

# Kendrick School

## Weekly Update

### Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020

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#### WEEKLY LETTER FROM MR SIMMONDS, ACTING HEADTEACHER

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This week marks the end of Term 1 and the start of a half term holiday in which I am hoping that all students and staff will be able to take a proper break from school work and find ways to enjoy the week, rest and restore themselves. I am intending to sleep well, take time to prepare my favourite meals, exercise a bit, read and write. I have planned an entry to the Kendrick Anthology of Ideas focussed on the last decade organised by Mr Nemeth and I am excited to see how the plan will translate to words on paper. I am also very much looking forward to watching and listening to the [Upper School and Sixth Chamber Concert](#).

We are very happy to have successfully undertaken the testing for the 11+ and many thanks to everyone for their co-operation in this. The compressed school day has worked well and I am so grateful that students who are picked up by car are now doing this away from East Street and South Street, this has made the operation possible after a very difficult day on Monday when we created something of a traffic and people gridlock. I would like this to continue next term with students being picked up away from the immediate vicinity of the school as this is safer for all the students who are walking home or to catch a bus or train. It avoids the perfectly reasonable complaints that we receive when cars are parked in the private space across the road from Reception and on the pavement on East Street.

I am also pleased that so far we have not had to teach any year groups remotely this term. As I have mentioned before, there is a plan for this in which students would be expected to check their email and then register by 8.40am each morning on a Google Form. Lessons will follow the existing timetable and be delivered through a mixture of activities such as: set work, recorded content, directed research, practical work, online content, 'live' Google Meet lessons or sections of lessons. Smaller group support sessions may run when needed and when booked by teachers. I don't have any expectation for when, or if, this plan will be needed and if it is then my hope would be that groups of students would only be at home for limited amounts of time.

More and more clubs and activities are being undertaken and there is a fabulous Cultural Event being planned by the Kendrick Parents Society that we can all join in with and enjoy in November. Abbie in Year 13 is also coordinating four teams to enter the Oxford Schools Debating Competition.

I want to thank all the students and staff for the way in which they have adapted to the way the school is currently set up, for their hard work and patience all term and most of all for their good spirits. I get a strong sense from talking to students that they truly appreciate the education that they are receiving and this is a huge motivation for all the staff at the school.

Finally I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday and look forward to returning to school rested and fully energised for Term 2.

**Mr Nick Simmonds, Acting Headteacher**

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## SAFEGUARDING/WELLBEING

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### WORRIED ABOUT A CHILD?

If you have a concern about a child at Kendrick School please email [safeguarding@kendrick.reading.sch.uk](mailto:safeguarding@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.

### STUDENT SAFETY AND DARK NIGHTS

On Saturday night we will be setting the clocks back an hour and summer time ends. Road traffic collisions increase by 20% in the fortnight after the time change. Sadly, some of those collisions will involve child pedestrians and cyclists. Children under-16 are one of the most vulnerable groups of road users.

The latest available government statistics (2015)\* show that 58% of children who die or are seriously injured in a road collision are involved in incidents between 3 and 7pm. From next Sunday, much of those will happen in darkness.

Whilst younger children are at risk, the data shows that 11 - 15 year olds are actually at more at risk from accidents that kill or result in serious injury.

The resources below will help remind children, especially teenagers, about road safety and safe cycling.

Teaching Road Safety: A Guide for Parents <https://www.rospea.com/media/documents/road-safety/teaching-road-safety-a-guide-for-parents.pdf>

Safety First – Cycling at Night <https://www.cycletraining.co.uk/cycle-training-and-cycle-safety/safety-first-cycling-at-night/>

Keeping children safe during lockdown and beyond - Parents' pack  
<https://www.capt.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=44e36e43-bd5e-4dd0-acae-e040f37fe2ef>

\*Facts on Child Casualties (June 2015)  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/442236/child-casualties-2013-data.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/442236/child-casualties-2013-data.pdf)

### BIKEABILITY COURSES THIS HALF-TERM

Avanti Cycling is running several Bikeability courses for children in Reading and Wokingham over the half-term. The organisation also provides a range of other cycle-training courses for children and adults in a COVID-secure environment. Check their website at <https://avanticycling.co.uk/> for more details.

