

Kendrick School

Weekly Update

Friday 11th October 2019

Weekly Letter from Ms Kattirtzi, Headteacher

It has been a pleasure to meet parents of Years 7, 8, 10 and 12 in the last few weeks since the start of this term. The purpose of these Information Evenings is to enable staff and parents to get to know each other a little better and for parents to have an insight into what is going on in school and how students' education is being planned over the next two years. It is also an opportunity to explain to parents some of the key values and culture we are trying to develop with students whilst they are with us at Kendrick. In all the meetings we have outlined the academic pathway for students but we have also emphasised the need to nurture and support our students to grow into capable, independent and responsible individuals who care about each other, their community and themselves. I hope parents who have been to the meetings recently feel they are a bit more familiar with life at school and the experiences their children have every day.

As well as meeting parents, Mr Simmonds and I are meeting all Year 12 students to talk to them about how they are finding the Sixth Form. Most of the students I have spoken to feel that they really like the Sixth Form as they are able to study subjects of their choice and leave behind others. They all spoke about the greater independence and self-discipline required for A Level studies and how in some subjects the step up to A Level is quite significant. By half term I will have seen all of Year 7 students to ask them how they are liking life at Kendrick; I am very much looking forward to speaking to them.

School life has been busy again this week: **Biology Week** has attracted students to the Biology Labs but also out into the grounds to identify trees and plants, there have been forensic investigations to try to find Mrs Kenward's marker pen and today there will be a dissection of a sheep's head! The enthusiasm of the students is great to see and I am grateful to the Biology Department for putting on such a series of events to engage students in this subject.

Yesterday was **Mental Health Awareness Day** and when I went to assembly with Years 7, 8, 9, there was a sea of yellow as many students wore an item of yellow clothing as part of the Young Minds charity initiative. There was a 'chalk- ing' where students wrote positive and encouraging messages in chalk on the concrete area outside the Main School, reminding everyone to value kindness, appreciation of others and other positive behaviours that can make people feel happier about life. These messages are so important to remind all of us to keep working on our own mental health and wellbeing. I believe there was also quite a lot of cake consumption taking place as well which can often brighten our mood!

Year 8 had a super day on Tuesday when the company **VISA** came into school and worked with them on a Work Related Learning activity where they had to devise an app. The winning team came up with an app that helps you decide what to wear every day depending on the weather, what you have in your wardrobe and what you haven't worn for some time – genius! This day is one of many that make up our **Work Related Learning Programme** organised and led by Mrs Rock where all year groups have some kind of activity suited to their age that promotes and provides guidance for careers and future plans. Today Year 11 will begin 20 minute one to one interviews with a qualified Careers Officer about their plans for the future as they prepare to consider what they want to do post 16.

This will be followed in Term 2 with the **Design Your Future** event (7/11/19) and after that their **Post 16 Conference** (12/11/19) and **Sixth Form Open Evening** (14/11/19) leading to them starting to consider A Level Options in December and future plans.

Unfortunately I have had to speak to all students this week about the behaviour of some individuals at bus stops and on certain bus routes following two complaints I received at the start of the week. I know the behaviour reported to me is that of a very tiny minority of the students, possibly two or three. However, this is not how the general public who see such behaviour see it. What they see is a small group of students behaving badly and leap to the assumption the whole school is like this. This is how reputations get damaged unfairly. I have spoken to all students in Year 7-11 and reminded them that at all times I expect them to be ambassadors of our school wherever they may be and especially when they are in uniform. Please may I ask parents to support us in reminding students of this important responsibility they have being members of Kendrick School.

We finish this week with a super event: **Dr Shola Mos Shogbaminu's** talk to students this afternoon at 3.30pm in the Hall. I am sure listening to Dr Shola will send us home this weekend inspired and ready to improve the world! Then next week we have our **Diwali** event to look forward to as well!

Best wishes and have a good weekend

Ms Christine Kattirtzi, Headteacher

SAFEGUARDING

Every Mind Matters

Every Mind Matters is an initiative launched by the NHS to help you manage and maintain your mental health, as good mental health makes such a difference.

Click [here](#) for the Every Mind Matters webpage.

