

Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Friday 10th December 2021

WEEKLY LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

It was wonderful to have a remote **'drop-in' with Year 7 parents** on Wednesday evening hosted by KPS. Over 40 parents joined the meeting and it was clear that they were pleased about the experiences their children have had so far at Kendrick, as well as grateful for the support, teaching and guidance from teachers and staff. We all agreed that the students are very tired at this stage in the term and all are in need of a break from school. Thank you to the parents that joined the meeting and to KPS for hosting the event. The next drop-in is with Year 8 parents and which will be on January 13th 2022, 5.30-6.30-pm. Meetings are scheduled for all year groups during Terms 3 and 4.

The first of our two performances of the musical **Legally Blonde**, took place last night and I am told that it was brilliant; I can't wait to watch tonight's performance! Thank you to everyone involved, in particular Mrs Cooper whose initiative this was at the end of the last academic year and also to Miss Hyde, Ms Fieldsend, Miss MacDiarmid, Miss Long and Mrs Souch, as well as other staff who have been involved in the music and technical side of the production, and of course all the students, both on and off stage, back and front of house. It is an immense achievement to have been able to put on such a production in difficult and uncertain times and demonstrates the huge dedication and commitment of our staff and enthusiasm of our students. Also thank you to KPS for providing sponsorship for the production and refreshments for the event.

A reminder that a **questionnaire about sexual abuse** was sent to all parents, staff, students and governors earlier in the week seeking people's knowledge and understanding of this important issue. We would like responses back by 4th January or before and will collate findings which will help us in our planning and training on this very important safeguarding matter.

The new **Covid safe measures** announced by the government on Wednesday, many of which have come into force today, confirm what we have already been doing at Kendrick. As I have said before, we have very low levels of infection and absence amongst our staff and students, which I hope will remain until the end of term. Please make sure Lateral Flow Tests are happening twice a week or more frequently if necessary, so that we can minimise infections and get to the end of term safe and well. Again, please note the information that was sent to you earlier in the week about the testing schedule for 4th January 2022, when all students must be tested before they return to school at the beginning of next term.

Christmas preparations continue and I am pleased to say that our students are thinking of others at this time of the year. Over **30 Christmas shoeboxes** have been put together from forms across the school to be taken to our chosen **charity New Beginnings**. We hope the gifts will bring some joy to the people that receive them and demonstrate that we care for them. The Christmas period can be a very difficult time for some people and it is important that amongst all the business and fun of the season, we take time to think about others less privileged than ourselves, a theme I will focus on next week. The Christmas concert will be sent to you next week and through some assemblies and other events we will be thinking about the spirit of Christmas as we get to the end of term.

Last week, I showcased some of our Christmas activities that are underway and featured on the [website](#). Continuing our festive traditions, today students and staff are wearing **Christmas jumpers** and paying a £2.00 donation to **Save the Children Fund**. Every year we produce a **Christmas card** which a student has designed, and this year's card

is the beautiful creation by **Shruthi in Year 12**. We now send our cards electronically and accompanied by some music also produced by our students. This year's version is ready to present to you today via this [link](#), enjoy!

Wishing you a good 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 – COUNTY LINES

SOURCE: [NSPCC](#)

County lines is a form of criminal exploitation where urban gangs persuade, coerce or force children and young people to store drugs and money and/or transport them to suburban areas, market towns and coastal towns (Home Office, 2018). It can happen in any part of the UK and is against the law and a form of child abuse.

Children and young people may be criminally exploited in multiple ways. Other forms of criminal exploitation include child sexual exploitation, trafficking, gang and knife crime.

County lines gangs are highly organised criminal networks that use sophisticated, frequently evolving techniques to groom young people and evade capture by the police.

Perpetrators use children and young people to maximise profits and distance themselves from the criminal act of physically dealing drugs (National Crime agency, 2019). Young people do the majority of the work and take the most risk.

Dedicated mobile phone lines or “deal lines” are used to help facilitate county lines drug deals. Phones are usually cheap, disposable and old fashioned, because they are changed frequently to avoid detection by the police. Gangs use the phones to receive orders and contact young people to instruct them where to deliver drugs. This may be to a local dealer or drug user, or a dealer or drug user in another county.

Phrases that young people may use to refer to county lines include:

- 'running a line',
- 'going OT/out there'
- 'going country'
- 'going cunch'.

These all refer to going out of town to deliver drugs or money (Thurrock Council, 2020).

NSPCC has put together some information to help anyone who works or volunteers with children and young people to recognise the signs that a child might be being exploited by a county lines gang and understand what action to take to help keep children safe.

This includes:

- [the risks associated with county lines](#)
- [recognising](#) and [responding](#) to concerns about county lines
- how professionals can work to [prevent](#) county lines
- a summary of the relevant [legislation and guidance](#).

WELLBEING – MANAGING SOCIAL MEDIA


SOURCE: [Anna Freud](#)

Since the coronavirus shutdowns, our lives have been disrupted greatly and usual routines have changed for most of us. Whilst social media can be an effective tool for staying connected to friends and family, it can also be a place where negative language and imagery is regularly shared which can have a negative impact on your mental health and wellbeing.


Anna Freud's managing social media booklet aims to highlight some key social media issues and offers advice and guidance on how to minimise the impact of social media on your mental health. The booklet was written by Louisa Rose, a freelance social media expert and [Parent Champion](#) at the Anna Freud Centre, working with Centre staff with feedback and input from the Centre's [Young Champions](#).

Please click on this [link](#) for more information.


