

Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Friday 10th September 2021

WEEKLY LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

Welcome back to everyone – staff, students and parents and a very warm welcome to our new students and parents in Year 7 and Year 12 and in Year 8 and 10. I hope everyone has had a good summer and feels refreshed and rejuvenated after the holiday.

It has been wonderful to return to school with fewer restrictions and constraints. Students are able to walk freely around the school site, going to their lessons, meeting with their friends in other years and generally appreciating the school beyond the confines of their form room. We are still maintaining some safety measures, as I wrote to you about last week, including one-way system, hygiene procedures, and the wearing of masks which some students and staff are doing. The Lateral Flow Tests for the whole school went smoothly, on Monday and yesterday. I would like to remind everyone that we are still being advised to carry on doing LFT, twice a week and recording results for a few more weeks. Thank you for your continued understanding and support in these matters. The updated Risk Assessments and Outbreak Management Plan for this term can be found [here](#).

The best part of the week for me was being able to welcome back everyone in person at a whole school assembly that we were able to have on Tuesday morning. All 840 students, plus staff assembled in the Sports Hall; it was an amazing experience and something we have not been able to do since January 2020. The students behaved superbly sitting silently and attentively during the proceedings. One of the themes I chose to speak to the students about to start the year, was the news this summer: the joyous and inspiring news of the Olympics and Paralympics and the much more disturbing news of events and developments in Afghanistan, including the upcoming 20th anniversary of 9/11 – an event that happened before any of our students were born, but one that most of us remember with horror and disbelief. I focused a little on the plight of women and girls and one's fears of what might be their future under the new regime. I suggested we think about what we could do to support the refugees that have come to the UK and hoped that we can reopen our Homework Refugee Club, which we used to run until the outbreak of the pandemic. I have received a few positives responses from students to my suggestions and hope to proceed with these plans.

I also spoke to the students about our school values and ethos as articulated in the [Kendrick Pledge](#). In our Pledge, as you know we talk about kindness, friendship, tolerance, understanding and justice for all. I said that these are not just fine words to have on the wall; we have them because they are intended as a statement of our intent, a guide by which I would like us all to live and work in school. Alongside our Pledge, we have a Relationships and Behaviour Policy in which we explain how we would like our behaviours to be towards each other. In addition, how we will respond to behaviour when it falls short of our expectations, which is through a therapeutic and supportive approach. I explained how our Kendrick Pledge supports British values, which as a school we must teach our students about and do so in PSHCE and Citizenship education. These values include: democracy, individual liberty, the rule of law, mutual respect and tolerance of others' beliefs and faiths and a commitment to equality of all citizens regardless of their gender, race, age, disability, pregnancy and maternity, marital status, sex and or sexual orientation, religion or beliefs – which are known as protected characteristics.

I ended the assembly, as I often do at this time of the year, by reminding us all of the wonderful opportunity we all have to have a new beginning. For everyone, students and staff, a new academic year enables us to start again, to do things differently and possibly better. The pandemic has certainly given us plenty of time for reflection and review.

This new start to the year with fewer restrictions makes a new start even more welcome, enabling us to put into practice what thoughts we might have had for when the new normal returned.

Over the next few weeks, I will talk more about our school plans and ambitions and I look forward to being able to report to you about all the near normal events characteristic of a Kendrick school year that will resume in 2021-22.

Wishing everyone very best wishes for the coming year.

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 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.

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 – PRIVACY SETTINGS

The internet can be a great way for adults and children to connect with friends, family and new people. An increasing amount of children and young people are using social media, gaming and live streaming apps to chat and share content with others. But connecting and sharing with people online can come with risks too.

Once shared, personal information like their name, address, photos, or bank details online, could be used by others. For example, it could lead to the child being bullied, [groomed](#) or [blackmailed](#). It might also be used by cyber criminals.

Privacy settings can help you and your child to manage how much and what kind of information is shared, whilst enjoying their favourite sites, games and apps.

For more information, help and guidance please visit the link below:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/a-parents-guide-to-privacy-settings/>

WELLBEING – SELF-CARE SEPTEMBER (ACTION FOR HAPPINESS)

It is more important than ever to be aware of our mental health. Action for Happiness is a charity founded to create a movement of people committed to building a happier and more caring society.

Action for Happiness have 'Ten keys to happier living':

Giving: Do things for others

Relating: Connect with people

Exercising: Take care of your body

Awareness: Live life mindfully

Trying out: Keep learning new things

Direction: Have goals to look forward to

Resilience: Find ways to bounce back

Emotions: Focus on what's good

Acceptance: Be comfortable with who you are

Meaning: Be part of something bigger

For more information and resources please click [here](#).

NEWS AND EVENTS - WHOLE SCHOOL

QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the school will be closed to staff and students **on Friday 22nd October 2021**. This is in lieu of the additional bank holiday in the May half term.

LATERAL FLOW TESTS (LFT)

We encourage all students and staff to take a Lateral Flow Test on a Wednesday and Sunday every week and report the results through Medical Tracker via this [link](#) and Gov.uk via this [link](#).

CALENDAR

Term 1

Saturday 11 th September	Admission Test Day for Entry into Year 7 in September 2022
Tuesday 14 th September	Photographs for Years 7, 10 and 12 Year 12 Information Evening, 6pm to 7pm (live event in school)
Wednesday 15 th September	KPS Meeting, 6pm to 7pm
Tuesday 21 st September	Year 7 Information Evening, 5pm to 6.30pm (live event in school)
Tuesday 28 th September	Year 10 Information Evening, 6pm to 7pm (live event in school)
Thursday 30 th September	Learning & Teaching Governor Meeting, 4.30pm
Tuesday 5 th October	Year 8 Information Evening, 6pm to 7pm (live event in school)
Thursday 7 th October	Resources Governor Meeting, 4.30pm
Thursday 14 th October	Performance and Review Governor Meeting, 4.30pm
Thursday 21 st October	Upper School and Sixth Form Chamber Concert (online)
Friday 22 nd October	School closed to staff and students in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

KENDRICK PARENTS' SOCIETY (KPS)

The Kendrick Parent Society welcomes all the students and new parents to the school. Please click on this [link](#) for our first KPS newsletter of this academic year with details of our parent induction sessions for new Y7s and Y12 parents, next KPS committee meeting, AGM and much more.

We look forward to another year of collaboration with everyone!

KPS team.

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's all together contribute to something that our daughters 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.