

Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Friday 19th November 2021

WEEKLY LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

Safeguarding is every school's highest priority. I hope that you see this at Kendrick from the information and guidance we send parents regularly in this update and by the support and care we give students. Earlier this week we had a Safeguarding Audit, initiated by us. Two external consultants were in school all day to review our safeguarding arrangements and speak to staff and students. At the end of the day, they gave me and Mr Simmonds, Deputy Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Officer, a verbal report, to be followed by a more detailed letter. The headline statement we were given was that at Kendrick **there is an embedded culture of safeguarding; students feel safe and staff are supported**. Of course, as with any review there are always points for discussion and development and we shall work through these in the next few weeks. Thank you to all the staff for maintaining an attitude and approach of vigilance towards safeguarding and the work we do to keep everyone safe in our school.

Related to safeguarding, an important report which I highlighted to parents and students last June, is the Ofsted report on **sexual abuse in school and colleges**. Like many schools we are working on highlighting this issue in school, including how we discuss matters with students in PSHCE and more generally. A recent educational event that took place in school was the performance of the play 'Unacceptable' which we showed to Years 10-13 and I mentioned to you a few weeks ago. We are investigating other ways in which we can identify and support students from this abuse which the report says is much more prevalent in young people's lives than we appreciate. A link to the report again is [here](#).

Last Thursday 11th November, the **Office of Qualifications and Examination Regulation, Ofqual**, published a statement about contingency planning in the event of the GCSE and A Level examinations being cancelled in the summer 2022. Whilst this seems unlikely given the vaccination programme, it is sensible of **Ofqual** to advise schools and colleges to prepare and have a Plan B. We are working on our Plan B and will follow Ofqual guidance about what we should have in place in the event of this happening. We will speak and inform Year 11, 12 and 13 students in the next few weeks. The guidance from Ofqual, including a letter for students, is [here](#).

Below are links to news items on our website about students and activities that have taken place or are planned, including our super production of **Legally Blond on Thursday and Friday 9th and 10th December**. Also, this week much activity and focus has been on **Anti Bullying week** and the theme '**One kind Word**' which was also the focus of an assembly Miss Long gave to Years 10 and 11 on Tuesday. Miss Long spoke about friendship, emphasising the importance of **respect, kindness and trust** as being the foundations of all relationships we have with each other.

- [Biology Week](#)
- [UN Mock Climate Conference](#) involving Geography students in Year 13
- Production of [Legally Blond](#)

Finally, all our arrangements are in place for the visit by **Theresa May, MP for Maidenhead**, which is taking place today. As I am writing this before the event, you will have to rely on students telling you about the visit. For next week's update we shall have a report and photos of the occasion. It is not every day in a school's life that a former Prime Minister makes a visit!

Wishing everyone 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.

For well-being support in school please visit the Student Welfare Team in the General Office or Sixth Form Office or email studentwelfare@kendrick.reading.sch.uk.

SAFEGUARDING – ANTI-BULLYING WEEK


SOURCE: [Anti-Bullying Alliance](#)

As parents and carers, we all want our children to be happy and safe and it is natural to worry about bullying - particularly if we have experienced bullying ourselves, or we think our child may be more vulnerable to bullying. The good news is you are not alone!

The Anti-Bullying Alliance and its members are here to work with children, families and schools to help keep children safe. Every November schools throughout the United Kingdom take part in Anti-Bullying Week. This is an opportunity to shine a spotlight on bullying and consider the steps we can take together to stop it. Anti-Bullying Week 2021 is taking place from Monday 15th to Friday 19th November this year and it has the theme 'One Kind Word'. As a parent or carer, you are a vital piece of the puzzle in tackling bullying. You have a unique role to play in guiding and supporting your child through their school years and there are lots of positive steps you can take to help keep your child safe from bullying and harm. One of the steps is knowing when to ask for support. At the end of this resource we have included details of organisations like Kidscape who can help. This tool was written with Kidscape and designed to give you information about bullying, tips about what to do if you're worried about bullying, the tools to help you talk to your children about bullying.

For the resource in full please click [here](#).

Student Welfare Team at Kendrick School



Mrs Hackett **Mrs Shaw**

Ms Lawlor **Ms Edwards**

The Base (in Sidmouth basement) is staffed by one of the Student Welfare Team during break and lunchtimes. This is a quiet space for students who would benefit from this. There is a relaxation area, art area and work stations available for your use. Please come to the General Office first to check there is space in The Base.

