

# Kendrick School

## Weekly Update

### Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2020

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

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I hope that you are all doing well and have enjoyed the sunshine this week, the good weather is helping us in school to provide plenty of spaces to relax in during breaks but has continued to cause problems in the new Horizons building. We are doing everything we can to get the appropriate electricity connections made so we can use the air conditioning in the building and hopefully this will happen soon. In this newsletter there is a [link](#) to a virtual tour of the Horizons building for you to watch and enjoy.

I hope that you have seen the message about early school closure in the last week of this term from 19th to 23rd October to allow for the admissions tests to take place. I apologise for the inconvenience of this but hope you all appreciate what an important week this is for the school as we seek to secure next year's Year 7 cohort and give all who take the test the best possible experience.

We continue to respond to the challenges and opportunities that running a school in a pandemic gives us and this week I saw the most brilliant year assembly delivered in a pre-recorded format straight to screens in the form rooms. In this format there was the chance to pause and discuss what was being said and in many ways I felt the messages were deeper and easier to take in than in a traditional assembly format.

I have had the most exciting and varied week in which I have remotely joined a Kendrick Parents Society (KPS) meeting and listened to all the energy and creativity that these parents have and celebrated their fabulous ongoing fund raising efforts. Please do join KPS if you have not already done so; the link is under 'PARENTS' on the website. I have visited a few lessons this week, including Year 7 German, and subsequently have been greeted in German by Year 7 students whilst being out and about at break time. The Kendrick Student Leadership Team are back in business with many exciting plans and School Council will soon be up and running led by the Year 11 reps. I see that a creative writing 100 word saga competition has been launched and that there is a poster event to mark European Day of Languages.

I must also mention the school's birthday as it is 143 years since about 40 girls were first brought together in Watlington House on South Street in 1877 and Kendrick Girls School was started. I have recorded a short birthday assembly for Monday that I will share through the website next week. We are launching a week in which students and staff are invited to contribute messages, poems, art, photographs and poetry to a showcase birthday display and photographs of this will be posted on the website.

It is lovely to see the school vibrant and working and I cannot imagine what next week will bring, but I expect it will be varied and special. There is rarely a quiet week at Kendrick and when there is you can be sure that something somewhere is being planned and you need to watch out.

Finally this week Mrs Conlon has been telling me about some brilliant news concerning three year 13 students: Team Cascade have won £1000 in the Schools Aerospace Challenge. Mridhula, Arzina and Ananya, all now in Year 13, had a busy lockdown time: They researched, worked together, wrote a report, made a remote presentation and responded

to gruelling questioning on their project: 'Using hybrid power systems for tactical airlifting'. The Royal Institution presentation is unfortunately cancelled, but they still have a week's residential at Cranfield to attend next summer, in lieu of being able to go this year. Watch out for more on Team Cascade as a news item, and sixth formers can see their presentation at Engineering Society in the near future. Congratulations to them!

**Mr Nick Simmonds, Acting Headteacher**

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## SAFEGUARDING

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### SEE, HEAR, RESPOND

Barnardo's is leading a service to provide support to children, young people and their families who are not currently seeing a social worker but are struggling to cope with the emotional impacts of COVID-19. See, Hear, Respond will contact every referral made which can be submitted on the [self-referral webpage](#) or on Freephone 0800 151 7015.

### TALKING TO A CHILD WORRIED ABOUT COVID-19

If you are worried a child may be struggling with their mental health or has anxiety about coronavirus. The NSPCC has advice to help you support them.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/childrens-mental-health/depression-anxiety-mental-health/>

### ZOOM SECURITY UPDATE

Last week Zoom implemented two-factor authentication to make video conference safer than ever. Enabling this feature also helps to prevent 'zoombombing'. If you have an account you should enable multi-factor authentication as soon as possible - even if you're not currently using it.

To enable multi-factor authentication, log in to your Zoom account online by going to Zoom's website and completing the following steps:

- 1) Click on your profile 'avatar' in the top-right corner of the page.
- 2) Click on your name/email address to open your profile settings.
- 3) Scroll down to the Two-Factor Authentication section.
- 4) If this section says 'turned off' click 'turn on'. \*\* If it already says 'turned on' there's nothing more you have to do. \*\*
- 5) You'll be prompted for your password again.
- 6) Click 'Set up' next to the type of second factor you would like to enable (Authentication App, SMS or both).
- 7) Follow the on-screen steps to complete.