CALENDAR

Week Commencing Monday 14th October 2019 (A Week)

Year 10 MFL Trips

Friday 18th October

| KPS Diwali Event

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

Key Events in Term 1

Monday 21st October

KPS AGM, 6pm

Thursday 24th October

Upper School and Sixth Form Chamber Concert, 6.30pm to 8.00pm

Friday 25th October

End of Term 1, 3.15pm

KPS NEWS



A gentle reminder to book your tickets for the Diwali event. Seven more days to go! Please use the online link to book your tickets. This will help us with better planning and help reduce food wastage.

<https://www.trybooking.co.uk/MWE>

We look forward to seeing you all on 18th October 2019 at 5.30 PM. There would be Indian snacks and refreshments available to buy from 5.30 PM onwards and many stalls exhibiting arts and crafts, jewellery, clothing and not to forget the Photo Booth and Henna stall !

Performances start at 6.15 PM and dinner to follow at 7.15 PM

Regards,KPS Team

PARENTPAY REMINDERS

Music trip to 'Wicked' on 27th November – please respond to the ParentMail to confirm whether (or not) students are attending if you have not already done so. We need to confirm ticket numbers with the theatre next week. Payment needs to be received by 4th November.

- English texts – years 10, 11, 12 & 13 – please pay for the cost of the texts as soon as possible.
 - Year 9 & 10 French – please pay £3 towards the cost of the play which took place on 3rd October.
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VACANCIES

Kendrick School has the following vacancies. Please click on the links for each role for more information.

[English Teacher to cover a maternity leave \(November 2019-July 2020\)](#)

[Casual Leisure Attendant \(to start as soon as possible\)](#)

[Examination Invigilators](#)

Music Leader Nominations 2020

2020 Music Leader nominations for all of our ensembles and choirs are now available in student registers and from the Music and Drama Office in Cedars. Simply fill out the form, have someone from the ensemble/choir second you to be a Music Leader and give the form back to Mrs Cooper via the Music and Drama Office or her shelf. These are the qualities we are looking for in our Music Leaders:

Someone who:

- are able to lead by example
- are committed to attending their ensemble/choir
- are friendly and welcoming to new members of the ensemble/choir
- will assist in choosing repertoire for the ensemble to play/choir to sing
- listen to and represent the views of the ensemble/choir members
- will assist with the setting up and packing away of rehearsals
- lead sectionals as appropriate
- encourage others to attend rehearsals and concerts

ABRSM Examinations

Those of you wishing to take an ABRSM practical music examination in January may now collect a letter from Mrs Cooper/the top tray near the instrumental noticeboard in Cedars. These exams will take place w/c 27th January 2020 and the closing date for entries is Friday 22nd November 2019. Candidates may be from Kendrick School but also may be external (from other schools) as well.

Mrs Cooper and Ms Rohweder

NEWS AND EVENTS - WHOLE SCHOOL

News on our Website, Local Press and Social Media

Eco Week

[My Au Pair Experience](#)

Parent Governor Vacancies

We have vacancies for three Parent Governors to join the Governing Body this term. Information on how nominations can be made and the election process was emailed to you this week. The deadline for nominations is **Thursday 17th October 2019**.

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.

Upper School and Sixth Form Chamber Concert – Thursday 24th October, 6.30pm, Hall

This year sees our GCSE Music students organising their very own chamber concert for the second time. They will be leading all aspects of the organisation, programming, sound and lighting, as well as hosting this FREE event and would like as many people to get involved in Years 10 and above. This can be done by signing up outside the Music and Drama Office by Friday 4th October. They would also like as many friends, family and staff to attend to make this an exciting and successful evening for everyone. Please come along and support them. Donations will be greatly received and will go towards instruments, music, textbooks and accessories that the students and Music Department feel are most needed for all.

NEWS AND EVENTS – STUDENTS

KS4 Assembly Performances

We would like to make our assemblies more engaging and are therefore asking for students to perform as others enter. Anyone can perform, individually or in a small group (not just piano), in any style as long as it is of a performable standard and isn't rude in any way. If you would like to be involved then please sign up outside the Music and Drama Office in Cedars.

