

Kendrick School

Weekly Update

Wednesday 18th December 2019



Weekly Letter from Ms Kattirtzi, Headteacher

This is the last **Weekly Update** of the year and I would like to thank staff, students and parents for reading this message that I send to you very week which I hope gives you an insight into life at Kendrick. It is always such a privilege and pleasure to talk about what we do at Kendrick and share our news with you. I hope what I say and mention to you seems relevant and appropriate.

Even at this very late stage in the term, there has been much activity and many events taking place. Please look at the news items on the website for articles about events. One key event this week and an important occasion in our calendar was the **Presentation of A Level Certificates** to our students who left in the summer. Their achievements were once again excellent and many of them are now at university on courses they chose over a year ago. Some have taken a gap year or a deferment and some are in employment and on training courses. Please click [here](#) for a summary of their destinations. Our guest speaker this year was **Jennifer Brace**, a former student and now a lawyer at an international firm in Bristol. Her biography is [here](#). Like previous speakers Jennifer spoke about her experiences since leaving Kendrick and then gave the students some advice. Below are some extracts from of her speech.

While thinking about this speech I've tried to think about what is important to me now and what would have helped me to know or bear in mind when I was leaving school.

- **Make the effort with your friends and loved ones.** *In 2007 when I left school, the iPhone had just come out and people were just joining Facebook as they arrived at university. For me, this meant that social media was part of my life but not in such an all-encompassing way as it is today. Please do make the effort to see people and keep in touch with them more than just online. It can seem easy not to put a date in the diary but believe me, time will go very quickly if you don't. My two bridesmaids were Kendrick girls and I am so grateful to have friends that have known me for such a long time. Your friends from school are invaluable in that way. Equally, invest in the new friends you make and take a genuine interest in their lives. It makes life so much more rewarding. The same goes for family – I am fortunate enough to have a fantastic mum – your Chair of Governors as it happens – and dad and spending time with family and friends is something social media cannot replace. My son Rupert had a very difficult start in life and Matt and I would not have got through it without the love and support from each other and family and friends. I am therefore a firm believer that you reap what you sow when it comes to relationships.*
- **Keep talking.** *This is linked to my first point. Whether it's to teachers, friends, family or someone you meet on your travels, please try not to keep your thoughts bottled up. I'm not just talking about difficult feelings or thoughts - sharing a positive idea or message is equally important. I have a great line manager at work with whom I'm honest about what's going on - it makes our working relationship so much easier. You are all high achievers – you may not feel like it because you will **all** have done exceptionally well in this room, but you are. Kendrick is the most fantastic bubble which fosters your confidence and helps prepare you for the outside world. But the outside world is difficult in ways that are different to academic pressures. The best and healthiest way of coping with those difficulties is to talk about them, so please, however you can, make sure you share how you are feeling with someone you trust. Equally, you will be incredibly busy people, but if someone asks if they can have a chat, please do give them your time, as it **will** make all the difference to them.*

- **Work out what your values and priorities are.** As I say, you will be busy women, so make sure you are keeping yourself busy with what matters to you and being effective about it. For me, I love reading, so I make time in the evenings for me to read and also go to a book group with my friends - harder than it sounds with a one year old! Having said this, don't be afraid if you haven't worked it all out – you're only 18 or 19 and this early part of your adult life is to explore and try new experiences. But once you've found what makes you an individual, stay true to that, whether that's fighting for climate change or being passionate about historical houses.

Having explained what I've been up to and given you some advice, I'd like to set you a challenge, and it's to do with feminism and putting that advice into practice. I have become increasingly interested in feminism over the last few years, both inside and out of the workplace. This is due to events in the news, such as the Equal Pay scandal at the BBC as well as various books I have read, which I'm very happy to recommend to anyone who is interested. I am also involved in Osborne Clarke's work to improve their support of women within the business - a topic in itself.

While the term has historically come with some baggage, being a feminist means believing in political, economic and social equality between men and women. This should not be a controversial stance within society but some people do struggle with it. However, there has been a huge shift in feminism in the last 3 years, prompted in part by the 'MeToo' scandal. Women are finally speaking out, together, and bringing awareness to the masses via social media. It is fascinating to be a part of the generation where gradually the status quo is changing and rather than just being talked about, women are making genuine strides towards equality. We are still far away from that ideal, but even small elements such as female presenters taking over from retiring male ones contribute to society accepting women are just as capable as men.

I recently read about the absence of women from the creation of most societal norms - from algorithms to medicinal doses to government policy. There is a wide reaching gap in evidence specific to women, and this propagates bias towards men in all areas. While this is one level of gender inequality, another more visible gap is women in positions of responsibility - of the FTSE 350 companies, only 14 women are chief executives there. This is up from 12 last year, but makes for slow progress. I was heartened last week to read that Finland has just appointed its first female Prime Minister to lead an all female coalition government - it is news such as this which ensures the social conversation continues around female progression.

Kendrick has fostered your talent as exceptional women and amply prepared you for the outside world. However, you have been fortunate enough to study alongside **just** other girls. The world you are about to venture out to sadly has a lot of men in a lot of powerful positions. Do not be cowed by this but understand that just because that is how it currently is, does not mean it must remain so. Hold on to your confidence that Kendrick has instilled in you.

