

Kendrick School

Weekly Update

Friday 7th September 2018



Message from Ms Kattirtzi, Headteacher

Welcome back to school! Welcome to our students, staff and parents and a special welcome to those who have joined us this September. I hope everyone has had a good summer holiday and feels refreshed and ready to start the new school year.

I would like to introduce our new staff. They are: Mrs Bharate -Chemistry Teacher, Miss Heath - History Teacher, Mr Duncan - Latin Teacher, Mrs Hartwell - Music Teacher, Dr Joshi - Chemistry Teacher, Dr Jenkins - Biology Teacher, Mrs Munns - English Teacher, Dr Sharma - Mathematics Teacher, Mrs Britton - Chemistry Technician, Mrs Call - Chemistry Technician, Mrs Haines - Biology Technician, Mrs Cavacuti - Librarian, Mrs Jones - Librarian, Mrs Souch - PD and Art Technician, Mrs Nolte - Cover Assistant. We welcome them to our school and hope they will be very happy working with us.

It has been a busy summer for many of us. Of course, our A Level and GCSE results came out in August and we are delighted with the results this year. Our GCSE students must be congratulated for managing the harder GCSEs and doing so well across the board. Similarly, at A Level, all subjects taken were linear examinations, except in Mathematics, and the results and achievements were outstanding. Almost all our Year 13 students have secured a place at university, an apprenticeship course, employment or they are making plans for a gap year. We wish them well in their future plans. A full set of our results is on our website via this [link](#).

At our whole school assembly on Tuesday, I spoke to the students about the premises works that have taken place this summer. As you know, we secured some funding from government earlier in the year to do external improvements to Sidmouth House and also to build an extension on the side of the Library to ease the pressure for space in our canteen. The work in both locations has not finished and we are being advised that it will all be finished by the end of October. As a result, there is some inconvenience for the next few weeks for staff and some students who use Sidmouth. I have asked everyone to be patient and to make their way around the school safely and carefully.

I also updated the staff and students about our expansion plans which I have detailed to you before. I am pleased to say that we submitted our expansion plans to government (Selection School Expansion Fund) in August and we expect to hear whether we are successful in the autumn. Our task now is to plan and begin the outreach work with local schools which we outlined in our bid.

As a theme in my assembly on Tuesday, I spoke to the students about positive influences we can all have on each other and I referred to a top 100 list of women, past and present (ref BBC History Magazine August 2018), who have been voted as having had the most influence in terms of the impact they have had on the world. The top five were as follows: **1. Marie Curie 1867-1934:** a scientist who founded the new science of radioactivity leading to effective cures for cancer. She won two Nobel Prizes. **2. Rosa Parks 1913-2005:** an African American women who challenged the racial segregation by refusing to give up her seat for a white person in Montgomery in 1955 and in so doing

helped to spark off the Civil Rights Movement in America in the 1960s **3. Emmeline Pankhurst 1858-1928:** social reformer and key advocate of votes for women. **4. Ada Lovelace 1815-52:** a gifted mathematician considered to be the first programmer. **5. Rosalind Franklin 1920-58:** a crystallographer who provided a crucial piece of evidence in the discovery of the double helix structure of DNA. I suggested to them to consider the influence they have and how they use it to have a positive effect on themselves and others.

The start of a new year is always a time of renewal and new beginnings and as always I asked students in assembly to reflect on this new school year and think about the kind of person they want to be. I know all students and staff will work very hard, as they always do at Kendrick, but I also want all of us to think about the relationships we will have and develop over the year, the stresses and strains that we will endeavour to manage and the support and encouragement we need to give to one another. I mentioned again to students the idea of a **small great thing** (a phrase coined by Martin Luther King in the 1960s) that they might consider doing this year to make a difference to themselves and others in their community. Most importantly I asked students to be **kind and caring** towards each other, to be **respectful and tolerant, understanding and inclusive**. No one in our school community must ever feel on their own or left behind. I asked everyone to once again read our [Kendrick Pledge](#).

I finished the assembly with the following reflection: *A **new beginning** gives us all a chance to refresh and reshape our plans for the future and to make choices. As everyone looks forward to this year, I want you to think about how you want it to be: **what kind of person** do you want to be, **what kind of friend, student, daughter, and sister. What dreams and ambitions** do you have and want to pursue? **What will be your contribution to your school and your community** – what will be your **small great thing** that will make a difference to you and others this year?*

With such thoughts, I would like to wish you a very good year ahead.

Ms Christine Kattirtzi, Headteacher

NEWS AND EVENTS - WHOLE SCHOOL

News on our Website, Local Press and Social Media

[Green Park Challenge](#)

[Second Dan Black Belt for Zaynab](#)

Home School Agreement

At every opportunity we stress the importance we place on the relationship between the School and the home and we do a great deal to strengthen and develop this relationship. We would like you to support this compact. A successful school is based on all partners working together and supporting our common aims.

For a reminder of the Home School Agreement which all parents, carers and students sign their agreement to on joining Kendrick, please click [here](#).

Parent Governor Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a Parent Governor to join the Governing Body this term. Information on how nominations can be made and the election process will be communicated during week commencing 17th September.

We are fortunate to have parents/carers with a wide range of skills and talents, who are able to contribute to the Governing Body. In these challenging financial times and in the current political climate, our governing body is having to make some significant strategic decisions, not just for the students that are with us at the moment, but for the cohorts of students that will come to Kendrick in the future. Recently appointed parent governors have said that they enjoy their role as a governor; it gives them an insight into the workings of the school and how the school is accountable to the governing body. In addition, it enables them to be involved in setting the strategic vision of the school by working closely with Ms Kattirtzi and the Senior Leadership Team. They are proud to be part of a school that is relentless in its pursuit of excellence.

