

Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Friday 5th November 2021

WEEKLY LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

Welcome back to Term 2, I hope everyone had a good break over the holiday.

It has been my great pleasure this week to have **meetings with all students in Year 7** to talk to them about how their first impressions and the first term at Kendrick has been. Overwhelmingly they said that they were very happy to be at Kendrick. They said that the school community was welcoming, friendly, supportive and encouraging. They said they enjoyed their learning which is interesting, varied and fun. They spoke about their learning and how much they like subjects that they did not study at primary school like Textiles, Art, Food, Science and they appreciated how all their teachers take time and effort to help them in their studies. They also said that the work is challenging (in a good way!) and that they work hard every day. I asked them if they felt safe in school to which they said they do and they also know that if they had a problem they could ask their tutor, their Head of Year or another trusted adult in school for help or support.

We have begun the process of the transition to the 6th Form with our Year 11 students. This week, they had a presentation from Dr Perry about the events that will be taking place over the next few months, including looking at A Level Options. The process begins next week with the **Post 16 Conference on Tuesday 9th November** followed on **Thursday 11th November between 5-7.30pm with the 6th Form Open Day** where students and parents are invited to visit the school and meet staff and 6th Form students in their departmental areas. We will be welcoming students and their parents from other schools at the Open Event and we expect to see a number of people on that night. The 6th Form prospectus, which is being sent to parents and students in Year 11, is also [here](#) for information

The Education Secretary Nadhim Zahawi will be speaking at the **COP26 Climate summit** in Glasgow today encouraging students and staff in schools to learn more about climate change and what they can do to improve this global crisis. The climate crisis is studied in many subjects including geography and science and certainly students at Kendrick are very engaged and vociferous about it as seen by the numerous activities that the Eco Committee put on in school. Support and resources from the government to do more in this area would be most welcome by schools and students.

We are continuing with the COVID safe measures we had in place last term. Since returning to school on Monday infection rates and absences have been low which is most encouraging. We must continue to adhere to the safe procedures and practices so that we can remain safe and well this term. Please continue the twice weekly Lateral Flow Tests that everyone is asked to do at home. The risk assessment for this term is [HERE](#).

Diwali celebrations have been taking place this week and to that end Dr Joshi and Mrs Bharate prepared a four-minute video presentation for the students to explain the purpose, meaning and celebrations involved in Diwali. Dr Joshi and Mrs Bharate with two of 6th Form students, Arya and Nachammai, gave us an insight into how families celebrate Diwali and the customs and traditions they have. The presentation is [HERE](#).

Please read the weekly update in full, which includes an important article about knife crime in Reading.

Wishing everyone happy Diwali and a great weekend.

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 4pm and at weekends), 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 – KNIFE CRIME

Reading Borough Council and Thames Valley Police are working in partnership to tackle knife crime in Reading.

Olly Stephens, a young 13 year old local boy, was brutally stabbed to death in January. Olly would have celebrated his 14th birthday on 1st November. Many people have been tremendously affected by Olly's tragic murder. Since January, tragically, a number of others have also been killed in Reading due to knife crime.

Knife crime is a real and growing concern to many in the community. Many parents and adults are not aware that young children and teenagers are carrying knives in fear "for their safety". The community knife amnesty bins is a collaborative initiative by Thames Valley Police and the Council and is an excellent way to help get knives off our streets.

Six community knife amnesty bins have been placed across neighbourhood areas of Reading for members of the public to safely dispose of any knives and bladed articles.

For more information on this initiative please click [here](#).