## TREATMENT OF PANIC DISORDER IN ADOLESCENTS (PANDA) Study

Please click [here](#) for information on the PANDA Study being run by the Reading University. The study is suitable for young people 11-18, who have panic disorder, and their GP is based in Berkshire. The young person must experience repeated panic attacks that get in the way of their life (eg at school, home, or with friends) and *either* worry about having further attacks *or* change what they do to avoid bringing on the attack.

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## NEWS AND EVENTS - WHOLE SCHOOL

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### NEWS ON OUR WEBSITE, LOCAL PRESS AND SOCIAL MEDIA

[Upper School and Sixth Form Chamber Concert](#)

[Team Cascade Wins the School's Aerospace Challenge 2020](#)

[House Cup 2019-20](#)

### MESSAGE FROM MRS JAN NOWECKI, CHAIR OF THE GOVERNING BODY

Dear Parents and Carers

As agreed in my message in September I would like to update you in respect to Ms Kattirtzi. I am very pleased to say she is thankfully making good progress and has been very grateful and encouraged by the good wishes many families have sent.

Following the October break Ms Kattirtzi will start to reintegrate into school, working on a limited basis remotely from home and this will be for the rest of the term until Christmas. I will be working with both Ms Kattirtzi and Mr Simmonds to ensure this arrangement is working effectively.

Mr Simmonds will remain Acting Head and have full responsibility for the school and any queries should continue to be directed towards him though I am of course available should anyone wish to speak to me. I will continue to update you as the position changes.

**Mrs Jan Nowecki**

**Chair of the Governing Body**

### TRAIN TO TEACH

The Berkshire Teaching School Alliance are continuing to look to recruit high quality trainees for the school direct programme and to support this, they are holding a virtual Train to Teach information evening on **Thursday 26 November 18:00 – 19:00**. They wish to invite you to this virtual evening which will include a presentation from Rob Buck, Director of the Teaching School and Q&A session. The presentation will cover the different routes into teacher training, funding, submitting a successful application and what a career as a teacher is really like.

Please click on this [link](#) for more information.

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## JOB VACANCIES AT KENDRICK SCHOOL

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We have the following job vacancies at Kendrick School.

- **Finance Officer** – 2 roles – 20 hours a week, term time only, but must be able to work flexibly in July and August. For December 2020.
- **Chemistry Teacher** – at least 0.8 FTE – for January 2020

More information on the roles can be found on our website via this [link](#). Please pass this email on to friends and family that may be interested in applying.

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## PARENTPAY REMINDERS

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**Year 13 Geography Field Trips during October 2020** – any outstanding amounts (£240) to be paid as soon as possible. Please contact Mrs Wheeler or [finance@kendrick.reading.sch.uk](mailto:finance@kendrick.reading.sch.uk) if you require more time to pay.

Please top up dinner money accounts if they are in debit.

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## MUSIC@KENDRICK

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### UPPER SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM CHAMBER CONCERT

This term has been like no other in the Music Department, but our students have continued to excel and create exceptional music, both individually and with others in their bubbles. Our GCSE students have taken on a new challenge this year by organising, leading, hosting and editing together a virtual concert rather than a live one. This has involved them learning to use new ICT software and communicating electronically and remotely with those in other year groups so that you, the audience, can enjoy this concert in the comfort of your own home or at a time which suits you.

As our students continue to improve and grow as musicians, we want to keep supporting them as best we can. As many of you know, our concerts moved online in the summer term and we were unable to raise any funds to purchase new resources and instruments for the department and its students. We are currently trying to raise a further £2000 to purchase a pedal harp for our highest-achieving harpists, as well as new music and equipment for our ensembles. If you are able to donate even a small amount to help us reach this target, then please donate what you can via [Parent Pay](#) – ‘Chamber Concert’. Everything we receive is very much appreciated, but, of course, this is completely voluntary and there is no obligation to donate. We hope you enjoy this 55-minute concert and can hear just how outstanding and talented our Kendrick community is.

