

# Kendrick School

## Weekly Update

### Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020

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

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As we approach the end of an extraordinary term, I find myself reflecting on the incredible fortitude and resilience of all the staff and students in the school. We have enjoyed a most productive term of learning and managed to fit in some extracurricular activity and intra bubble socialising. Students all around the school tell me how happy they are to be in school and how interesting they find their lessons; I could not wish for a better response than that. I would like to thank all parents/carers for trusting the school to follow the COVID safe guidelines and continuing to send the students to school against a background of fluctuating COVID case numbers in Berkshire, a second lock down and now tier two restrictions. Thank you all.

This week we have welcomed Mrs Annie Williams and Mrs Balvinder Window to the staff in the Finance Department and next week we will be saying a sad farewell to Mrs Sally Foster as she starts a new and exciting passage of her life. We are also wishing Dr Tamsyn Wilson all the very best as she takes up a new post of Head of Science at Reading Girls' School. Mrs Ann Male and Mrs Katherine Bishop are also both leaving us this term as they have taken the steps they need to look after family members at this very challenging time. All these staff have contributed so much to the school and although we cannot have a big celebratory get together we are doing the best we can to express our heartfelt thanks and best wishes to them before they leave.

On Wednesday I was able to watch the Year 10 GCSE Drama group's production of the [Wizard of Oz](#) along with a small and select bubble audience. We were truly the privileged few and we were treated to a sharply funny, commandingly acted and slickly produced pantomime that will be one of my festive highlights this year. Also on Wednesday, many of us enjoyed a wonderful Christmas lunch from the canteen with over 300 meals served. The school's band braved the cold, were outside playing carols, and my thanks to everyone involved in giving us such a memorable occasion.

School Council reps have been flooded by the response to their candy cane fund raising messaging service and this activity, in which we can pass kind and seasonal messages to each other, has clearly struck a chord in school. I, along with 40 or 50 others, have entered the festive bake competition and the results are in. Congratulations to all who entered, to the winner, Adithi in Year 7, and the runners up Anvi and Kitty both in Year 8. There will be full report on the website next week.

For those who have been following our recruitment and vacancies on the website this term I am very pleased to say that we are fully staffed for January, apart from a SEN and Literacy Support Assistant. Interviews for this role are taking place next week.

Lastly I would like to say to the two tutor groups in Year 7 who are now isolating, and their parents/cares, a massive thank you for how calmly you responded to this and for settling into a remote learning routine, complete with a morning online registration. With a week of term left we all being as considerate as we can to each other and making a renewed effort to leave the school tidy each night to allow the cleaners to make everything ready for us each morning. I hope everyone is as happy and healthy as they can be.

**Mr Nick Simmonds, Acting 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](mailto: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.

## TIKTOK UPDATE PARENTAL CONTROLS WITH FAMILY PAIRING FEATURE

TikTok is used by many teenagers and sometimes children younger than that 13 despite its terms and conditions. Using the new Family Pairing feature can allow parents to guide their child's TikTok experience in a safer way. Features include:

- Search: Decide what can be searched for. This includes content, users, hashtags, or sounds
- Screen Time Management: Sets how long your teen can spend on TikTok each day
- Discoverability: Decide on the account being private (you decide who can see their content) or public (anyone can search and view content)

To find out more information about TikTok's Family Pairing feature please visit <https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/tiktok-update-parental-controls-with-family-pairing-feature/>

## NEWS AND EVENTS - WHOLE SCHOOL

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

[German Poetry Workshop](#)

[Inter-Form Dance 2020](#)

[The Winning Entry to His Dark Materials Competition](#)

[Virtual Christmas Concert](#)

[It's Panto Season – Oh No It's Not!](#)

### VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2020

This year has certainly had its ups and downs, but everyone has been working hard to help each other out and stay safe in doing so. For us in Music, this has meant completely changing the way things are done, but we have still been able to rehearse in small groups in a Covid-safe way and enjoy expressing ourselves musically, spreading joy around the school.

This year's Christmas Concert has had a theme of festivity and togetherness, and we hope that the items you hear bring you a little happiness and can be shared with loved ones far and wide. At less than 45 minutes, it can be enjoyed over lunch, during a relaxed evening with family, or whenever you like.

We wish you all a happy and healthy festive season and look forward to making more music in 2021.

You can access the concert via the link below:

<https://youtu.be/x5ludMTkT5Y>

## YEAR 10 PANTOMIME - IT'S PANTO SEASON (OH NO IT'S NOT!)

During this unusual festive season, our Year 10 Drama students at Kendrick have tried to maintain their 'normal' routine of putting on a panto for students to watch, and this year it is no different! They have worked tirelessly to put on this show for everyone to enjoy and we hope that you do.

You can access the pantomime via the link below:

<https://youtu.be/l8BOs9FdbMg>

## CELEBRATING WOMEN IN MUSIC

The practice rooms in Cedars have often been difficult to navigate and describe, so we have decided to make things easier and celebrate prominent women in music at the same time. Each room has therefore been named after an influential and inspiring woman in music. It was important to us that we represent a diverse range of women from all backgrounds and disciplines and consult the student and staff bodies on who these people should be. There were so many good entries, which made it tough to pick just five!

Over the first five weeks of next term, we will be sharing the names of these women and will give you some more information about why they are so important to musical history, as well as ways to do some more research into them.

## 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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](https://schoolgateway.co.uk/iosdownload)

Android phone users, download the app here: [schoolgateway.co.uk/androiddownload](https://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](mailto: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.

## GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON 2021 EXAMINATIONS

Government consultation on the advance information about topics to be covered in GCSE, AS and A level exams in 2021 and support materials in exams in England. The consultation closes at 11:45pm on 20 December 2020  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/support-materials-and-advance-information-in-2021-gcse-as-and-a-level-exams>

## PARENTPAY REMINDERS

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*All parents/carers: Please top up dinner money accounts if they are in debit. Please also check your ParentPay account to ensure there are no outstanding payments due.*

## NEWS AND EVENTS – STUDENTS

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### ACCELERATION TRAMPOLINE CLUB

Starting in January, Kendrick School students will have access to an on-site trampoline club run by an experienced and fully qualified British Gymnastics coach, the club welcomes students of all abilities from complete beginner to competitive performer.

Trampolining provides a number of health benefits, such as increased fitness, strength and flexibility, and can also increase the mental well-being of participants by improving self-confidence, leadership skills and providing a sense of achievement.

As an individual sport, trampolining can be conducted in a very safe, COVID-secure environment and all precautions will be taken to ensure the safety of the participants.

Acceleration Trampoline Club will run in the sports hall after the school day finishes, Monday to Friday. Membership spots are limited, and will be on a first come first serve basis.

For more information, please contact us at [accelerationtc@gmail.com](mailto:accelerationtc@gmail.com)

## VACANCIES

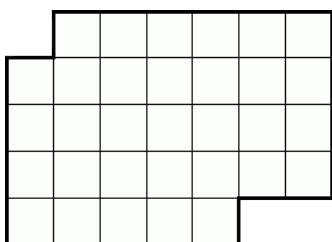
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Reading School currently have a vacancy for a Teacher of English. Please share with anyone you think might be interested.

[Teacher of English Details of the Post](#)

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

Slice the picture into 2 identical/symmetrical sections.



**Answer to last week's challenge:**  
No one to blame

