

Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Friday 17th September 2021

WEEKLY LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

We have completed the first of our two-week cycle of lessons, which means that all students across the school will have had lessons in all their subjects and met their teachers. We have welcomed a number of new staff to the school this term, they are: Miss Buckley, Mathematics Teacher, Miss Callcut, Philosophy and Sociology Teacher, Mr Cocker, MFL Teacher, Mr Crowther, Chemistry Teacher, Miss Hassan, Biology Teacher, Miss Hyde, Drama and English Teacher, Mrs Sall, English Teacher, Mrs Souch Art and Technology Teacher and Miss Valentine, Cover Assistant. We also welcome back Mrs Haldane who is joining the PE department this year and Dr Dimmick who is working in the Biology Department. From initial discussions I have had with the new staff they are all very happy to be working at Kendrick. In addition, there have been some internal appointments; these include Dr Smalley, Subject Leader for Physics, Mr Stride, Head of KS4 with Miss Long and Mrs Cooper, Lead Tutors in Years 10 and 11, Mme Hulley, Head of KS3 and Miss Grice, Deputy Head of KS3. As last year, Mrs Hearn is Head of Sixth Form and Mr Wilson is Deputy Head of Sixth Form and Miss Lawlor has been appointed SEND Assistant. Ms Le Croisette has increased her Senior Leadership role.

Clubs and societies are starting up again and students are using their lunch times and breaks to do activities, as well as rest and relax. A full set of activities will be sent to you shortly. We have resumed our Information Evenings for different year groups in school and this week we welcomed Year 12 parents; it was wonderful to see parents in school after such a long time. We are still operating within Covid safe parameters and are asking parents to wear a mask when they come into school. We are also asking that only one parent attend the meetings in order to keep numbers down to a minimum. Assemblies and group gatherings are also taking place and again it is good to see cohorts together.

This week the **Kendrick Parents' Society (KPS)** held their first meeting of the year, which was well supported and included a number of new parents in Year 7 and Year 12. We intend to continue these meetings on-line except for the **KPS AGM**, which is on **Monday 18th October at 6-7.30pm** in the Hall. Everyone is welcome to this event. At our meeting we talked about events that KPS have so kindly organised for students and I am pleased that they will be organising a **Film Night for Year 7 and 8** this term, dates will be confirmed shortly. They also have plans for another on line **Cultural Event**, which was very successful last year, as well as other activities which will engage students and parents and raise funds for the school. A successful venture for KPS has been the sale of second-hand uniform and another sale event is planned for **Saturday 25th September between 9-11am**. More details are included below.

Some important developments in education have occurred this week. Earlier in the week, the government announced its plans to offer a **first dose of the Covid 19** vaccine to all **young people aged between 12 -15**. When we have details of dates, we will be informing you when the vaccines will be taking place for which parental consent will be needed. The School Nurses Team will undertake the process in the same way that other jabs are administered in school. The prime minister also talked about contingency planning should infections and death rates continue to rise. We all hope this will not happen, but our Covid safe practices must persist and thank you again to everyone for your support in trying to keep our school, students and staff safe. To remind everyone current guidance is [here](#). Some students are not coming into school because

someone in their household has tested positive for Covid. However, the guidance is quite explicit on this point and says that individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, if they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months. Instead, they are advised to take a PCR test if they have been in close contact with a positive case.

The prime minister also announced a cabinet reshuffle this week and **Mr Nadhim Zahawi** has been appointed as the new **Secretary of State for Education**. In a press statement he said ‘children and young people have had a tough time during this pandemic, and I’ll be listening to them and their families as we accelerate our work to build back better and fairer.’ We look forward to engaging with Mr Zahawi and his department.

A responsibility that all staff have in school is the **safeguarding of all our students**. I want to remind parents and students of key members of staff who lead in this area. Mr Simmonds, Deputy Head is the Designated Lead Officer (DSL) for safeguarding in school. Mrs Hearn, Head of Sixth Form, Mr Stride, Head of Key Stage 4 and Mme Hulley Head of Keys Stage 3 are all Deputy Designated officers (DDSL). We also have a Safeguarding Governor and that is Mrs Clays. If there are any matters of concern that students or parents have, they must contact school to speak to these staff. In the more detailed section of the weekly update and on our website, there is always a lot of information about keeping students safe, including details of agencies and bodies that can be contacted to provide support. Some of the key themes that we have become a priority for schools this year are detailed in the updated **Keeping Children Safe in Education document (KCSIE)** which can be found [HERE](#). The themes include sexual harassment in schools, peer on peer sexual abuse, which can occur in the home and on-line. Staff have been informed of all these developments in the safeguarding training we had at the start of the term and have also read and understood our Safeguarding Policy which is [HERE](#).

We have been granted another day of holiday this year to celebrate the **Queen’s Platinum Jubilee**. We have chosen to take this day off on **Friday 22nd October** thus finishing this term one day earlier than originally stated in our school dates for 2021-22.

With that thought in mind, I wish everyone a good weekend.

Ms Christine Kattirtzi, 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.

SAFEGUARDING – TRAVEL TO AND FROM SCHOOL

We have received reports from two local schools of recent suspicious incidents, as follows:

1. A male followed a student to The Abbey School at lunchtime yesterday (Thursday).
2. A male exposed himself to a student from St. Joseph's College in Alexandra Road at 9.15am earlier this week.