Finally, we thank all of the people who performed in this concert, as well as those that were involved in the process of putting it together. From all of us in the Music Department, we wish you all a wonderful and restful half term.

**CLICK [HERE](#) TO VIEW THE CONCERT ONLINE**

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## KPS

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We are delighted to inform you that we are able to proceed with the **Year 7 Film Night** again this year. We can't thank Miss Paris enough for arranging for the appropriate logistics to make this happen on **Friday 13th November** after school in the Hall. The timings are **3:45 to 6.30 pm**. Please see the film night poster via this [link](#). We will be circulating a link to online ticketing and name of the movie via the Whats App group. You will need to become a KPS member to access these groups. Use this [online link to register](#).

Also we are delighted to say that the school has given us a green light to host the first ever **virtual Kendrick Cultural Festival**. The date of this event is on **Saturday 21st November**. We are all very excited about this but there is so much to do. We cannot achieve bigger things without your help! If you can volunteer to help us or your child would like to participate please email [chair.kps.uk@gmail.com](mailto:chair.kps.uk@gmail.com) or [secretary.kps.uk@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.kps.uk@gmail.com).

Finally, the AGM went on very well on 21st October and we have a new committee in place. You will hear more on this with the details of the committee members in the KPS newsletter that will be circulated to you after half term.

For those of you who are celebrating the Hindu festival this week, we wish you all a very happy Navaratri and also a very happy and relaxing half term to each one of you!

### KPS Committee

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## NEWS AND EVENTS - STUDENTS

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### MESSAGE FROM MS KATTIRTZI

Dear Students,

I hope that you are well and looking forward to half term after what has been a most challenging and unusual first term of the school year.

I want to begin by thanking you all, each and every one of you, for the fabulous book and collection of drawings and messages I received from you this week. I was overwhelmed by the kindness and affection you have shown me in your messages, wishing me a good recovery and a speedy return to school. I cannot tell you how inspired and positive your messages have made me feel. I keep looking at the book and trying to remember you from last year, amazed that you have all moved on a year and of course amongst all your names are students who I have not met as you joined us in September. I am so looking forward to meeting you soon.

I know that Mr Simmonds is doing a brilliant job leading the school in my absence and I thank you and your parents for the support and encouragement you are giving him and the staff. I can see from a distance that things are working very well and although normal Kendrick School life is curtailed there are still lots of great things happening within your year groups and bubbles. Well done to all of you, I feel very pleased and proud of you, knowing that you are responding to this difficult COVID period as I would expect with maturity, understanding and cooperation; I am assured that the Kendrick Community spirit is still strong.

Today your parents will be told that I am going to begin a phased return to school in November, taking on some leadership responsibilities and beginning to meet some staff and students. I will be doing this from my home initially, returning to school in due course. Mr Simmonds will continue to lead the school and remains the Acting Headteacher whilst I am still recovering.

I hope you have a good half term and you are able to rest revitalise yourselves after a long and hard working term.

My very best wishes to you and your families and I look forward to seeing you soon.

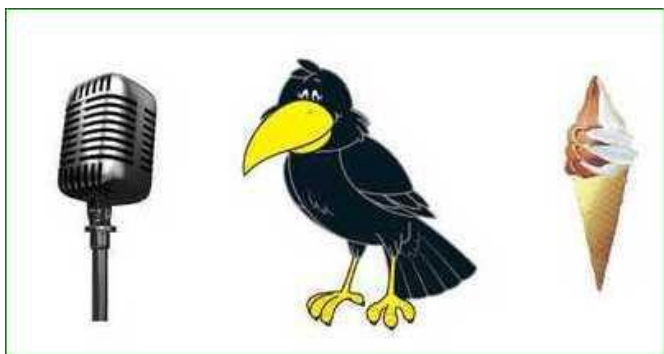
Ms Kattirtzi

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

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Can you guess the company name from the picture below?



**Answer to last week's challenge:**

The word is **starting!** Starting, Staring, String, Sing, Sin, In, I

