

Kendrick School

Weekly Update

Friday 27th November 2020

WEEKLY LETTER FROM MR SIMMONDS, ACTING HEADTEACHER

I cannot believe another week has passed so quickly. It is hard to know where to start when writing about all the activities and projects that are being completed and launched everywhere you look around school. We had a wonderfully successful Dance Enterprise Day on Tuesday and the follow-up inter-form competitions have started and are great fun; I have managed to see a few dances and it is incredible what can be achieved in a day. The performance of [As You Like It](#) last Friday was a triumph of organisation, planning, talent and creativity, thank you to all who involved; I was swept along by the performances and was amused, delighted and emotional in equal measures just as the play intends the audience to be. Many congratulations to our Sixth Form directors, Abby and Moli, for what they have achieved. Miss Akcay has launched a poetry writing club this week that aims to write, critique, edit and discuss poetry and is leading to performances and an anthology later in the year. The next writing competition is under way; this time the competition is open to Years 7 to 10 and the challenge is to research Sue Ryder and to write a short essay or poem telling her story and conveying the message of her life with a closing date in the summer.

The one-off autumn season of public examinations finished on Monday which means that we have the use of the top of Sidmouth House back, much to the delight of the Sixth Formers who once more have access to another study space and common room area.

On Tuesday of next week two groups of students will be part of the live audience for the recording of one of this year's Royal Institution Christmas lectures and this is a most exciting opportunity for them.

I have spent some with a Year 7 history group exploring the reasons why William won the battle of Hastings and I am so impressed by the students' ability to review the evidence and identify and evaluate the most important reasons for the outcome of the battle. I only meant to pop into the lesson but got swept along on their learning journey. I have spent time in recent weeks in registration time with various year groups and I am so pleased that the students are telling me still that they are very pleased to be in school and are enjoying their lessons; they often say how hard teachers work to make the lessons interesting and enjoyable which is great to hear and reinforces what I see when I walk about school and visit lessons.

Last night we had our first remote parent teacher consultation afternoon and I believe that this has gone smoothly. Yet again we have had to work out how to do something differently that we are so used to doing a certain way.

Attendance remains very high in school with remarkably few students and staff absent with illness and we are very grateful for this. I hope everyone reading this week's update is safe and well and we look forward to another busy week ahead.

Mr Nick Simmonds, Acting Headteacher

SAFEGUARDING/WELLBEING

WORRIED ABOUT A CHILD?

If you have a concern about a child at Kendrick School please email 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.

PREVENT: NEW COUNTER-TERRORISM WEBSITE: ACT EARLY

Between 1st January 2019 and 30th June 2020, 17 children were arrested in relation to terrorism offences. Some were as young as 14 years old and nearly all were radicalised entirely online.

In the same time period, more than 1500 children under the age of 15 were referred to the Prevent programme to help them choose a different path, away from hatred and violence.

The impact of Covid-19, social isolation and a rise in hateful extremism online has created a 'perfect storm' which is making more young people vulnerable to radicalisation and other forms of grooming.

The new website emphasises early detection and is aimed at family and friends and are encouraged to call the Prevent advice line on 0800 011 3764.

The website can be found here: <https://actearly.uk/>

BLACK FRIDAY SALES

This is a reminder that the 'Black Friday' periods sees the highest number of emails flying across the ether than at any other time of year. The means that not only are there millions of legitimate emails, but the scammers also send out their flurries too.

We are all vulnerable, but children, perhaps teenagers especially might be 'secretly' buying presents online for the first time. Reminders about safe buying online would be very timely.

The National Cybersecurity Centre has a Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS) where you can send emails you are concerned about.

The message might be from a company you don't normally receive communications from, or someone you do not know. You may just have a hunch. If you are suspicious, you should report it. Your report of a phishing email will help us to act quickly, protecting many more people from being affected.

Just forward the email to: report@phishing.gov.uk

You can find more advice about online security here:

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/section/information-for/individuals-families>

NEWS AND EVENTS - WHOLE SCHOOL

NEWS ON OUR WEBSITE, LOCAL PRESS AND SOCIAL MEDIA

[100-Word Story Competition – Trapped](#)

[Shakespeare Schools Festival](#)

[Virtual Homework Club](#)

UPPER SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM CHAMBER CONCERT

The Music Department would like to thank all of the contributors for this year's virtual concert; the performances were fantastic and the editing and behind-the-scenes work was excellent. We would also like to thank you all for your generosity in donations; we nearly doubled last year's total, raising the large sum of £461.50, which is so welcome. We will be looking to put this towards the purchase of a pedal harp and other large instruments that we need in the department.