Both incidents have been reported to the police.

Students will be spoken to at afternoon registration today. Without being alarmed, staff will remind them to walk with other students, to keep to main roads and to be alert and vigilant of their surroundings at all times. Please could you reinforce this message with your child, and if your child encounters any suspicious activity such as the above, please report it both to the police and to Kendrick School immediately so that we can take any necessary action to warn students/staff and keep everyone within our school community safe.

SAFEGUARDING – HOLLIE GUARD (SAFETY APP)



Make Hollie Your Guardian Angel

Hollie Guard is a free smartphone app that provides enhanced levels of protection. With a simple shake or tap it activates Hollie Guard, immediately notifying your chosen contacts, pinpointing your location and sending audio and video evidence direct to their mobile phones.

For more information click [here](#).

(please note that Kendrick School is not endorsing this app but it is a resource that is recommended by the Police)

WELLBEING – THE LITTLE BLUE BOOK OF SUNSHINE

Berkshire health officials have relaunched the 'Little Blue Book of Sunshine', a mental health booklet for children and young people in the area, and it is now available [online](#).

The book, which has been co-produced by Berkshire West and East Berkshire Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and young people, aims to help teenagers by sharing lots of tips on how to deal with many problems, such as anxiety, body image, relationships and anger. It also includes information about where to get help when they need it.

In recent months, more than ever, anyone can sometimes feel down, worried or anxious because of a variety of situations like lockdown, school, family or friends. The #littlebluebookofsunshine explains some of the things teenagers can do right now to feel better, and who to turn to if things feel too much.

You can download a copy [here](#), and it is also now available in **Apple Books** and **Google Play Books**.

NEWS AND EVENTS - WHOLE SCHOOL

SECOND HAND UNIFORM

Second hand uniform shop opening on Saturday 25th September 9 – 11am

KPS is arranging a sale of good quality second hand uniform and sports kit in the Conservatory at Kendrick School. For those coming to the shop you will be able to use the Cedars car park free of charge (it is on London Road just before the Turks pub). After parking you will need to walk around to enter the school via the East Street entrance. Payment in the shop will be by cash or cheque only.

There are plenty of jumpers, skirts, trousers and lab coats in stock and also some items of sports kit. We are hoping to run the shop on a regular basis and keep replenishing the stock with donations.

Request for donations for the second hand uniform shop

Please donate good quality second hand uniform and sports kit to be sold at the upcoming shop opening. The students can leave the donations in a box in the donations/lost property cupboard by IT1.

SCHOOL BIRTHDAY

We will be celebrating the **school birthday** on Monday 27th September, so forms need to start planning their cakes.

Form cakes – each form is to make a cake that will be judged by Ms Kattirtzi and Mrs Cook and we will announce Year Group winners, Key Stage winners and an overall winner.

The cakes will be displayed for everyone to view during 1st break and then shared with the tutor group at lunch time.

Cakes should be decorated, depicting aspects of Kendrick School life, as follows:

Year 7 Cupcakes to be made into an arrangement on a display board (provided)

Years 8 & 9 The 'Arts' – Music, Drama, Art

Years 10 & 11 Representing a subject you study

Years 12 & 13 Any aspect reflecting Kendrick life

QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the school will be closed to staff and students **on Friday 22nd October 2021**. This is in lieu of the additional bank holiday in the May half term.

LATERAL FLOW TESTS (LFT)

We encourage all students and staff to take a Lateral Flow Test on a Wednesday and Sunday every week and report the results through Medical Tracker via this [link](#) and Gov.uk via this [link](#).

CALENDAR

Term 1

Tuesday 21 st September	Year 7 Information Evening, 5pm to 6.30pm (live event in school)
Tuesday 28 th September	Year 10 Information Evening, 6pm to 7pm (live event in school)
Thursday 30 th September	Learning & Teaching Governor Meeting, 4.30pm

Tuesday 5 th October	Year 8 Information Evening, 6pm to 7pm (live event in school)
Thursday 7 th October	Resources Governor Meeting, 4.30pm
Thursday 14 th October	Performance and Review Governor Meeting, 4.30pm
Thursday 21 st October	Upper School and Sixth Form Chamber Concert (online)
Friday 22 nd October	School closed to staff and students in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

KENDRICK PARENTS' SOCIETY (KPS)

KPS Parent Introduction Sessions

Kendrick Parent Society invites the new Y7s and Y12 parents to join the online parent induction sessions run by the Kendrick parents to support and help them in settling into their child's new secondary school life at Kendrick. They will be happy to answer any of your non-academic related questions. It is undoubtedly a great networking opportunity for you and your children, all at the convenience of being at home! **The first one is tonight at 8:30 pm**, we look forward to meeting you there

Topic: KPS Parent Induction Meeting

Time: Friday 17th September 2021 08:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2963158886>

It will be helpful if you can email and let us know you are attending
- kpsmembersec1@gmail.com or kpsmembershipsecretary2@gmail.com .

AGM

The AGM is on **18th October** in the school premises after a very long time:-)!. If you would like to know more about it, the way it functions, the objectives, roles or any questions you may have please email KPSChair@kendrick.reading.sch.uk.

Please click [here](#) for the latest KPS newsletter.

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 us all together contribute to something that our children 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.