Contact: StudentWelfare@kendrick.reading.sch.uk

WELLBEING – DITCH THE LABEL: TOP TEN TIPS FOR DEALING WITH BULLYING

SOURCE: [Ditch the Label](#)

Bullying is something that can happen at any age, and overcoming it can be one of the hardest things to do. Bullying can make you feel alone, scared and worthless. In fact, more than a third of people go on to develop [social anxiety](#) and depression as a direct result of bullying.

If you're being bullied then you're not the only one. In fact, [almost half of us have at some point been bullied](#). As a leading global youth charity, Ditch the Label is here to help you overcome bullying once and for all.

For their **Top Ten Tips for Dealing with Bullying** please click [here](#).

NEWS, NOTICES AND EVENTS - WHOLE SCHOOL

KENDRICK SCHOOL PRODUCTION OF LEGALLY BLOND



September 2021 saw over 225 students sign up to audition for and to be a part of our upcoming production of Legally Blonde. This award-winning musical is based on the much-loved film of the same name, following the transformation of Elle Woods as she tackles stereotypes and scandal in pursuit of her dreams. Action-packed and exploding with memorable songs and dynamic dances, this musical is so much fun, it should be illegal!

Despite difficulties with Covid-19, auditions went ahead, both live and virtual, and the standard was incredibly high. Fast-forward two months and rehearsals of Act 2 are well underway, as are the development of the technical and artistic aspects. It really does feel good to get back into live musical theatre work again, and we can't wait to share what we've put together for you!

Staff in the Creative Team have integrated the areas of Music, Drama, Dance, Art and English together, enabling students from all year groups to be a part of the onstage cast, choreography team, the band, the sound and lighting teams, the set design and staging teams, the costume and make-up teams, the backstage crew and the advertising and marketing teams. We aim to demonstrate that labels and stereotypes don't define who you are; you have the power to achieve whatever you set out - don't let anyone tell you otherwise.

Performances are taking place on **Thursday 9th and Friday 10th December at 6.30pm** in the Hall. Tickets will be going on sale via Parent Pay soon, so keep your eyes peeled for more details in the next couple of weeks.

LATERAL FLOW TESTS

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

REDUCED MOBILITY

If your child has reduced mobility in school and needs crutches, please let us know via email, so that we can ensure a risk assessment is completed, to ensure your child's safe movement around the school. Also, if your child needs to bring in medication, please remind them to hand this into the General Office. Thank you

LATES

There are a number of students who are arriving persistently late to school, after 8.25am. It is important to arrive in good time for registration time, as this is when key messages are conveyed to students by their form tutor, and being on time helps your child to be prepared for the day ahead. Please support your child by encouraging them to arrive on time, and consider an adjustment to the usual transport arrangements if necessary. Thank you.

CALENDAR

Term 2

Wednesday 24 th 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, 1.05pm

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. **Please apply as soon as possible.**

KENDRICK PARENTS' SOCIETY (KPS)

Google's #IamRemarkable workshop

Kendrick Parents' Society is rolling out a workshop, **Google's #IamRemarkable**, to all the Kendrick parents. **The workshop is on Sunday 21st Nov from 2 to 4 pm.** If you are interested, [please fill this form](#). If you have any questions, please email KPSChair@kendrick.reading.sch.uk.

KPS Committee meeting

We invite you to the KPS committee meeting on the **24th Nov from 6 to 7:30 pm**. We will send you the agenda on Monday via our newsletter. If you are able to attend please email kpssecretary@kendrick.reading.sch.uk

Year 7 drop-in sessions with Ms Kattirtzi

KPS is organising these sessions again this year and the first session is for the new Y7 parents/carers. This will be held on 8th Dec from 6 to 7pm. Please follow our newsletter for more details.

KPS Non-school uniform day

KPS non uniform day is on 26th November. All the funds that will be raised that day will go to fund for the school productions. More details in our newsletter on Monday.

KPS team

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

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

This term the community committee are putting together a donation cause for the homeless through the school supported charity, New Beginnings. The idea is that each tutor group puts together a “shoebox of essentials” which is passed on to the charity leaders, which will then be distributed to those in need.

Items that each individual could bring in to be put in a shoebox could be:

- Shampoo/shower gel
- Shaving foam
- Moisturisers
- Deodorants
- Tooth brushes/Tooth paste/mini mouth washes
- Sanitary towels/tampons
- Toilet rolls
- Wet wipes
- Dry snacks (with a best before date for at least 6 months)
- Socks
- Christmas cards
- And shoeboxes of course! Although larger boxes would be preferable to put certain items in

Please ensure everything is in good condition to give away.

We need these ready within the next couple of weeks. An exact date will be confirmed shortly.

Thank you.

The Community Committee