

Kendrick School

Weekly Update

Friday 13th September 2019



Weekly Letter from Ms Kattirtzi, Headteacher

A very busy start to the term for staff and students as we get back into the routine of school life. House assemblies have taken place and House Leaders are already planning the first big event which is House Music. Year 7 have been introduced to the House system and I hope they are excited by the opportunities they will have to take part in school life. At the same time many colleagues have been preparing for our Admissions Day on Saturday when we will be testing for our new Year 7 entry in 2020, an expanded cohort of 128 students. Staff and students contribute to making this day happen and I am very grateful for their efforts.

Last week I introduced our new staff to you. This week I would like to outline some internal appointments and changes in responsibilities for this academic year. Mrs Kenward is Head of Biology, Mr Jacob is Head of Classics, Mrs Cooper is Head of Drama and Music, Mrs Hearn is Assistant Head of Sixth Form with responsibility for Year 12 and Ms Stacey is Head of Sixth Form with responsibility for Year 13 and SENDco.

A number of students have been to see me this term to tell me about the activities and successes they have had this summer or even since the start of term. Articles will be appearing on the website for you to read including an [article](#) by a former student Emily Lotter who applied and received a trust award which helped her work experience placement in Zambia as part of her university degree. Another huge success last week was when a group of Year 13 students went to the final of the European Youth Parliament Debating competition in Liverpool and came first, winning themselves a place in the international competition in Warsaw next July. This is indeed an amazing achievement and the students must be commended for their performance in this competition which was in the main against independent schools. There is also a [report](#) from the Expedition Leaders about the expedition to Vietnam at the end of last term and during the summer holiday and had a super time managing great challenges in their attempt to make a difference to the community they visited. A group of Year 9 students have won a German writing competition run by the university and will be receiving their prizes shortly. So many wonderful achievements by our students take place all the time and we will highlight these on the website as they happen.

This week we also had the first of our KPS meetings of the year and Gayatri, Maitri and Rajhavendra (Co Chairs and Secretary) welcomed back the committee, as well as a number of new parents in Year 7. Gayatri gave a presentation of the organisation and structure of KPS and reminded us of the achievements of last year as well as the plans for the future. It is worth remembering that KPS raised an incredible £24k for the school last year, money which has been spent on chrome books and other IT equipment, improving the lighting in the Hall, departmental requests and as always supporting House events. We are so grateful for all that KPS do and the individual and collective commitment and contribution of parents in helping raise this money. The next big event is the **Diwali Celebrations** which will be taking place on Friday 18th October. KPS will continue to send a newsletter to you every week to inform you of what is going on and of course to seek your support. I do hope all new parents try to become involved in some of the activities as by doing so everyone can make a difference to our school and enrich the education we provide.

The start of the year sees a lot of reminders being sent out and you will have received a letter from your child's Head of Year about key events this year for each year group. Mr Hill, Assistant Headteacher, reminded staff and students of our email protocol which we review every year. We ask staff to take care writing and sending emails and we ask that emails are sent only during business hours that is from 7.00am -6.00pm. This is to try to enable staff and students to have email free time in the evenings. Please may I politely ask the same of parents. Please send your emails to us during business hours. You can of course write your email any time but delay sending it or keep it in your draft box until the morning. This helps everyone to have a break from work when they are at home and tries to encourage a greater work life balance and sense of wellbeing, a priority for us and our students. Obviously if there is an emergency please let us know at the earliest opportunity.

Lots of other reminders and policies have been reviewed and are being rehearsed with students including health and safety, crossing busy roads in and around Reading, safeguarding, uniform, use of phones, breaks and lunchtime activities, attendance and punctuality. I will outline some of these issues and our expectations over the coming weeks.

Best wishes to everyone for the weekend.

Ms Christine Kattirtzi, Headteacher

SAFEGUARDING

Road Safety

Please stress the importance to your child of taking care travelling to and from school. Students should only be crossing roads on a green pedestrian light and be alert and aware of their surroundings at all times. A recent incident involving one of our students could have been much more serious and the member of the public involved was very upset and shaken by this experience.

We have had many 'near misses' reported to us over the years, and the IDR near the Oracle is a particularly very busy and fast road. We will be collating any reports of incidents to Reading Borough Council in our continued bid to encourage them to put warning signs of children crossing in this area and we will ask the Abbey and Reading School to do the same. However, students must not take risks and put themselves and others in danger.

Parents/carers should **not** park or drop off their child in East Street. This puts your own child at risk as well as other students as you are blocking the road and visibility for other drivers. If you are dropping your child off in any of the roads near the school, please ensure you have parked up and checked that the roads are clear before your child leaves the car.

At school we regularly remind the students about road safety and a local police officer has visited the school to reinforce this message to them and this will be something that is repeated in the near future.

Thank you for your support.

