

Kendrick School

Weekly Update

Friday 6th September 2019



Message from Ms Kattirtzi, Headteacher

Welcome back to everyone – staff, students and parents and a very warm welcome to our new students in Year 7, Year 12 and in Year 9 and 10. Welcome also to our new parents and staff. I hope everyone has had a good summer and feels refreshed and rejuvenated after the holiday.

We have a few new staff this year and they are: Mrs Kaur - Mathematics Teacher, Miss Brice – Biology Teacher, Mrs Johns Turner – Biology Teacher, Mrs Rohweder – Music Teacher and Mrs Bradley - Mathematics Teacher. We welcome them to our school and hope they will enjoy working with us.

We have had a quieter summer this year with very little disruptive activity on the school site. We are pleased that this year we can accommodate our Year 12 students in Sidmouth House from the start of the year. Rooms in this building were freshly decorated last year and are pleasant and nice to be in. I hope Year 12 students will very quickly feel comfortable and settled in their new spaces.

Our plans are progressing with the new building which is scheduled to start in October, precise dates to be confirmed. We will be speaking to students in the next few weeks about health and safety on the school site whilst the building is in progress as its position at the front of the school will be difficult to avoid. We anticipate some disruption in the main car park and tennis court area and I have asked everyone to be patient and understanding during the building period and look positively at what we will gain in the end – a brand new building comprising nine classrooms and an additional dining space!

We were extremely pleased with our results both at GCSE and A Level. At GCSE we surpassed even last year's results with over **51.5% of all grades being 9, 79.3% 9-8, 91.6% 9-7**. Seven students achieved all 11 GCSEs at grade 9, many more achieved 10 9s and so on. At A Level students achieved **81.1% A*-B** with a number of students achieving A* and A grades in all their A Levels. More importantly, almost all students have secured their university places on courses of their choice, with many students embarking on their first choice university and course. A more detailed list of results and destinations of A Level students will be on the website in due course. We look forward to formally congratulating our students at our Presentation Evenings in November and December. We must remind ourselves that such successes achieved at Kendrick are the result of exceptional hard work on the part of the students, huge dedication and work from staff and immense support from parents; thank you to you all.

As always we started our new academic year with an assembly of the whole school which I think must be a daunting experience for our new students and possibly new staff. However, I always feel extremely proud and privileged when I stand in front of the whole school and welcome them back to a new year. I spoke to them about a number of issues and themes relevant to the start of a new academic year: our plans for the future, events and occasions that we have to look forward to, people and issues that have caught my eye this summer, including items from the news. I spoke to them about people that have inspired me by their stories and actions and as always I try to set them some challenges. This year I mentioned a phrase that caught my attention which might help us all feel we mustn't give up

even when some things seem too big to deal with. The phrase is **'No one is too small to make a difference'**. It is the title of a very short book of speeches and talks written by the climate activist Greta Thunberg. I suggested to the students that none of us is too small to make a difference and our school is not too small to make difference, particularly in our Eco Schools initiative. We start the year with an eco-code in which we will endeavour to reduce the use of plastic, paper, electricity, water etc. Being careful and efficient in the use of these limited resources, I am sure, individually and collectively we can make a difference.

I also asked students to think about reading a History book this year. We are always remembering anniversaries of key historic events and this year we are remembering that 80 years ago, in September 1939, was the start of World War Two. Details of such monumentally defining pieces of history may be little known to recent generations so reading about the war, its causes, consequences and related issues might help people understand some of the reasons why things are as they are today. Of course, there is much more history than this for students to read and I encouraged them to look into their own history or any other period they may have an interest in.

I ended the assembly, as I often do at the start of this term, by asking students to consider the kind of person they want to be this year, the kind of student, friend, sister, daughter they would like to be. I also said that this is a time when everyone has the opportunity to begin afresh. I also asked them to be **kind and caring** towards each other, to be **respectful and tolerant, understanding and inclusive**. No one in our school community must ever feel on their own or left behind. I asked everyone to once again read our [Kendrick Pledge](#) which sums up very well the kind of community we strive to be.