A moving video from Olly's parents sharing their poignant views on knives, knife crime and how it has affected their lives forever can be found here: <https://youtu.be/jmOjwC2BTMo>

WELLBEING – PROBLEM SOLVING

Source: [Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families](#)

If you're worried about something, sometimes it becomes much less frightening if you can break that thing down into smaller, more manageable pieces. One way to do that is to start by listing all the possible outcomes, even the bad ones. For example, if you're feeling worried because you don't understand a subject or know how to prepare for the exam, you could write down these potential outcomes:

- Don't revise for the exam
- Try to figure out the work alone
- Ask a teacher or friend for help

The second step would be to list the pros and cons of each solution:

Don't revise:

Pros: no need to do anything

Cons: might fail the exam

Figure it out alone:

Pros: can start right away

Cons: might be too difficult or make things worse

Ask a teacher or friend for help:

Pros: someone to explain it, so a better chance of passing

Cons: waiting for when they can help

The third step would be to choose the most practical solution. In this example, it looks like the last option has the best chances of success.

Once you've decided on a solution or a combination of the solutions, the fourth step is making a plan to carry it out – could you text or call your friend now? Could you ask your teacher for help when you next see them at school? Perhaps it would help to write yourself a reminder to do that.

The fifth step would involve recording your progress, reviewing your plans, and feeling good about your efforts. If you've put a plan in place, such as asking a teacher to help you study, it might help you to feel less worried about the exam, because you know that you will have more support and resources available to you soon. These steps are based around BBC Health's '[structured problem solving](#)' worksheet, which you can use as a template.

For more information including a video from a Senior Clinician providing a structure to start problem solving, please click [here](#).

NEWS AND EVENTS - WHOLE SCHOOL

WEEKLY COVID UPDATE

Confirmed PCR cases (running totals):

RISK ASSESMENT FOR TERM 2

The COVID-19 Risk Assessment for November 2021 can be found [here](#). We will continue to ask students to wear masks moving around school and in communal areas and in lessons, follow the one-way system, enhanced cleaning regimes, taking LFT tests twice a week and limiting events in school to one parent per child.

LATERAL FLOW TESTS

Please can we remind all staff and students to take a LFT every Wednesday and Sunday.

CALENDAR

Term 2

Tuesday 9th November

Year 11 Post 16 Conference

Widening Horizons Information Evening, 4.15pm

Thursday 11th November

Sixth Form Open Evening (Year 11 students only), 5pm to 7.30pm

Thursday 18th November

Resources Governor Committee

Friday 19th November

Official Opening of Horizons

Wednesday 24th November

KPS Meeting

Thursday 25 th November	Year 13 Parents' Information (remote)
Tuesday 30 th November	Year 11 Parents' Consultation (remote)
Thursday 2 nd December	Performance and Review Governor Committee
Thursday 9 th December	Full Governing Body Meeting School Musical Production
Thursday 16 th December	Last day of Term 2

VACANCIES

We currently have the following vacancies. Please click [here](#) for more information on the roles and an application form. We would be grateful if you could share these vacancies with family and friends.

Attendance and Student Welfare Assistant. 35 hours a week, Monday to Friday. Closing date: Friday 26th November 2021

Invigilators: Hours to suit the requirements of the examination season.

KENDRICK PARENTS' SOCIETY (KPS)

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 us all together contribute to something that our children 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.

NEWS AND EVENTS – STUDENTS

WIDENING HORIZONS – HOMEWORK CLUB

Homework Club offers Year 5 students extra support with their school work and familiarisation with the 11+ tests (verbal, non-verbal and mathematics). The club has been running remotely every Tuesday at 4pm since January 2021 via Google Meets. Each Kendrick volunteer is assigned one or two Year 5 students. Volunteers have the option of staying in school to use a Chrome Book in the library, or joining Homework Club remotely from home.

We will need volunteers from **Years 10 -13**. If you are interested in helping with Homework Club, please email Miss Lawlor (ilawlor@kendrick.reading.sch.uk) by **Friday 12th November 2021**.

Homework Club is an excellent opportunity to be part of Kendrick's outreach work. Previous volunteers have found the experience rewarding and we have received very positive feedback from the Year 5 students and parents. This can also be used as volunteering evidence for The Duke of Edinburgh's Award. The skills you will acquire in teaching will serve you well in sixth form and life beyond school (resources and guidance on teaching will be provided by Dr. Perry).

For more information on Widening Horizons, and eligibility criteria for primary school students, please click [here](#).