INTRODUCING SCHOOL GATEWAY

We are very excited to be introducing School Gateway to Kendrick School – a parent engagement app that will allow you to communicate with the school and view your child's reports at anytime from anywhere.

All school related communication, newsletters, reports, timetables, and attendance will go through School Gateway from **Monday 30th November 2020**. To stay up to date with what's going on at school make sure you download the app for free. Just search *School Gateway* in your App store and download.

Apple iPhone users, download the app here: schoolgateway.co.uk/iosdownload

Android phone users, download the app here: schoolgateway.co.uk/androiddownload

Your login details will be automatically generated using the contact information Kendrick School already has, so please make sure the details we hold for you are up to date.

The login details are your email address and mobile telephone number. You can check and change these details by sending an email to admin@kendrick.reading.sch.uk. **When you are downloading the app you need to CREATE an account using these details.** You will then be texted a PIN by School Gateway to verify your account.

If you have any questions or would like some more information, please see the School Gateway site here: <https://schoolgateway.co.uk/>.

You can also login to the online version of School Gateway via this site if you do not have a smart phone, although we do recommend using the app if possible as it makes it far easier to get hold of parents when we need to.

PARENT CONSULTATION MEETINGS

We have introduced a new intuitive and easy to use online appointment booking system for all future Parent Consultation meetings. This allows you to choose your own appointment times with teachers and you will receive an email confirming your appointments. For the foreseeable future the consultation meetings will be held remotely. The Year 13 Parents' Consultation took place yesterday using the new system and was a great success. If you are a Year 13 parent/carer and have any feedback on the evening please let us know by emailing admin@kendrick.reading.sch.uk.

Year 11 parents/carers have now received an email inviting them to book their appointments online for the **Year 11 Parents' Consultation** taking place on **Tuesday 1st December**. The booking window closes at **4pm on Monday 30th November 2020**. Please contact admin@kendrick.reading.sch.uk if you are experiencing problems booking appointments. **Please read the information sent with the email so you are fully up to speed with how the remote system works.**

As always, new processes take time to bed in, so please bear with us during the early stages of introducing the system.

JOB VACANCIES AT KENDRICK SCHOOL

We have the following job vacancies at Kendrick School.

- **Temporary Chemistry Teacher** – up to 0.8 FTE – for January 2020
- **German/French Teacher** – a very small amount of teaching starting in January 2021. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact aemberson@kendrick.reading.sch.uk

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.

PARENTPAY REMINDERS

Year 7	Profiling Day Study Skills	£4.50
Year 7, 8 and 9	Contributions to resources for Food, Textiles and Technology lessons	

All parents/carers: Please top up dinner money accounts if they are in debit.

KPS

The **KPS Cultural Fest** on last Saturday, 21st November was a huge success, with over 70 families and 50 students taking part, showcasing their singing, instrumental, dancing, artwork, public speaking and culinary skills. We have had some great reviews and we hope that made your weekend special or different in these unprecedented times. We thank all the parents/carers who bought tickets, those who kindly donated and also our generous sponsors.

We raised a total of £1232 which includes donations from parents for £270 and a further sponsor donations of £225.

As mentioned during the event, the artwork sent by students is on sale now. Please refer to the email yesterday which included an attachment of the artwork on sale. Any generous donations above £5 would be appreciated. If you are interested in buying please email secretary.kps.uk@gmail.com with the picture number and we will let you know how to pay and collect this piece of art. We already have some interest and this is really very encouraging and motivating for the artist and KPS:-)! **The deadline is 30th November.**

We also wish to reiterate that the donation line is still open for your kind donations <https://www.trybooking.co.uk/VZZ>

We have scheduled a **KPS drop in session for Y7 parents/carers and students (both included) with Ms Kattirtzi on Tuesday 8th December from 6 to 7pm**. If you are interested in attending please email kpsmembersec1@gmail.com. We will send you more details on this soon.

Look out for our newsletter on Monday that has more exciting information for all the parents and students.

KPS Committee

NEWS AND EVENTS - STUDENTS

FAIRTRADE

'Hi everyone! I'm Sanjana, I'm in Year 12 and I run the Fairtrade Stall. For those of you who don't know, Kendrick has a Fairtrade Stall where we sell Fairtrade products (lots of chocolate!) to raise money and awareness for Fairtrade. The Fairtrade Foundation is an organisation who push forward making all trade fair and sustainable so that workers receive the wages they deserve. Not only this, they empower communities through their Fairtrade Premium to be sustainable, combat poverty and take more control over their livelihoods.