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## NEWS AND EVENTS - WHOLE SCHOOL

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

We like to celebrate student successes in and out of school and rely on parents/carers to pass us this information so we can publish it on our website under [Students/Student Achievements](#). Please send any articles and photos to [aemberson@kendrick.reading.sch.uk](mailto:aemberson@kendrick.reading.sch.uk). However, please ensure you have your child's 'permission' to do so! Thank you

## SCHOOL FINISH TIME – MONDAY 19TH TO FRIDAY 23RD OCTOBER 2020

In order to comply with government guidance for admission testing during COVID, the admission tests for entry into Year 7 in September 2021 will take place every afternoon during the week of **19th October 2020**.

Therefore all Kendrick School students will be sent home at approximately **1.30pm every day that week**. Students will not be able to stay on the school site and the Library will close at 1.30pm. Further details on how the lessons will run during that week will follow in due course.

## HORIZONS BUILDING

For a tour of the new Horizons building please click [here](#) for a video made by two of our Sixth Form students.

The new building is fitted out with air con and a heating system. Unfortunately our current electricity supply needed an upgrade to cope with the extra electrical load. Our contractors arranged for the upgrade with the electricity company several months ago and the work should have been completed by now. The electricity company are having design difficulties so there has been a delay in the upgrade. Our contractors are working to resolve the situation

## REPORTING ABSENCE - ALL YEAR GROUPS

If your child is going to absent from school, please ensure you either email [admin@kendrick.reading.sch.uk](mailto:admin@kendrick.reading.sch.uk) (clearly stating your child's name and form) or report an absence through the ParentMail App **before 8.25am**. You must contact the school in this way every day your child is going to be absent.

If you or your child is displaying signs of COVID-19, you must following the latest [government guidance](#) and arrange to have a COVID test. **Please inform the school of the test result as soon as you receive it and keep us updated on your situation**. The school has to contact our local health protection team (HPT) immediately if there is a positive result for a member of staff, student or parent/carer. If the test result is negative then your child can return to school **if they are not displaying symptoms themselves**.

## BRINGING FORGOTTEN ITEMS TO SCHOOL - ALL YEAR GROUPS

As far as possible, to ensure everyone's safety in these difficult and challenging times, we are limiting visitors to school and can only accept those we are expecting, including parents/carers. **Therefore, please ensure your child has everything they need with them for the day ahead as we can only accept essential urgent items (for example urgent medication)**. Non urgent items (such as food, drinks, homework) cannot be accepted. Please do not just arrive at Reception with the items as we will not be able to accept them - if you are unsure, please telephone the school to ask for advice.

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## JOB VACANCIES AT KENDRICK SCHOOL

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We have the following job vacancies at Kendrick School.

- Student Welfare and Attendance Officer - 35 hours a week - term time only, plus one week in the summer holidays and INSET days
- Chemistry Technician - 13 hours a week - term time only and some hours in the summer holidays

More information on both 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 11 and 13 - outstanding work experience payments from last year

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## NEWS AND EVENTS - STUDENTS

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### CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION

Open to all students, 11 – 18. Write a 100 word mini-saga entitled 'TRAPPED'. If you are interested, email Ms Fieldsend on [jfieldsend@kendrick.reading.sch.uk](mailto:jfieldsend@kendrick.reading.sch.uk) and she will provide an entry form and some further ideas. You can also find details on [www.youngwriters.co.uk](http://www.youngwriters.co.uk).

### THE 16-19 BURSARY FUND

The 16-19 Bursary Fund has been allocated by the Education Funding Agency (EFA), the funding agency for 16-19 education and training.

Please see the [16-19 Bursary Policy 20-21](#) which sets out the arrangements for how the Kendrick School will prioritise and administer the 16-19 Bursary Fund in 2020-21.

The School is committed to ensuring the Fund is used to support financially disadvantaged young people taking up or continuing in their education or training post-16 and achieving their learning aim(s).

Please see the [16-19 Bursary Information for Parent-Carer\(s\) 20-21](#) and [16-19 Bursary Information for Students 20-21](#) for more information which explains who is eligible and how to apply. Please also see the [16-19 Student Assessment Form 20-21](#).

Please note that if your daughter received the Bursary for academic year 2019/20 you will need to reapply for this current academic year.

To apply please download and complete the 16-19 Bursary Fund Application form 19-20 below.

**The deadline to submit a Bursary application, with the correct supporting evidence, is Monday 5th October 2020.**

The student liaison contacts for any support with the application process, including details on eligibility criteria and evidence needed, are Ms Le Croisette or Mrs Harrison at the email addresses below:

[ylecroisette@kendrick.reading.sch.uk](mailto:ylecroisette@kendrick.reading.sch.uk) or [tharrison@kendrick.reading.sch.uk](mailto:tharrison@kendrick.reading.sch.uk).

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

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I am bright orange.  
I wear a green cap.  
When you call me,  
I sound like a parrot.

Who Am I?



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

The numbers IX and XI are swapped around.