

# Kendrick School

## Weekly Update

### Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020

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

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This week our focus has been on student profiling and Shakespeare. All students have seen their November report data and these reports will be sent out next week to parents. Students have all met with their tutor to discuss their progress, learning and life at school and a summary of this discussion appears on each report. We believe that this is a most valuable activity and it gives us a very good picture of the learning that is happening in school. The most important elements of this report are the attitude to learning grades – Academic Engagement, Learning Skills and Organisation. Parents - please concentrate on all the information on these reports and not just the achievement data that is represented by Progress and Attainment Band. Many students worked from home on Profiling Day and I am delighted with the successful trial that we conducted of our planned online registration; we received a prompt response from nearly every student.

Today a cast and crew of 84 students are putting on their production of 'As You Like It' in a brilliantly orchestrated and appropriately 'bubbled' way and I am looking forward to being in the small audience this afternoon. We will have a full review of the production and of the Shakespeare's School Festival in next week's update.

I hope that you have your tickets for tomorrow's KPS Cultural Event which is at 2.00pm and should be fabulous.

Mrs Conlon has been in the spotlight again; this week she was a star presenter at the highly regarded Women in STEM Conference. Her presentation, blog and question and answers were all excellent and reflect her passion and expertise in Physics and showcase the incredibly vibrant and popular Physics Department at Kendrick.

The English Department have announced the winner and runners up of the 100 word epic story on the theme 'Trapped'; congratulations go to: the winner, Giselle in 7SG and the two runners up, Nidhi in 8EG and Akeesha in 7WM with Arya in 11FL also receiving a special commendation.

This week we had a meeting of the governors' committee that considers the school's finance and resources. We discussed and debated the generally excellent condition of our building and facilities. There are, however, always issues with a site this big and complicated and we are currently looking very carefully at the swimming pool which is urgently in need of thousands of pounds of work. We passionately believe that everyone should be a confident swimmer and we are very proud that, by the end of Year 9, all our students are able to swim as this is such a fun, sociable and essential personal safety skill. If any parents feel that this news is the prompt that they need to give to School Fund then this would help us enormously.

We made some excellent appointments to Kendrick's staff this term which we are delighted with; we are, however, very keen to hear from any Chemistry teachers or links to Chemistry teachers. Please contact the school if you know a Chemistry teacher who may be interested in our vacancy.

**Mr Nick Simmonds, Acting Headteacher**

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# SAFEGUARDING/WELLBEING

## WORRIED ABOUT A CHILD?

If you have a concern about a child at Kendrick School please email [safeguarding@kendrick.reading.sch.uk](mailto: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.

## HAVING A CONVERSATION WITH YOUR CHILD ABOUT A SENSITIVE ISSUE

Starting a conversation with your child about a sensitive issue or something you don't usually talk about isn't always easy, especially if this means you will be talking about things they prefer to keep private, but there are ways to make having these conversations with your child easier. Please see the [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk) advice via the link below

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/having-a-conversation-with-your-child/>

## NEWS AND EVENTS - WHOLE SCHOOL

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

[House Colouring Event](#)

[Years 9 and 10 House Chess](#)

[Year 7 Craft Club](#)

[Year 7 Diwali Celebration at Kendrick](#)

### 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. You can check and change these details by sending an email to [admin@kendrick.reading.sch.uk](mailto:admin@kendrick.reading.sch.uk).

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.

We have launched the new system with **Year 13** who have their consultation evening on **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November**. So far 70% of parents have booked their appointments. **Year 11** parents/carers will receive an email next week inviting them to book their appointments online for the **Year 11 Parents' Consultation** taking place on **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December**. As always, new processes take time to bed in, so please bear with us during the early stages of introducing the system.

## SATURDAY STEM SPECTACULAR (TOMORROW!)

The event is being organised by the ASE working in collaboration with the University of Wolverhampton. It is an online STEM engagement event for people of all ages. The event is on **Saturday November 21st 2020 from 10-2pm**. There will be live and online presentations, will a range of activities aimed at primary children in the morning followed by an amazing lab tour. There will be a visit by presenters from Wales and NI around midday. The afternoon session will include presentations 5 or 6 aimed at older students and this will be followed by a provocative panel discussion to finish the day.

This Saturday STEM Spectacular is now live on Eventbrite for the Saturday STEM event is up: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/saturday-stem-spectacular-tickets-126207362619>

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## JOB VACANCIES AT KENDRICK SCHOOL

We have the following job vacancy at Kendrick School.

- **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](mailto: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.

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## PARENTPAY REMINDERS

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<b>Year 7</b>	Profiling Day Study Skills	£4.50
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All parents/carers: Please top up dinner money accounts if they are in debit.

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## KPS

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The KPS invite you to celebrate the diversity and richness of cultures within Kendrick School. Please buy a ticket for this **virtual Cultural Fest** by following the link below:

<https://www.trybooking.co.uk/VZZ>. If you do not wish to attend you can still make a donation using the same link.

**You will be sent a link to join the event this evening.**

There is still time to sign up to take part in the live online quiz , it's going to be fun with "Guess the teacher " questions plus a prize to win! To register your interest in the quiz email [monicalucia\\_b@hotmail.com](mailto:monicalucia_b@hotmail.com) -with KPS QUIZ in the subject line and your child's name and their year group information.

We also invite you to join us at the **KPS meeting** scheduled on **23rd November (6 - 7.30pm)**. If you wish to attend please email [secretary.kps.uk@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.kps.uk@gmail.com)

**KPS Committee**

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## NEWS AND EVENTS - STUDENTS

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### 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.

### ARE YOU MAKING YOUR MARK?

Young people are being asked to take part in the biggest youth consultation and begin their democratic journey by voting on the policies they want to introduce and change. Make Your Mark, run by the British Youth Council, is an opportunity for all 11-18 year olds across the UK to have their say on the issues that matter to them. Please take part online, by 30 November, by selecting one local and one UK-wide issue.

See [here](#) for more info and for a list of all topics, including one shortlisted from our the Reading Youth Cabinet campaign, 'Stop Plastic Pollution'.

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

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Try to find encrypted messages in the following rebus pictogram



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

**Image C** as it is an image of a left hand while rest are right hands.

