

Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Thursday 21st October 2021

Kendrick students relish opportunities to take part in events or activities presented to them. In the summer holidays, two Year 8 students, Shravya and Nidhi entered a poetry competition based on the theme '**Words and Pictures for your World**', a competition related to the **Cop 26 Conference in Glasgow** next month. Their views about climate change, and the urgency to address this issue for the future, are expressed powerfully in their poems. Please see the article and read Shravya's and Nidhi's poems [HERE](#).

The **Debate Club for the Lower School** has been active this term and started with discussing the principles and procedures required for a formal debate, skills which I believe are very important and teach us about respect and tolerance of others and their views. An article about what they have done and discussed this term is [here](#).

Following on from last week, the **Kendrick Student Leaders (KSL)** have written about the play they watched called '**Unacceptable**' about sexual harassment and violence is [here](#). Other members of KSL have written an assembly for all students in the school about **Afghanistan and Palestine** which students will see and hear next term.

All these and many other issues are rightly considered by students across the school, which should make us very proud and impressed by the engagement of our students in current affairs and their desire to speak up about them.

We have had groups of parents visit school in the last few days: prospective Year 7 parents and children whose Open Day opportunity could not take place because of the Covid restrictions, and Year 8 parents whose live information evening was also cancelled earlier this term. Guided by members of the KSL and younger students, the visitors were able to see the school in session and appreciate how we operate as a community. Already we have received feedback to say how wonderfully polite and pleasant our students were and how confident and proud they were to talk about their school; thank you to those students involved. We have our **Sixth Form Open Day** to look forward to on the **11th November** which will be a live event, the first of its kind since the autumn of 2019.

As from Term 2, our canteen will be providing a **breakfast service 7.50am** every morning and will be serving hot drinks and snacks for students which they will be able to eat in the canteen and conservatory before going to their form rooms for registration. I think this will make the colder winter months more manageable for those students who don't always manage to have breakfast before they come to school.

Our half term holiday break starting tomorrow is appropriately timed and allows us 10 days away from each other, the time recommended for a **circuit break**, which should help arrest the cycle of covid infections. With increasing calls from the medical profession that restrictions should be increased, I would like to ask everyone to be responsible in their behaviours, including continuing to take regular Lateral Flow Tests (LFT) over the holiday so that we can all return to school safe and well in Term 2. When we return in Term 2, we will continue our Covid safe measures: regular LFT, wearing of masks in communal areas, one-way systems and cleaning regimes. Infection rates in school are much reduced since earlier in the term,

with fewer than 5 cases in each year group. Thank you to everyone for all that you are doing to keep safe and well.

A nice treat with which to end the term and start the holiday is our [Online Upper School and Sixth Form Chamber Concert](#) which I am looking forward to listening to next week. Like many of our events we hope that after watching it, parents may like to donate to funds to the Music Department who are trying to raise funds to buy a **pedal harp for the orchestra**. We have found a pedal harp that we wish to purchase and with donations from this concert and the generous funding pledged by **KPS**, we hope to be able to buy this new harp next term. I do hope you find time to do listen to the concert and appreciate the immense talent of these students and their hard work.

I would like to thank our staff and students for the tremendous hard work people have done this term; it has not been easy to manage school life and adhere to covid safe restrictions and regular testing, however we have managed to do so and I am most grateful for everyone's efforts. Thanks also to parents and governors for the support and encouragement you have given us in our work this term. This academic year has been more normal than last year and through our combined efforts, I hope it will continue to be so when we return in November.

I hope everyone has a super half term break, please stay safe and well.

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 4pm and at weekends), 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 – KEEPING SAFE ON DARKER NIGHTS

We will be setting the clocks back an hour on Saturday 30th October and summer-time will end. The resources below will help remind children, including teenagers, about road safety and keeping safe in the dark.

[Teaching Road Safety: A Guide for Parents](#)

[Safety First – Cycling at Night](#)

WELLBEING – SUPPORT OVER THE HOLIDAYS

No5 Counselling @ Kendrick School Additional Support for Young People Outside of School Hours

Under 25s	Over 25s	Parents
YOUNGMINDS Crisis Messenger Text YM to 85258 Open 24/7	mind Call 0300 123 3393 9am - 6pm, Mon - Fri	YOUNGMINDS Parents Helpline Call 0808 802 5544 9:30am - 4pm, Mon - Fri
THE MIX Call 0808 808 4994 3pm - 12am, every day	SAMARITANS Call 116 123 Open 24/7	
childline Call 0800 1111 7:30am - 3:30am, every day		