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

NEWS, NOTICES AND EVENTS - WHOLE SCHOOL

LANGUAGES FOR WELLNESS – SASWATHI, YEAR 8

On Sunday 26th September, it was European Language Day, which is celebrated in order to promote awareness of the importance of language in our community. To commemorate this special event, the Goethe Institut in London had hosted a 'Languages for Wellness' competition. Participants had to write a paragraph outlining how languages can have an impact on our wellbeing. A week ago, I had received a letter from the Institution to say I had won the competition! In the box, there was also some German goodies including a bullet journal, a PE bag, some earphones and more!

For Saswathi's entry for the Goethe Institute Competition for Languages and Wellbeing please click [here](#).

PARENTING COURSES – BRIGHTER FUTURES FOR CHILDREN

Brighter Futures for Children will be delivering the following online parenting courses from January 2022:

- **Group PPP course for parents whose child is aged 4-11 years** – helps parents understand the causes of their child's behaviour and equips them with strategies to manage challenging behaviour (Starts 13 Jan for nine weeks, 10am-12noon)
- **Teen PPP course for parents whose child is aged 11-19 years** – supports parents to deal with their teenager's risky behaviour, promotes their teen's development and equips parents with strategies to manage escalating behaviours (Starts 12 Jan for nine weeks, 10am-12noon)
- **Who's in Charge? For parents whose child is aged 8-16 years** – supports parents whose children are verbally and physically challenging and is becoming increasingly violent and defiant (Starts 18 Jan for nine weeks, 10.30am-12.30pm)
- **Living with autism – for parents whose child has received a diagnosis for autism** – gives parents an understanding of autism and strategies to use at home with their child (Starts 5 Jan for six weeks, 10am-12.30pm)

To book a place, email: Parenting.Reading@brighterfuturesforchildren.org or call 07812 462799.

LAST DAY OF TERM 2 – THURSDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2021, 1.05PM

The last day of term is **Thursday 16th December**. Students will be dismissed from school at 1.05pm. Please be aware that if your child normally uses the Library after school, it will close at 1.05pm on that day.

RETURN TO SCHOOL COVID TESTING – TUESDAY 4TH JANUARY 2022

In line with government guidance, all secondary school students must undertake one COVID test on-site at the start of Term 3 followed by one LFD self-test at home 3-4 days after their on-site test. This will take place at Kendrick School on **Tuesday 4th January, the day before term starts on Wednesday 5th January**.

Please see the timings below for each year group.

TUESDAY 4TH JANUARY

Y7	08.30 – 09.30
Y8	09.30 – 10.30
Y9	10.30 – 11.30
Y10	11.30 – 12.30
Y11	12.30 – 13.30
Y12	13.30 – 14.30
Y13	14.30 – 15.30

If you have more than one child in the school, they can both/all attend one session. Please email coverstaff@kendrick.reading.sch.uk if this is the case, stating their names, year groups and the session they will all attend.

If your child has had COVID within the last 90 days they should not take the test. Please email coverstaff@kendrick.reading.sch.uk if this is the case.

Students are expected to arrive promptly and report to the Conservatory where registers will be taken at the start of their allocated time slot. They should leave immediately after their test is complete and not remain in school for any reason. Parents/carers must not drop their child on East Street as this causes traffic congestion. Please also be considerate of our neighbours if parking nearby.

We will be using the Flowflex LFT tests that students are probably familiar with as these have been distributed over the past few weeks. The test requires only a nasal swab so students can use the camera on their phone as a mirror or if they don't have a smartphone can bring a small mirror to help with this process. If the test result is negative they'll be free to leave within the hour, if positive they will be asked to wait in a separate area and you will be contacted to collect them. They can choose to submit the test results on the NHS website and Medical Tracker themselves using their phone or bring the test strip home for an adult to do on their behalf. Students do not need to wear uniform on this day.

Please can I remind you to ensure your child continue testing twice weekly (Wednesday and Sunday evenings) including during the holidays and that they collect sufficient test kits from school before we break up to enable this. The results of these tests should be submitted on both the NHS website and Medical Tracker.

I would also like to remind parents/carers that, if you are travelling overseas over the Christmas period, you must be back in time to allow for any quarantine periods and for your child/children to attend the testing on Tuesday 4th January.

Thank you for your support with this mandatory and important process.

LATERAL FLOW TESTS

Please could we remind you that students should be testing twice weekly for COVID and that you should report results on both the NHS website and Medical Tracker.

Students can collect new testing kits from one of three areas in school -

Main School - Servery area
Horizons - Eating area
Sixth form Block - Outside the Library.

The testing kits we have been supplied with are slightly different and require a slightly different process. A user guide will be included in the packs.

Thank you very much for your continued cooperation with this.

CALENDAR

Term 2

Wednesday 15 th December	Canteen Christmas lunch
Thursday 16 th December	Last day of Term 2, 1.05pm

Term 3

Tuesday 4 th January	COVID testing in school for all students
Wednesday 5 th January	Start of Term 3, 8.25am

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: extended to 9am Monday 10th January 2022.**

Invigilators: Hours to suit the requirements of the examination season. **Please apply as soon as possible.**

KENDRICK PARENTS' SOCIETY (KPS)

KPS are providing refreshments at the Legally Blonde event at school. Please drop in to get some cakes and nibbles. We were happy to serve you yesterday and are keen to see many parents dropping in tonight too!

As this year comes to an end, **we wish to thank the school teachers, staff, support staff, parents, carers, students and the Head Teacher for all the help and support they have extended to KPS.** KPS is a registered charity run by some school parents, who feel encouraged when we get your support. We hope you will be with us throughout your journey with the school!!

We wish you all a very happy and healthy new year, have a nice festive break!!

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.