

Kendrick School

Weekly Update

Friday 5th December 2019

Weekly Letter from Ms Kattirtzi, Headteacher

The **Evening of Dance** was a most wonderful evening and I thank the staff and the students for their work and commitment in preparing and organising the event. It was super to see students from Years 7-11 perform their choreographed theme into a beautiful dance. For some of the younger students it was their first time performing in front of an audience and they should feel very proud of themselves. Next week our Christmas Concert will take place and again I am sure we will be delighted by the contributions the students will make.

Yesterday we had a meeting with our builders, Darwin Group, and architects, Baily Garner (BG) about the progress of the building works for the new nine classroom block and dining space that is now under construction. They told us that the work is going to plan and they are on schedule with where they want to be by the end of the term. Photographs are being taken as the building makes progress which we will post on the website after our monthly meetings. We were also told yesterday that Sc2, our temporary building in the car park, which has become a permanent fixture, will be demolished around mid-January to provide more space as the building work progresses. We were also told that at some point during the build when the very large lorries and cranes come to site, there will be a need to have some road closures in the immediate vicinity of the school which Darwin Group are discussing with Reading Borough Council. We will give notice of these closures before they happen but they are likely to be between 9.00am-2.00pm during the school day so not affecting arrival and leaving times. Once the foundations have been completed the actual building will go up very quickly, we are told. It was also discussed and agreed yesterday that at the February update meeting, Darwin and BG will also run a student engagement session for students interested in careers related to building, engineering and construction.

This week we have been preparing a report to give to the DfE about the work we have been doing with local schools as part of our partnership links and preparation for our expanded numbers which has a focus on supporting disadvantaged students. Dr Perry has prepared a 25 page detailed document on a number of the projects we and our students are involved in. One of the many projects we have identified and included in the report is the work we have been doing for well over a year now with Reading Refugee Support Group. Working with the volunteers at this organisation, we have a regular homework club for children run by a dedicated group of our Sixth Form students who work with the children on homework tasks they may have and supporting them with their language, literacy and numeracy needs. We received some feedback from the coordinators this week who told us that this work with the refugee children is invaluable to them and is really making a difference in helping the children in their every day school life and in their general socialisation. Next week they will be having their final session for the year and I am sure there will be some Christmas focus in the activities they do.

Our **Mock Election** is nearly upon us and our candidates have been working hard distributing their messages around the school. On Monday there will be an opportunity to hear the plans and policies of each candidate and party at the Hustings in the Sports Hall at second break. Each candidate will speak for one minute and then take questions from the audience. Not quite Question Time or the grilling interviews the political leaders are getting in the media and on

TV, but I am sure there will be some robust discussions taking place. Voting will take place on Wednesday and Thursday and we hope to announce our results by Friday morning.

Other activities going in the last couple of weeks have been **Charity Week for Years 8 and 9**. See [here](#) for more information and this week is **Fringe** week led by the Head Girl Team culminating in a lip sync battle today at lunch time in the Hall. Other activities have included a quiz between teachers and students which I believe the students won and a six word story competition.

Finally this morning I attended the Sixth Form Assembly which takes place every Friday morning. Today the assembly was led by Ms Stacey, Head of Sixth Form, and the title of her assembly was **'The Joy of Being Perfectly Imperfect'**. As an expert in working with young people on mental health and wellbeing, Ms Stacey asked everyone to think about their idea of perfection and what that means for people. She suggested that for many of us it is about being 'perfect' academically but it could also apply to being perfect in music or sport or perhaps as a person. She asked us to think about our beliefs and perceptions of being perfect and how this can create great stress and she challenged the students to look at things through a 'scale of awfulness' and how what we might think is awful fits on this broader spectrum of awfulness. By doing this we might be able to bring some greater perspective to how we think about ourselves and the concept of being perfect. She concluded by saying that trying to be perfect and achieve perfection is impossible so she suggested we 'allow imperfection' both for ourselves and others. Read the full assembly [here](#). Ms Stacey ended the assembly with this statement for everyone to consider:

'I am not perfect nor will I ever be. I am a work in progress and that is definitely good enough'

I leave you with this thought this weekend and hope it helps as we try to manage the stress and expectations we sometimes place on ourselves and others at this time of the year.

Have a good weekend.

