

Kendrick School

Weekly Update

Friday 11th September 2020

WEEKLY LETTER FROM MR SIMMONDS, ACTING HEADTEACHER

At school this week we are all so pleased to finally be open to students and quickly into the swing of learning and teaching. I am happy to be able to report that the students and staff are all enjoying their lessons and being back in school. I am delighted by how quickly all the new students appear to be settling into a new routine and I have had many inspiring conversations with students in all year groups who have told me what they are doing and how they feel comfortable in school and excited to be learning new things. My observations are that the measures that have been put in place to open the school within government guidance have worked remarkably well and when there have been issues we have moved fast to rethink and re-plan. We are aware that it is sometimes hard to remember to wash or sanitise hands as the first thing we should all do on arrival but this is important and may I remind all students of this requirement. The longer lunch break is proving popular and successfully allows time for all students to access the canteen in their bubble year groups. Lunchtime clubs and activities are beginning to start up again although in a much reduced number than we are used to. More and more activities will become possible as we identify how they can safely be run. There is a new team of student House Captains and staff House Leaders who are working on adapting house events and assemblies and will shortly be organising the appointment of the student vice captains. Chicken Club has started for Year 8 and I am sure that the chickens will be brilliantly looked after as always.

There has been some congestion in the afternoons on East Street which is now easing, but please could all parents who are picking up in the afternoon consider finding a location to wait that is a short walk away from the school to avoid the congestion and to avoid parking on the pavement in East Street.

The Horizons building is being put through its paces by Year 7 and 8 and I hope that they are all enjoying the new and bright classrooms. Some rooms have been overly hot in the good weather and as there are not yet blinds or air conditioning in place I know that this has become uncomfortable at times. We are working on this but maybe some autumnal weather will cool things down and give us time to prepare for the spring and summer months.

I spoke to the whole school on Monday in an assembly and asked us all to start to look forward and emerge from the siege like state that lockdown put us all into. We should not be deterred from trying new things and taking risks with our thinking and pushing the limits of our understanding. We will take time too to reflect on the year and its impact on ourselves and those around us and work doubly hard on forming and building strong and supportive relationships in our community. School life will challenge us all to work again within a set of routines and expectations and we remember that all of these are put in place to keep us safe and promote the very best learning opportunities. Also in my assembly I discussed our personal values and the school's values which are best expressed through the school pledge:

“We the students, staff and friends of Kendrick School pledge to uphold the values of friendship, kindness and respect. We promise to stand against prejudice, ignorance and injustice in all its forms, promoting the values of equality, tolerance and justice for all”.

Have a wonderful and restful weekend; I feel that we have all earned it.

Mr Nick Simmonds, Acting Headteacher

SAFEGUARDING

TIKTOK

There is an extremely upsetting and highly graphic video currently trending on TikTok of a man live-streaming his suicide. Whilst TikTok have stated that they are doing their best to remove the video, it has been shared across many social media platforms hundreds of thousands of times including under fake captions. Some captions on TikTok are as trivial as 'look at the pasta I cooked tonight' before the video then plays; therefore children can come across the video without even searching for it.

This video is extremely distressing and parents/carers and students should avoid the app whilst this video is in such high circulation.

We urge everyone to be vigilant and ask that you supervise very closely what your children are accessing online.

OnlyFans

OnlyFans is a social media site where users can upload videos and people can pay the creator to watch them. During lockdown signups grew rapidly. In particular, it became a 'go to' site for sex workers, unable to see clients physically, to upload explicit content.

Terms of use say that users must be 18 or over to create an account, but of course this is being ignored, by young people and, it seems, the company.

The BBC drew attention to OnlyFans in a BBC Three documentary which found underage girls selling explicit content. Vulnerable people are also at risk.

Find out more

What is OnlyFans? What parents need to know (internet matters.org)

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/news-blogs/what-is-onlyfans-what-parents-need-to-know/>

OnlyFans – what parents need to know (parentzone)

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/onlyfans-%E2%80%93-what-parents-need-know>

NEWS AND EVENTS - WHOLE SCHOOL

NEWS ON OUR WEBSITE, LOCAL PRESS AND SOCIAL MEDIA

We like to celebrate student successes in and out of school and rely on parents/carers to pass us this information so we can publish it on our website under [Students/Student Achievements](#). Please send any articles and photos to aemberson@kendrick.reading.sch.uk. However, please ensure you have your child's 'permission' to do so! Thank you

TESTING POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

If you or your child tests positive for COVID-19, you must advise the school immediately by emailing admin@kendrick.reading.sch.uk. The school will then contact the Local Authority and Public Health England to be advised of the next steps.