Now that we have settled back into school I would like to reopen the Fairtrade Stall, but I need volunteers who will act as ambassadors to sell products to their bubble once a week during a lunchtime.

If this interests you, please fill out this Google Form.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSemm6m77X9PFj1GaxiwSibh_LV7Fd1tEQ5ZGJre9PiSnhnmhQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

If you have any questions, please email me at 15siyer@kendrick.reading.sch.uk

SCHOOL COUNCIL CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISING

The School Council are running a number of activities over the next two weeks to raise money towards the refurbishment of the student welfare spaces in the school and to help us all get into the Christmas spirit. Look out for posters advertising the events around the school.

Candy Canes – 50p per cane

Send Christmas greeting to you friends with a candy cane.

This is how it works: Your Form Council rep will be selling gift tags all next week (w/c 30th Nov). You fill out the tag and write your Christmas greeting. You then return the tag to your Form Council Rep. The canes will be distributed during the week of 7th Dec.

Kendrick Christmas Bake Off - £2 entry fee

There will be two competitions:

1. Christmas themed bakes
2. Technical Christmas challenge bake

There will be a 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize, for each competition. To enter, please email **Prerita Basu** at 16pbasu@kendrick.reading.sch.uk who will send you instructions and rules of the 'Bake Off'. You have until **Friday 4th December** to sign up. The following week participants have to submit a photograph of their bake by end of Thursday 10th Dec to the year 11s. The winners will be announced on Friday 11th December. To pay the **entry fee**, put a named envelope with the money into a box in the **General Office**.

Christmas decorations – various prices

Are you very creative? Could you make handmade decorations or other Christmas items to help raise funds?

Send a picture of your 'creation' and a price to make a profit to **Janhavi Gupta** at 16jgupta@kendrick.reading.sch.uk by **Weds 2nd December**. The year 11s will market these items for students and staff to order. Items will be delivered from 7th December onwards.

So get involved, get baking, get making and let's spread a bit of festive cheer as well as raise money for the student welfare spaces.

Thank You

School Council (+Mrs Brunsdon)

WRITING COMPETITIONS

This is a summary of the current writing competitions open to students. If you are interested see the posters on the English noticeboard, or contact **Ms Fieldsend** for details.

Young Writers. A poem on the theme Imagine. All Year groups. Closing date – end of this term

Christopher Tower Competition. A poem on the theme The Key – Ages 16 – 18. Closing date – Feb 2012

Sue Ryder Award. An essay or poem on the life of Sue Ryder. Y7 – 10. Closing date - July 2021

CALLING ALL POETS ACROSS THE SCHOOL

There is an exciting opportunity for you to join a creative writing club where you will write, critique, edit and discuss poetry. Sessions will be held for 30 minutes, once a week, at second break. The project will take you through all the steps writers go through to publish their poems, where there will also be a physical publication of your poems in an anthology by the end of the year. If you are interested in joining, and haven't already, please write three poems under the theme 'new world' and send your poems to Miss Akcay by Friday 4 December. This club is open to Y10 - 13. If you have any queries, please email Miss Akcay at sakcay@kendrick.reading.sch.uk

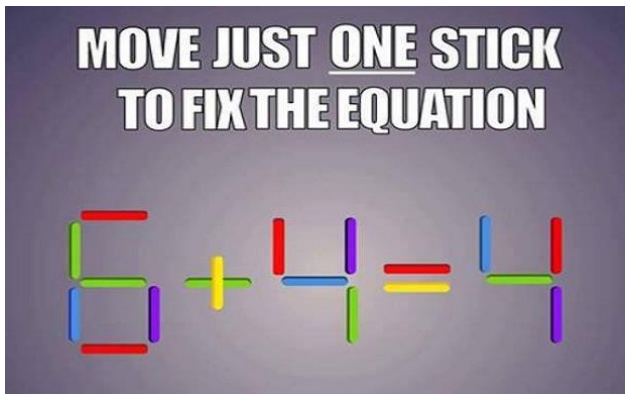
CHRISTMAS CONCERT

To say that this year has been a difficult and unexpected one would be an understatement. Although we might not be able to see all of our loved ones during the upcoming holidays, the Music Department would like to organise a virtual concert full of items around the theme of 'togetherness' which can be shared with our friends and family. We will have items from some of our chamber ensembles, but we would also like to extend the invitation for items from staff and students, including any original compositions, pieces of poetry or dance items which fit our theme.

If you would like to get involved, please send your videos to Mrs Cooper by **Friday 4th December**.

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

Your task is to move just one matchstick to fix the equation. This math question seems simple, however, how quickly can you find all 3 solutions?



Answer to last week's challenge:

Once in a blue moon