For more advice and information visit: youngminds.org.uk/find-help

FREE APPS TO IMPROVE MENTAL HEALTH

With highest ratings by orchacoe.uk (Independent App Assessor)

- Smiling Mind - Totally Free Targeted Mindfulness Sessions For Adults & Young People
- Breathe - Breathing Timer
- Clear Fear - Helping Young People Cope With Anxiety
- CalmHarm - Non triggering alternative activities to self-harm for Young People
- Distract - Suicide & Self Harm Prevention

MORE SPECIFIC RESOURCES

Take a look at the "Useful Links" page of the No5 website

<https://no5.org.uk/mental-health-resources/useful-links/>

NEWS AND EVENTS - WHOLE SCHOOL

WEEKLY COVID UPDATE

Confirmed PCR cases (running totals):

	Fri 15/10	Mon 18/10	Tues 19/10	Wed 20/10	Thurs 21/10
Year 7	1	2	3	3	5
Year 8	1	3	3	3	2
Year 9	3	2	3	2	2

Year 10	0	0	0	0	0
Year 11	2	1	1	0	0
Year 12	1	1	1	2	2
Year 13	3	4	4	4	3
Total	11	13	15	14	14

LATERAL FLOW TESTS

Please can all students and staff take a LFT before they return to school on Monday 1st November 2021.

CALENDAR

Term 2

Monday 1 st November	Start of Term 2, 8.25am
Thursday 4 th November	Learning and Teaching Governor Committee
Tuesday 9 th November	Year 11 Post 16 Conference
	Widening Horizons Information Evening
Thursday 11 th November	Sixth Form Open Evening (Year 11 students only), 5pm to 7.30pm
Thursday 18 th November	Resources Governor Committee
Friday 19 th November	Official Opening of Horizons
Wednesday 24 th November	KPS Meeting
Thursday 25 th November	Year 13 Parents' Information (remote)
Tuesday 30 th November	Year 11 Parents' Consultation (remote)
Thursday 2 nd December	Performance and Review Governor Committee
Thursday 9 th December	Full Governing Body Meeting
	School Musical Production
Thursday 16 th December	Last day of Term 2

VACANCIES

We currently have a vacancy for a Biology Technician. The closing date for applications is midday on Monday 1st November 2021. Please click [here](#) for more information on the role and an application form.

We will shortly be advertising for Exam Invigilators. If you are interested in the role and would like more information please email exams@kendrick.reading.sch.uk

KENDRICK PARENTS' SOCIETY (KPS)

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.

NEWS AND EVENTS - STUDENTS

BLACK HISTORY MONTH POSTER COMPETITION

The **Curriculum and Current Affairs Committee** are running a poster competition for Black History Month! Make a poster about a significant black woman in history, detailing who she is/was, why she is renowned and how she has contributed to history. The winner will receive KSL white house tokens and a chocolate hamper and all of the posters will be displayed around the school next week and during the start of next term. The deadline has been extended to Wednesday 3rd November at 3.15pm. Email your entry to a member of the Curriculum Committee or if done by hand leave it on Mrs. Wheeler's shelf and put your name and form on the back. We look forward to seeing your entries and learning more about inspiring black women in history!

Emails are 15siyer, 15zyoung, 15rbeattyduarte or 15dangra @kendrick.reading.sch.uk

WRITING COMPETITIONS

For all students – The Young Walter Scott Prize

NOTE THE DEADLINE FOR THIS COMPETITION – IN TWO WEEKS ONLY!

Are you aged between 11 and 19? Do you love writing and history? Then The Young Walter Scott Prize, the UK's only creative writing prize specifically for budding writers of historical fiction, is waiting to hear from you.

Enter a story of between 800 and 2000 words, set any time before you were born, and you could be our 2021 Winner, receiving a £500 travel grant, tickets to one of the UK's best book festivals to meet published authors, and the opportunity to see your own work in print.

We must receive your entry by **1st November 2021**. But remember, we love all forms of fiction – prose, poetry, drama, fictional letters or reportage – so let your imagination be your time machine.

To find out more, go to <https://www.walterscottprize.co.uk/young-walter-scott-prize/> or see Ms Fieldsend

For students aged 16 – 18 - The Christopher Tower Poetry Competition 2022

This competition is for 16 – 18 year olds. Write a poem of up to 48 lines on the theme of 'Dream'. £5000 prize fund, plus summer school places. Closing date – 2nd March 2022. Find out more at www.chch.ox.ac.uk/Towerpoetry-enter, or see Ms Fieldsend