NEWS AND EVENTS - BY YEAR GROUP

Sixth Form

Sixth Form Deposit and Bursary

Further to the information provided in the Sixth Form Handbook issued on Registration Day we write to advise that the Sixth Form Deposit is now live to pay on ParentPay and kindly request that it is paid by Friday 25th October. Although some departments may ask students to purchase books, we ask for a Sixth Form deposit of £50 from all students to set against loss or damage of books issued through the Library or additional resources produced by departments, and against the cost of replacing lost and unreturned locker keys and/or school entry fobs and lanyards.

This sum is returned on request at the end of their Sixth Form career provided all resources and items have been returned to the school and once departments and the Library have had the chance to try to reclaim money for lost

books and resources, usually in October. Alternatively, the Sixth Form Deposit may be donated to the School Fund account where it will be used to improve facilities in the school. If the Sixth Form Deposit is not reclaimed a year after leaving school, the sum will be transferred to the School Fund account as a donation.

As a reminder, we wish to draw your attention to the availability of the 16-19 Bursary Fund, which provides eligible students with some funds to help with the cost of transport, food and educational resources. Further details and the eligibility criteria can be found on our website under the Sixth Form information. The deadline to submit Bursary applications is Monday 7th October 2019. Students may contact Mrs Harrison, Welfare and Attendance Officer (email: tharrison@kendrick.reading.sch.uk) or contact me (email: bursar@kendrick.reading.sch.uk) if you have any queries.

Year 10

Work Experience Placement

We are delighted to be offering a Work Experience Placement (WEX) opportunity to all our Year 10 students. This provision is in line with government guidance for the delivery of a good Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance Programme (CEIAG).

Purpose: WEX placements at this stage is predominantly about providing an opportunity to test and develop their 'transferable skills' in an unfamiliar, yet professional situation. By these skills we mean: communication, problem-solving, showing initiative, teamwork, organisation etc.

Process: Kendrick School is working with 'Learning to Work', who will support the delivery of this programme. They will have a conversation with each of our students to enable the best fit of placements possible. They will source placements for students who have not been able to source their 'own placement'. All placements are vetted for Health and Safety for insurance purposes.

Payment: The price for this service is £60 per student and we value and appreciate your financial support for this initiative. Parentpay is now set up.

Time line:

- Launch concept to parents: October 2019 (Year 10 Information evening)
- Parentpay: On our system from 2nd October 2019
- Launch WEX programme to Year 10s: January 2020 (Assembly)
- One-to-one conversations with 'Learning to Work', from early February 2020
- Application process: All General (BLUE) forms to be returned 14th February 2020
- Application process: All Own Placement forms (PINK) to be returned by 28th February 2020
- Work Experience Week: 29th June – 3rd July 2020

Request for further support: Kendrick School enjoys the supportive relationship of parents/carers. We know many of you have prestigious careers and contacts that could help us in our role of delivering great CEIAG. If you think you could help us by providing a WEX placement for one or more of our students or if you can support us in any other way, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Design Your Future is our prestigious careers event on Thursday 7th November 6-9pm. We look forward to welcoming exhibitors from a wide range of careers, companies and universities. Certainly an event not to be missed!

Contacts:

Mrs Elisabeth Rock: Teacher and Work Related learning Co-ordinator erock@kendrick.reading.sch.uk
School Office Admin@kendrick.reading.sch.uk
Our contact at Learning to Work is: Debbie Denyer d.denyer@Learningtowork.org.uk Tel: 01753 376264

Years 9 -13

Design Your Future Careers Event – Thursday 7th November 2019, 6pm to 9pm

You are invited to "Design your Future" careers fayre, Thursday 7th November 6.00pm-9.00pm. Come along and meet professionals representing careers such as legal, engineering, medical, finance and science. We are also looking for exhibitors to volunteer for this evening, so if there is anyone in your family or friends who would like to come along and represent their company and talk to students about their career, then we would love to hear from them! Please contact Mrs Rock at erock@kendrick.reading.sch.uk

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

Four friends need to cross a dangerous bridge at night. Unfortunately, they have only one torch and the bridge is too dangerous to cross without one. The bridge is only strong enough to support two people at a time. Not all people take the same time to cross the bridge. Times for each person: 1 min, 2 mins, 7 mins and 10 mins. What is the shortest time needed for all four of them to cross the bridge?

The answer will be published next week

Answer to last week's challenge:

Dabid is the killer

drawing room(D) , art room(a) , bed room (b) , ice-cream room (i) , desk room (d)