Ms Christine Kattirtzi, Headteacher

SAFEGUARDING

County Lines – Information from Thames Valley Police - Stronghold

County Lines is the name given to drug dealing where organised criminal groups (OCGs) use phone lines to move and supply drugs, usually from cities into smaller towns and rural areas.

They exploit vulnerable people, including children and those with mental health or addiction issues, by recruiting them to distribute the drugs, often referred to as 'drug running'.

OCGs often use high levels of violence and intimidation to protect the 'county line' and control them.

One of these forms of control exploits vulnerable people by using their home as a base for dealing drugs, a process known as cuckooing.

Signs to look out for:

There are several signs to look out for that may indicate someone is involved in County Lines:

- Persistently going missing from school or home and being found in other areas

- Unexplained money, new clothes or electronic devices
- Receiving high numbers of texts or phone calls, being secretive about who they're speaking to
- Decline in school or work performance
- Significant changes in emotional or physical well-being

Cuckooing

Dealers often entice the vulnerable person into allowing their home to be used for drug dealing by giving them free drugs or offering to pay for food or utilities.

These OCGs are very selective about who they target as "cuckoo" victims. Often people they target are lonely, isolated, or frequent drug users themselves.

The OCGs often operate from a property for a short amount of time, frequently moving addresses in order to reduce the chance of being caught.

Signs to look out for:

There are several signs to look out for that may indicate someone is a victim of cuckooing:

- Frequent visitors at unsociable hours
- Changes in your neighbour's daily routine
- Unusual smells coming from a property
- Suspicious or unfamiliar vehicles outside an address

Contact us:

If you're concerned about drug-related crime in your area or think someone may be a victim of drug exploitation, please call us on 101 or 999 in an emergency. You can also [report online](#) or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111

Follow our Stronghold activity on social media using #TVPStronghold and #countylines.

CALENDAR

Week Commencing Monday 9th December 2019 (B Week)

Wednesday 11th December	Kendrick School Mock Elections Christmas lunch in the canteen (no need to pre-order)
Thursday 12th December	Kendrick School Mock Elections Christmas Concert, 6.30pm
Friday 13th December	Christmas Jumper Day

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

Key Events in Term 2

Monday 16th December

A Level Presentation and Awards Evening

Wednesday 18th December

Last Day of Term 2, 1.10pm

NEWS AND EVENTS - WHOLE SCHOOL

News on our Website, Local Press and Social Media

[Year 9 Induction to the Careers Library](#)

[Ashurst Law Trip: '100 Years of Women in Law'](#)

[Design Your Future Careers Event](#)

[Year 8 & 9 Charity Week](#)

[The Joy of Being Perfectly Imperfect](#)

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. Please send any articles and photos to aemberson@kendrick.reading.sch.uk. However, please ensure you have your child's 'permission' to do so! Thank you.

Reporting an Incident

Yesterday morning, on the way to school, one of our students was approached by a member of the public on a bus. This incident has been reported by the school to the police today.

Please remember that is very important that you phone 101 and report any inappropriate or worrying incidences that involve your child as soon as you are aware. The sooner the police are informed of this type of situation the sooner they can take action, and consequently have a greater chance of finding the perpetrator.

For more information on 101 please see the link below:

<https://www.police.uk/contact/101/>

Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 13th December

Friday 13th December is Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Save the Children. Students are invited to wear their Christmas jumper with their normal school uniform for a donation of £2.00.

Bad Weather

In the event of bad weather we will communicate the plans for the day as soon as we can, and by 7am if possible, as follows:

1. In the first instance please check the Kendrick School website
 2. We will follow this up with a ParentMail message. Please note that this message may take some time to reach parents/carers.
 3. BBC Radio Berkshire will also be informed.
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We will always communicate with you in extreme bad weather, however, if you do not receive any communication from us and the website remains unchanged, the school is open as normal.

KPS NEWS

Please see the latest KPS newsletter [here](#).

MUSIC@KENDRICK

Christmas Concert – Thursday 12th December 2019 – Tickets Still Available

Our **Christmas Concert** will feature a range of seasonal songs from Vox Choir, Senior Choir and Chamber Choir, with instrumental music from Vivaldi, Pentatonix, and Herbie Hancock. All of the school's main ensembles will perform, including all of Year 7 singing, Jazz Band and the staff band, 'No Direction', will bring their festive cheer to 'entertain' you again. We expect the concert to finish at approximately 8.45pm.