If you have an interest in education and have skills that you feel could contribute to the work we do, please put your name forward to be considered for the role of Parent Governor at Kendrick. We are particularly interested in financial and legal experience and also property/estate management skills

How to Report a Student Absence

Via ParentMail App

You can report a student absence due to illness through the ParentMail App. Please see the guidance below:

- From the ParentMail App, open 'Absences' and select the name of child who will be absent.
- Select a reason for absence from a drop down menu.
- Select an amount of time that your daughter is likely to be off school for.
- Add any additional notes, and then send to school.
- Please note this reporting can only be done via the ParentMail App.

Via the Unwell Student Line

If you cannot use the App, please call the school on 0118 901 5859 and leave a message on the dedicated unwell student line. In either case, please do this before 9am.

If your daughter is absent from school and we have not been informed we will send a message via ParentMail. We will ask you to telephone the school to give the reason for her absence.

Planned Medical Appointments

If your daughter is missing school for a medical appointment please send an email to admin@kendrick.reading.sch.uk giving as much notice as you can. These absences will always be authorised. Please note that students **must** be collected from school by a responsible adult for appointments that take place during school hours.

Participating in Drama, Music, Sport, Events

We are happy to support students participating in drama, music, sport etc. out of school and if your daughter needs time off for any of these reasons please ask her to collect a form from the General Office for you to fill in. This form is passed to Ms Kattirtzi who will then send an email home to confirm.

Holiday in Term Time

We actively discourage term time holidays, but if you feel you must take your daughter out of school, please ask her to collect a form as above. This form is passed to Ms Kattirtzi who will look at each individual request and you will receive a response by letter or email. In most cases some or all of this absence will be recorded as **unauthorised**.

Please do not contact Form Tutors, Heads of Year or individual staff members about absences of any description.

Data Collection Sheets

You should have now received a data collection sheet for your daughter. Please check the information carefully, ensuring all the relevant details are up to date and accurate. The data collection sheet should be signed and returned to your daughter's tutor as soon as possible **even if you do not have any changes.**

Please remember that it is very important for safeguarding and emergency purposes that we always have accurate contact details for all parents/carers including contact numbers and home addresses. If you move home during the year, or change your mobile phone number, please do let us know immediately by emailing admin@kendrick.reading.sch.uk so we can amend our records.

Safeguarding

Please read the NSPCC guidelines on how to start the conversations about 'difficult' subjects that you need to have if you want to keep your children safe.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/talking-about-difficult-topics/>

ParentPay Reminders

- Year 8 & 9 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' – performance which took place in July. There are still a number of payments outstanding (£5.50). This item will still be showing in your ParentPay account if you have not yet paid it.
- GCSE Geography day field trip on 17th September 2018 - £10
- Year 10 MFL trip to France or Germany – please continue to pay instalments. The full balance of £540 is due by 30th September. Please do not hesitate to contact the trip leader or finance@kendrick.reading.sch.uk if you have any problems with these payments.
- The Year 12 Book Deposits are now on ParentPay – please pay as soon as possible.
- Year 12 Maths graphics calculators are now on ParentPay and can be picked up from Ms Edwards (Monday – Thursday).

Please remember to top up dinner money and printing accounts.

Calendar for Week Commencing Monday 10th September 2018 (B Week)

House Football all week for Years 9 and 10

Monday 10th September KPS Meeting, 6pm

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

NEWS AND EVENT BY YEAR GROUP

Years 7, 8 and 9

Message from Miss Swaine, TLC for KS3

I hope your daughter has had a good week and that students, particularly Year 7 feel a little more settled into school life again.

All students have been introduced to and reminded of our high expectations and I would like to confirm the following key messages so you can support us in this too.

Uniform:

- Black shoes of sensible design. Shoe must be entirely black.
- Mid-grey classic style skirt with 2 pleats on the front and back or plain, black classic style trousers. Skirts should not be tight, slit, or made of stretch fabric. Skirt should cover at least two-thirds of the upper leg.
- No coloured nail varnish.
- Jewellery: One small stud per ear, one discreet chain, no bracelets, no rings. (Jewellery for religious reasons is permitted).

Mobile Phones:

- Phones must be switched off completely (not just left on standby) and kept in lockers at all times.
- If seen, phones will be confiscated by a member of staff.
- We do not want to see phones out at any time during the school day (including break times).
- If at any point a teacher requests for a class to use mobile phones educationally during a lesson, that particularly member of staff will speak with the form tutor to get confirmation.

If we have any issues with your daughter adhering to our expectations and school rules we will deal with this appropriately and inform you if and when necessary.

Many thanks for your support.

Year 11

Admission Test Day – Saturday 15th September 2018

Following the success of the last two years, we are asking our Year 11s to support us on Admission Test Day on **Saturday 15th September 2018**.

We are asking that the Year 11s help as follows:

11P and 11R	AM Session	7.45am to 11.45pm
11Q and 11S	PM Session	11.45am to 3.45pm

If your daughter is unable to help at the time indicated for her form group, then we would appreciate it if she could be available for the other session. Equally, if students wish to help out for the whole event then they are very welcome to do so.

We need as many Year 11 students as possible to help make this day a success. Their input is vital to ensure the day runs smoothly. All students should wear their school uniform and comfortable shoes.

We would appreciate your support with this. Please email admissions@kendrick.reading.sch.uk **NO LATER THAN SUNDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER** only if your daughter is attending a different session than the one allocated for her form or if she cannot help at all.