USING PARENTMAIL

Communicating with parents and carers is an important part of what we do, and making sure parents and carers get the correct information about activities, events and school news is vital.

Kendrick School uses ParentMail, a service used by over 6,000 schools, nurseries and children's clubs to communicate to parents.

The type of information you can expect to receive from the school by ParentMail are:

- **A Weekly Update**
- Event reminders
- Subject specific news and events
- Specific Year group letters and information
- KPS events
- Diary information

Student reports are sent by email using an application called SchoolComms.

Parents/carers who are new to Kendrick School should have received an email from ParentMail giving instructions on how to register with them. If you are experiencing problems with setting up an account, please email admin@kendrick.reading.sch.uk.

Log in

To log in to your ParentMail account [click here](#).

Help Site

For help with your ParentMail account [click here](#).

ParentMail App

We encourage all parents to download the App as there are a number of benefits both to parents and carers and the school:

- Parents and carers do not need to login to pick up messages or attachments when using the App.
- The App stores all the messages sent in one place.
- Every message sent arrives as an instant alert on your mobile.
- It helps to save the school money.

Parents and carers can download the App for free from the Apple Store or Google by simply searching for Kendrick School in your App store.

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 child 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 child 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 child 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 under the age of 16 **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 child needs time off for any of these reasons please ask them 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 child out of school, please ask them to collect a form as above. This form is passed to the Headteacher 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.

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](#).

CANTEEN

For this term's canteen menu please click [here](#).

Students using the canteen must bring their own cutlery in a sealed bag. If students are taking cutlery home to wash they should consider leaving a spare set in their locker.

Students need to also make sure they have a water bottle which can be refilled throughout the day as there are no longer cups available at water fountains.

VISITORS TO SCHOOL

As far as possible we are trying to limit visitors to school. Therefore please ensure your child has everything they need with them for the day ahead so there is no need for items to be dropped off for students in Reception. We can only accept items which are essential (for example medication) so please do not bring anything that is not urgent. We appreciate your support in this matter.

KPS NEWS

Kendrick Parents' Society welcomes all the new and existing parents and students back to school after 6 long months of online learning. It is not easy to set in back to the school routine after such a long gap. And it was so heartening to see the excitement of every student and parent on the first day at school. We hope your first week has been productive and successful.

Just before the start of the school we had the pleasure of meeting the New Year 7 parents via online zoom calls. We are delighted to say that more than 50% of the parents attended the calls and also joined KPS. As the students regroup at Year 10, we have successfully formed the class groups for Year 10 parents as well. Thanks for all those parents who have volunteered to be the Parent Class Reps. If you know of any parent who has not yet joined KPS or if you have not yet joined KPS, please fill in the [online membership form](#) and we will add you to the class list.

Once again we thank all the parents/carers who are supporting us. We invite you to our first KPS meeting which will be via zoom call on Wednesday 16th Sept from 6pm to 7 pm. If you are a member, you will receive an invite and agenda from the KPS secretary soon. Watch out for more details about KPS and our future initiatives in our upcoming newsletter that will be circulated to you on Monday via Parentmail.

KPS Committee

PARENTPAY REMINDERS

Year 11 and 13 - outstanding work experience payments from last year

NEWS AND EVENTS - STUDENTS

WORK RELATED LEARNING

UNIFROG

Unifrog is a career platform tool which has been rolled out to all year groups. It includes a careers library, subjects library, know-how library, MOOC, and a personality profile.

Click [here](#) for more information. All students have been given their own log in details to access all of the resources.

UCAS VIRTUAL EXHIBITIONS

Students can register to attend UCAS virtual exhibitions taking place in the Autumn. For more information on the subject areas and how to book please click on this [link](#).

SCIENCE GOGGLES

Science goggles are provided by the school and all new students will be given a pair during a science lesson.

AND FINALLY.... THINKING CHALLENGE OF THE WEEK!

What is wrong
with this watch
picture?

-- GPUZZLES.COM



Answer next week!