With such thoughts in mind, I hope everyone has a good weekend and a happy year ahead.

Ms Christine Kattirtzi, Headteacher

SAFEGUARDING

Designated Safeguarding Officer:	Ms Christine Kattirtzi, Headteacher
Deputy Safeguarding Officer:	Mr Nick Simmonds, Deputy Headteacher
Deputy Safeguarding Officer:	Ms Helen Stacey, Head of Sixth Form
Safeguarding Governor:	Mrs Debbie Smith

Schools have a statutory duty to promote and safeguard the welfare of children. Kendrick School recognises its legal duty to protect children from harm, and respond to child abuse. All staff have a duty of care both collectively and individually.

At Kendrick School, we believe that every student has, at all times and in all situations, a right to feel safe and protected from any situation or practice that results in a student being physically or psychologically damaged.

We agree that we have a primary responsibility for the care, welfare and safety of the students in our charge. All staff will, at all times, act proactively in student welfare matters, especially where there is a possibility that a student may be at risk of significant harm.

Kendrick School seeks to adopt an open and accepting attitude towards students as part of their responsibility for pastoral care. The school hopes that parents and carers and students will feel free to talk about any concerns and will see school as a safe place if there are any difficulties at home.

Students' worries and fears will be taken seriously if they seek help from a member of staff. However, staff cannot guarantee confidentiality if concerns are such that referral must be made to the appropriate agencies in order to safeguard a student's welfare.

At Kendrick School, if or when staff have concerns or suspicions about a student's physical, sexual or emotional well being or that they are being neglected, we will take action.

As a consequence, we:

- Assert and accept that all staff are an integral part of the student safeguarding process
- Accept totally that safeguarding students is an appropriate responsibility for all staff and the Governing body and wholly compatible with pedagogic responsibilities
- Recognise that safeguarding children in this school is a responsibility for all staff including volunteers and the governing body
- Will ensure that all staff in the school are aware of the possibility that a student is at risk of suffering harm, and know how to report concerns or suspicions
- Will designate a senior member of staff, the Headteacher, who is responsible for coordinating action within the school and liaising with other agencies
- Will ensure the Designated Member of Staff (DMS), the Headteacher, receives appropriate training
- Will safeguard the welfare of children whilst in the school and on agreed educational trips and take positive measures to address bullying
- Will share our concerns with others who need to know and assist in any referral process
- Will ensure through training that if any one believes that a student may be suffering or is at risk of suffering significant harm that they will refer such concerns to the DMS
- Will ensure that all staff are aware of the Child Protection procedures and act on any guidance or advice given by them
- Will take all required and appropriate steps to ensure that staff recruited as paid employees or volunteers are suitable to work with children

Our Safeguarding Policy is available to read in full on our website.

NEWS AND EVENTS - WHOLE SCHOOL

News on our Website, Local Press and Social Media

[Year 12 Trip to Rutherford Appleton Laboratory](#)

[Berkshire School Summer Games 2019](#)

[My University Placement in Zambia](#)

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.

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](#).

Parent Governor Vacancy

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.

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 Ms Kattirtzi 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.

Data Collection Sheets

Please remember that it is very important for safeguarding and emergency purposes that we always have accurate contact details for all parents/carers including contact numbers and home addresses. If you move home during the year, or change your mobile phone number or email address, please do let us know immediately by emailing admin@kendrick.reading.sch.uk so we can amend our records. Data Collection Sheets will be sent out later in the term for you to check that the information we hold for your child is correct.

ParentPay Reminders

- GCSE Geography Field Trip on 19th September – £10.50

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

Calendar for Week Commencing Monday 9th September 2019 (B Week)

Monday 9 th September	KPS Meeting, 6pm
Friday 13 th September	Photographs for Years 7, 10 and 12

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

Key Events in Term 1

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
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	GCSE Chamber Concert, 6pm to 7pm
Friday 25 th October	End of Term 1, 3.15pm

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 back to Kendrick School! No booking required. We are sorry but we cannot offer parking on the school site.

NEWS AND EVENTS BY YEAR GROUP

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.