. There will be other things happening in school to highlight this event, including some events and talks planned by the Head Girl Team, highlighting examples of women empowerment which I am sure students across the school will be interested to hear about. The theme for IWD this year is *#BalanceForBetter* to encourage people around the world to take action and push for a gender balanced world.

The Holocaust speaker, Ruth Barnett, will be visiting us to give a talk about her experiences as a Holocaust Survivor. Organised by our Holocaust Ambassadors, Zakiyyah and Rosie in Year 13, Ruth will be with us on Wednesday 13th March, 3.45-5.30pm in the school Hall. Students and parents are welcome to come to hear Ruth speak. Please click [here](#) for more information.

Best wishes for the weekend

Ms Christine Kattirtzi, Headteacher

SAFEGUARDING

Momo Challenge

We are aware of a concerning internet trend called the MOMO challenge.

Similar to the Blue Whale Challenge in 2017, the Momo Challenge is a viral social media trend with children and young people. The challenge encourages children to contact an unknown person called "Momo" via social media.

What is the Momo Challenge?

- Throughout the challenge, children are sent violent and graphic images and texts. If children want to stop the challenge "Momo" threatens to leak their personal information
- Then, the stranger asks children to share photos and videos of themselves completing certain tasks
- At first the tasks are small. For example: face a fear, wake up at weird hours throughout the night
- The tasks escalate until the final task which encourages children to kill themselves
- WhatsApp, YouTube, and Facebook are the primary networks for the challenge

Why should we be concerned?

- Children who partake in the Momo Challenge are actively communicating with with unknown persons and may be encouraged to self-harm
- The Momo Challenge is not specific to one country, it is global
- The Momo Challenge can feel real for children and may push them to harm themselves
- Children are exposed to violent and graphic images throughout the challenge
- Some children have reported that it's easy to come across "Momo" on Facebook and YouTube and that it's easy to connect with the character on WhatsApp

What can parents do?

- Ensure they know what their children can access online
- Ensure children understand the importance of not giving personal information to anyone they do not know
- Tell their children no-one has the right to make them do anything they do not want to do
- Use parental controls to keep children safe
- If children do receive a Momo message, remind the child Momo isn't a real person, Momo doesn't exist. The message is computer generated and is most likely an app 'phishing' for information. Tell them not to respond, at all. Then block any number that may appear

Remember:

As with the Blue Whale Challenge most of the concern arose through the media hype that surrounded the Challenge rather than children actually being exposed to risk.

However, the constantly evolving digital world means a steady influx of new apps and games and can be hard for parents to keep track of. That's why it's important for parents to talk regularly with children about these apps and games and the potential risks they can be exposed to.

The NSPCC publishes advice and guidance for parents on discussing online safety with their children, as well as Net Aware - the UK's only parental guide to social media and gaming apps <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

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

"All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given to us" J.R.R Tolkien

WHOLE SCHOOL NEWS

News on our Website, Local Press and Social Media

Next week we will have photos and a report on the House Drama event.

SCHOOL CALENDAR AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Calendar for Week Commencing Monday 4th March 2019 (A Week)

House Quiz Week

Monday 4th March

KPS Spring Raffle Launch

Tuesday 5th March

Royal Albert Hall Rehearsal, 6.15pm-8.15pm

Thursday 7 th March	Year 7 Parents' Consultation, 3.45pm to 6.15pm
Friday 8 th March	Air Ambulance Concert – Reading School, 7pm. Tickets on the door £7.00

Key Events in Term 4, 2018-19

Monday 11 th March	Music Trip to the Royal Albert Hall
Tuesday 12 th March	Year 9 Parents' Consultation, 3.45pm to 6.15pm
Wednesday 13 th March	Holocaust Survivor – Ruth Barnett, 3.45pm-5.30pm
Thursday 14 th March	Years 12/13 Profiling Day Governor Learning & Teaching Committee, 4.30pm
Wednesday 27 th March	RYPEWP Parent Workshop on Eating Disorders
Thursday 28 th March	Year 8 Parents' Consultation, 3.45pm to 6.15pm
Friday 29 th March	Governor Day
Thursday 4 th April	Spring Concert
Friday 5 th April	Last day of Term 4, finish at 3.15pm

Key Events in Term 5, 2018-19

Tuesday 23 rd April	Start of Term 5, 8.25am
Wednesday 24 th April	RYPEWP Parent Workshop on Exam Anxiety
Thursday 25 th April	Open Event, 5pm to 8pm
Monday 6 th May	Bank Holiday, school closed to students and staff
Wednesday 8 th May	Lower School Music Concert, 5pm
Thursday 9 th May	Year 11 Celebration Day
Friday 10 th May	Year 13 Celebration Day
Monday 13 th May	Public Exams start
Thursday 23 rd May	Last Day of Term 5 for Students
Friday 24 th May	INSET Day for Staff

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

News and Events by Year Group

Year 7 Parents Consultation Afternoon

As per the dates given earlier in the year, Year 7 Parents' Consultation Afternoon is taking place on Thursday 7th March 2019. Students have been given an appointment sheet with instructions on how to liaise and make appointments directly with their subject teachers. Please go through this with your daughter and discuss what times would be appropriate.

Your daughter is expected to accompany you to the consultation afternoon in her uniform, unless she is attending a PE club after school in which case she can come in her kit. Please be aware that many teachers teach multiple classes and will need to prioritise speaking to students where there is an area for development or concern. Appointments are 4 minutes each, so these conversations will be succinct.

You can make an appointment with your daughter's Tutor if you have a specific pastoral concern, or, if you would like to speak to Mme Hulley, Head of Year 7, then please send an email to shulley@kendrick.reading.sch.uk so a suitable time can be arranged. I do teach a Year 7 Religious Studies class but I will make sure I have some free time for parents to drop in.

When you arrive please sign in and, for safety, please sign out before you leave. May we remind you that no parking is available on the school site unless you have a disability in which case, please contact Reception before the event. We regret that we cannot be responsible for younger children, so please try and make alternative arrangements for younger siblings wherever possible.

KPS NEWS

Please click on this [link](#) for information on the KPS Raffle being launched on Monday 4th March.

VACANCIES

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

[Biology Teacher x 2 roles \(Full Time and 0.6\)](#)

PARENTPAY REMINDERS

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- Year 12 UCAS Exhibition which took place in Guildford on 26th February – there are still a few payments (£7.50) outstanding.
 - MFL Plays - £3 each. Year 9 – still some payments outstanding. Year 10 – a few payments outstanding.
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