My challenge to you is to go out there and fight for your place at the table, whatever form that table may take. Use that sense of community that Kendrick creates to help create opportunities for other women whenever you see them. There is the societal will for change and you have the intelligence and skills to be an important part of that. Confidence is key - I know you will all go on to achieve great things and be great examples to other women. However, there are many ways to do this so you must find the right way for you. The actress Viola Davis said 'Do not live someone else's life and someone else's idea of what womanhood is. Womanhood is you.' I think this is an important message to keep with you when navigating the next stage of your life.

We are lucky enough to live in a progressive country but a country which is not without its challenges. Make the effort with your relationships, keep talking, be a feminist, and I'm sure you will enjoy building on the fantastic foundation Kendrick has helped you create. Many congratulations to you all.

I would like to thank Jennifer for the good advice and challenge she set the students which I feel could extend to all of us. As we finish the term and year, let us all take on board some of Jennifer's advice: make time for our friends and family, keep talking about the easy things but also the more difficult, this is also good for our mental health and

wellbeing, think about what is important in our lives and the values we hold dear to us and not waver in our support of them.

Thank you to everyone: staff, students, parents and governors for the year we have had, the huge successes and achievements of everyone and the contributions that each and everyone makes to our community.

I wish you all a restful, peaceful and joyous Christmas.

Ms Christine Kattirtzi, Headteacher

SAFEGUARDING

How do I cope during the holiday? – Advice from ‘Sam’ at Childline

“I feel as if life will be like this forever. I see a counsellor in school, but because it's the holidays I can't speak to her and find it so hard to speak to anyone else. How do I get through the holidays? I'm struggling to cope especially knowing I have no one to speak to. Who do I talk to?”

“Holidays can be great if things are going well - a long holiday from school or college is sometimes exactly what people want. For others though it can be very tough. School might be a place to escape from a bad situation at home, it might be the place where friends are or it might be the source of support. Losing having someone to talk to can be a big shock to the system when you've come to rely on it.

If there's nobody to talk to at home, I would recommend [talking to a counsellor at Childline](#) or calling 0800 1111. The counsellors are there to listen and support you, and nothing too big or too small to talk to about. If you're worried about what it might be like, you're welcome to try it out once to see if it's right for you.

There are also lots of ways you can get support from Childline without talking to someone, such as letters on my page, reading or replying to posts on the [message boards](#) or using our [Art Box](#) to express yourself.

Don't forget you also have a personal journal and mood tracker that you can write in - you can find this in your [locker](#).”

CALENDAR

Week Commencing Monday 6th January 2020 (B Week)

Monday 6th January

INSET Day, school closed to students

Tuesday 7th January

Start of Term 3, 8.25am

Year 11 Mock Examinations

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

Key Events in Term 3

Monday 13th January	KPS Meeting
Thursday 30th January	Year 12 Parents' Consultation
Monday 10th February	KPS Meeting
Tuesday 11th February	Year 8 Parents' Consultation
Wednesday 12th February	Music Performance Event
Friday 14th February	End of Term 3. 3.15pm

NEWS AND EVENTS - WHOLE SCHOOL

News on our Website, Local Press and Social Media

[Kendrick Book Club Christmas Party](#)

[Santa Claus is Coming to Kendrick!](#)

[Library Christmas Quiz 2019](#)

[Presentation of the A Level Certificates and Awards Evening](#)

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.

KPS NEWS

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

PARENTPAY REMINDERS

Please log into your ParentPay account during the holidays to ensure that all payments owing have been made and that dinner money and printing accounts are topped up. Thank you.

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 11

GCSE Mock Examinations

The GCSE mock examinations will be taking place after the Christmas break during the period **Tuesday 7th January – Wednesday 15th January 2020** inclusive. A large number of exams have to be fitted into a limited period of time. On some days students may have up to three exams.

The mock examination timetable has already been emailed to students and individual timetables, to include language orals, seating arrangements and any special arrangements, will be emailed to the students shortly to show when they will need to be in school.

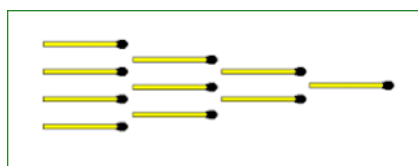
Students will be required to attend school on every day that they have an examination and remain in school until they have finished all exams for that day. Morning examinations start at 8.30am so they will need to be in school by 8.10am if they have an examination in the first session. The exception to this is Tuesday 7th January when the morning examination will start at 9.00am so students can arrive at the usual time of 8.25am.

After exam(s) have finished for the day students may then go home. With your consent we would be happy for students to stay at home to do exam preparation or coursework on days when they have no examinations. If, however, you wish your child to remain in school at all times during the exam period then please notify me using the email address twilson@kendrick.reading.sch.uk and there will be rooms made available for private study in school. If I am not notified prior to the Christmas break I shall assume you are happy for your child to be at home during these periods.

I appreciate that illness cannot be avoided but please encourage your child to have 100% attendance during this period. Rescheduling missed examinations is not easy and may mean missing lessons in the week after examination week in order to be assessed in every subject. Normal lessons will resume on Thursday 16th January 2019.

Please note that whenever students are in school they should be wearing correct school uniform.

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



As shown in the image below, group of fishes are swimming from left to right. By moving just three matchsticks, can you make fishes from right to left?

Answer to last week's challenge:

I am Spice

Spice is hot, if you remove the first two alphabets, it becomes "ice", which is really cold.