Ms Christine Kattirtzi, Headteacher

Week Commencing Monday 16th September 2019 (A Week)

Saturday 14 th September	Admission testing for entry into Year 7 in September 2020 (Year 11 to help)
Wednesday 18 th September	Year 12 Welcome Evening, 6.30pm
Thursday 19 th September	Year 11 Geography Trip - Rural

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

Key Events in Term 1

Monday 23 rd September	School Birthday
Wednesday 25 th September	Year 7 Welcome Evening, 6pm
Friday 27 th September	School Reunion for former staff and students, 4pm to 6pm
Wednesday 2 nd October	Year 10 Welcome Evening, 6.30pm
Friday 4 th October	KPS Year 7 Cinema afternoon, 3.45pm to 6pm
Wednesday 9 th October	Year 8 Welcome Evening, 6.30pm
Monday 14 th October	KPS Meeting, 6pm
Thursday 24 th October	Upper School and Sixth Form Chamber Concert, 6.30pm to 8.00pm
Friday 25 th October	End of Term 1, 3.15pm

PARENTPAY REMINDERS

- GCSE Geography Field Trip on 19th September – £10.50
- Year 10 (now Year 11) Work Experience - £60

Please continue to pay instalments on the following residential trips:

- A Level Geography Field Trip at Slapton Ley in October (£480)
- MFL residential to France or Germany in October (£580)
- Ski Trip – December/January (£859)
- Music Tour to Belgium (£390)

Please remember to top up dinner money and printing accounts

NEWS AND EVENTS - WHOLE SCHOOL

News on our Website, Local Press and Social Media

Annual School Reunion – Friday 27th September 2019, 4pm to 6pm

Our annual School reunion for former students and staff takes place on **Friday 27th September 2019** from 4pm to 6pm.

The afternoon will start with tours of the school at 4pm. Ms Kattirtzi will speak at 5pm and we will finish with light refreshments.

We look forward to welcoming you former students and staff to Kendrick School! No booking required. We are sorry but we cannot offer parking on the school site.

Parent Governor Vacancies

We have a vacancies for Parent Governors to join the Governing Body this term. Information on how nominations can be made and the election process will be communicated during week commencing 16th 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.

NEWS AND EVENTS – STUDENTS

Kendrick Book Club

Kendrick Book Club takes place **every Friday lunchtime** in the library. **Book Club** is a friendly club for anyone who enjoys reading. It is organised by three enthusiastic Year 13 students who run the weekly sessions. Students from all year groups are more than welcome to come along with their lunch and join in the discussions, quizzes, fun and games. Books are reviewed and voted on for local and national awards, such as The Berkshire Book Awards, The Children's Book Awards and The CILIP Carnegie Medal. **The Kendrick Book Club** hosts three parties per year – the first at Christmas (just to be festive!), the second in February to celebrate Bloomsbury's Harry Potter Book Night and finally our Summer Party to celebrate the end of the Carnegie Shadowing.

We look forward to seeing old and new members alike on Fridays during second break starting this week the 13th September.

The Library and Resources Coordinators

Poetry Competition - Through Their Eyes

Can you imagine yourself in someone else's shoes? Can you express yourself in different voices? Can you understand different viewpoints? If so, why not enter the new poetry competition. Write a poem of any style or length in the voice of someone (or something!) other than you. See the English noticeboard for more details and inspiration. Closing date: 11th October 2019

Ms Fieldsend, Head of English

School Birthday

The school will be celebrating its birthday on Monday 23rd September, and students will start planning celebrations in their form groups.

Picnic Lunch - Each student should provide their own picnic lunch. If Forms want to group together, then they should start organising this. The Canteen will be providing a normal service at first break and 'take-away' finger foods at second break.

Form cakes – each Form should make their own competition cake, which will be shared with their Form at the end of the picnic. This could either be a large cake (only a small slice for each person), or individual cupcakes. 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 of your choice

Years 12 & 13 Any aspect reflecting Kendrick life

NEWS AND EVENTS - BY YEAR GROUP

Year 9 -13

You are invited to "Design your Future" careers fayre, Thursday 7th November 6.00pm-9.00pm. Come along and meet professionals representing careers such as legal, engineering, medical, finance and science. We are also looking for exhibitors to volunteer for this evening, so if there is anyone in your family or friends who would like to come along and represent their company and talk to students about their career, then we would love to hear from them! Please contact Mrs Rock at erock@kendrick.reading.sch.uk

Year 11

Admission Test Day – Saturday 14th September 2019

We have asked our Year 11's to support us on Admission Test Day on **Saturday 14th September 2019**. Before the summer holidays they were told about the day and their role at this very important event. On Monday there will be an assembly to explain their role in more detail.

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

11P and 11R AM Session 7.45am to 11.45am

11Q and 11S PM Session 12.15pm to 4.15pm

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 only if your daughter is attending a different session than the one allocated for her form or she cannot help at all.**

Thank you for your support.