The KPS are kindly providing refreshments, including mince pies and non-alcoholic beverages which will be available before the concert from 6.10pm.

Please may we remind you that no parking is available on the school site unless you have a disability. If this is the case, then please contact Reception.

We hope that you are able to join us on this evening. However, if you are unable to attend and your child is taking part, you **must** arrange for their safe collection from school at the end of the evening. Students should not be walking home alone as the area around Kendrick School at this time of night is not a safe place for students.

Our Christmas concert tends to sell out quickly and tickets will be going on sale from 25th November. We therefore urge you to order them as soon as possible through Parentpay in order to avoid disappointment. Ticket price suggested donation: £5.00. In the first instance, tickets will be restricted to five per family. We politely ask for you not to leave ticket requests or queries until the day of the concert.

If you would like tickets for the Christmas Concert on Thursday 12th December please complete the order on Parentpay. Tickets will be distributed to students via the registers the day before the concert.

PARENTPAY REMINDERS

- Profiling Day activities – 20th November 2019
 - Year 7 Study Skills - £6
 - Year 8 Careers Sessions - £5
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- Year 10 Religious Education Workshops - £2.50
- Year 11 Revision Skills - £5.20
- A Level Biology Dale Fort field trip – please pay £50 deposit as soon as possible
- A Level Physics Revision resource – please pay £5.75 to order a copy
- Year 12 Maths Inspiration 10th March – please pay £10.50 by 9th December to confirm place

VACANCIES

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

[Biology Technician \(please apply immediately\)](#)

[Examination Invigilators](#)

NEWS AND EVENTS - STUDENTS

Year 8

County Lines

As you are aware all Year 8 students watched a performance called County Lines on Thursday funded by Thames Valley Police.

This was extremely powerful; shocking in parts but very well delivered and received by the students. Every student has been given a leaflet following the production which they will be bringing home so that they can discuss this further if they wish to.

Year 7

Christmas Concert –Thursday 12th December

As you will know, our Christmas Concert takes place on Thursday 12th December. We hope that all Year 7 students will be able to take part, singing a song (from memory) that we have been learning in Music lessons. Many students will also be performing in other extra-curricular ensembles, such as Sinfonia, Symphony Orchestra, Wind Orchestra and/or Vox Choir. If your child is unable to take part, please write to Music@kendrick.reading.sch.uk to confirm this.

Tickets

You will have received a letter to explain how to buy tickets for this concert and we would ask you to buy them as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. We politely ask for you not to leave ticket requests or queries until the day of the concert.

Travel and Arrival

Students should go home between the end of school and the concert. If the journey is a particularly difficult one, they may wish to organise to go to a friend's house instead. Please leave plenty of time to get to school for the concert – traffic congestion is always a problem on concert evenings and car parking is extremely limited around the school. Year 7 students should aim to arrive back at school at about 6.10pm and go straight to their meeting room (L if only in Year 7 Choir). There is an interval in this concert and I anticipate it will finish by 8.45pm.

We hope that all Year 7 parents will attend the concert and therefore be able to collect their child after the event in the Canteen. If you are not attending the concert, you **must** arrange to collect your child from school. Year 7 students should not be making their way home alone.

Any Year 7 students involved in other items should follow the instructions for that particular item (e.g. Wind Orchestra, Vox Choir or Sinfonia). All students will be given these instructions in their Music lessons, and detailed instructions will be displayed in each of the form rooms. Visitors should aim to be seated in the School Hall by 6.20pm at the latest.

The KPS are kindly providing the refreshments which will be available before the concert from 6.10pm. These will be available in the servery by the Hall. Do come along and have a mince pie and a non-alcoholic beverage.

Uniform

Students' uniform on the evening of the concert should be very smart, of course. Jumpers should be worn when on stage. Coats and bags etc. can be left in the meeting room backstage.

Year 7 teachers have been made aware that Year 7 students will not be in a position to do homework on the evening of the concert.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at what promises to be an exciting evening.

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

You are suffering from fever and cold. Your mother gives you four identical tablets which comprise of two tablets for fever and two tablets for cold. Now by no means you can identify which tablet serves which purpose. You have to take 1 tablet for fever and 1 tablet for cold to cure your condition. What will you do?

The answer will be published next week

Answer to last week's challenge:

Felix

Explanation:

Iron = Fe (chemical symbol)

59 = LIX (Roman numerals)

