

Kendrick School

Weekly Update

Thursday 17th December 2020

WEEKLY LETTER FROM MR SIMMONDS, ACTING HEADTEACHER

I am writing the update this week on the night before the end of term, Last Day of Term Eve in fact, and I know that many of the school's community will be at home looking forward to a well-earned holiday and rest. I too cannot wait to have a weekday not started by an alarm clock and an evening without preparation and homework for the next day. I also find myself looking back at a remarkable term and as I do so, my overwhelming emotion is one of gratitude. We have an incredible school filled with extraordinary individuals and no amount of bubbling, sanitising and distancing has been able to dispel the thirst for knowledge and excitement of learning that happens year upon year at Kendrick. I am bowled over by the professionalism of all our staff who have kept the school running so smoothly and I am so grateful to all our parents who have put their trust in the school to look after all its students, to make learning accessible from school and home and to make lessons interesting and memorable.

To all the students I tip my hat to you all for your fortitude and adaptability; you have been kind to each other, attentive in lessons, punctual with homework and still have found time for plays, pantomimes, dance competitions, competitions, house events, fund raising activities, awareness raising events, house competitions, clubs, societies, assemblies, Widening Horizons support to primary school students and so much more besides.

Looking forward I do not know what January will bring as it seems everyday something comes to my office or email that I have never seen or thought about before. I hope for the continued smooth running of school, I wish for political consensus and wise leadership as we steer our course through the next leg of the COVID journey and I believe that whatever comes our way we will deal with together with courage and care and the spirited resolve that has characterised the school year so far.

This week there has been a little less going on in school as we prepare for the holiday with the main event being Year 12 Christmas production of 'A COVID School Musical' that was performed on Tuesday to a select audience and we will all be watching before coming home on Thursday. Thank you Year 12 for working so hard on this and I cannot wait to see it. We also managed to celebrate the first of a series of author's birthdays and this week the English department gave us a fabulous set of [Jane Austen activities](#) to enjoy.

If you have not had a chance yet please watch the [Christmas Concert](#) and the [Year 10 pantomimes](#) both of which will help to brighten your mood.

I wish you all a fabulous holiday. Try not to miss school too much and we start again on Tuesday 5th January with renewed hope and vigour.

Mr Nick Simmonds, Acting 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 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.

SAFE AND SOUND THIS CHRISTMAS?

Sadly, for some people Christmas is not a happy holiday to look forward to. The sad reality is Christmas can be a time when children and young people struggle to cope with being ignored, bullied and abused.

Below is a link to an article which was written last year but is still very relevant and looks at 12 Safeguarding issues over the Christmas period..

<https://www.myconcern.co.uk/blog/christmas-safeguarding/>

LIFELINES

The [NSPCC](#) are there to help 24/7 and children can call their [Childline](#) number on 0800 1111

Help for adults concerned about a child can call 0808 800 5000

[Shout](#) is the UK's first 24/7 text service, free on all major mobile networks, for anyone in crisis anytime, anywhere. It's a place to go if you're struggling to cope and you need immediate help. Text 85258

NEWS AND EVENTS - WHOLE SCHOOL

NEWS ON OUR WEBSITE, LOCAL PRESS AND SOCIAL MEDIA

[Christmas Bake-Off](#)

[Year 7 Christmas Craft](#)

[Year 9 Careers Activity Competition](#)

[Jane Austen's 245th Birthday](#)

[Library Advent Acts of Kindness](#)

TERM 3 2020-21

Monday 4 th January 2021	INSET Day – school closed to all students
Tuesday 5 th January 2021	First day of Term 3, 8.25am
Friday 12 th February 2021	Last day of Term 3, 3.15pm

You may have read the news that the start of Term 3 may be staggered to allow school staff to be trained in COVID testing. This has not yet been clarified or confirmed, so at this moment in time, school will begin for all students on

Tuesday 5th January 2021 as planned. If there are changes to this we will let you know as soon as we can, so please keep an eye on your emails over the Christmas holidays.

CONTACT TRACING

Once the term has finished on 17th December the school must record any positive COVID cases for a further 6 days (23rd December). Therefore if your child tests positive for COVID during this period please email admin@kendrick.reading.sch.uk as soon as you receive the test result.

MESSAGE FROM JAN NOWECKI, CHAIR OF THE GOVERNING BODY

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to take the opportunity to reflect on the work that has taken place this autumn which has meant our students have been able to positively continue their learning as we would all expect.

On behalf of the Governors I would like to thank all of the staff, students and their families for engaging positively in the arrangements that have been made to keep everyone safe under the current circumstances. This has required an incredible effort from everyone whether that is ensuring safe travel to school, closely following our strict hygiene rules or interacting in our new virtual world and we thank each and every one of you. Undoubtedly we will need to continue with these arrangements into the New Year but I am confident that our Kendrick community will stay strong.

I am pleased to be able to update you that Ms Kattirtzi is making progress with her recovery. For a number of weeks now she has been working remotely from home, joining meetings, talking to staff and students and building towards returning to school in person. We are expecting that she will be back in school for short periods at the start of term in January and will build up to being on site full time as the term progresses. I know that we will all be delighted to welcome her back and I also know she would want me to thank everyone again for their continued cards, gifts and messages of support which have meant a great deal to her.

On both Ms Kattirtzi's and the Governors' behalf I would particularly like to acknowledge the work Mr Simmonds and the leadership team have undertaken. This term has been like no other and Kendrick has continued to be strongly and professionally led and I thank them all.

What has been wonderful to see this autumn is the creative and innovative way events have continued to happen; whether this is the formal open days and parents' evenings through to the wonderful drama, music, quizzes and house competitions - this is the true nature of Kendrick and I feel very proud to be involved with the school.

May I take this opportunity to send you, your family and friends every good wish for the festive season. I hope you will be able to take advantage of the latitude we have been offered by the government and let us all hope that 2021 will prove to be a better year.

Keep safe and well. Best wishes

Jan Nowecki

Chairman of Governors.

VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2020

This year has certainly had its ups and downs, but everyone has been working hard to help each other out and stay safe in doing so. For us in Music, this has meant completely changing the way things are done, but we have still been able to rehearse in small groups in a Covid-safe way and enjoy expressing ourselves musically, spreading joy around the school.

This year's Christmas Concert has had a theme of festivity and togetherness, and we hope that the items you hear bring you a little happiness and can be shared with loved ones far and wide. At less than 45 minutes, it can be enjoyed over lunch, during a relaxed evening with family, or whenever you like.

We wish you all a happy and healthy festive season and look forward to making more music in 2021.

You can access the concert via the link below:

<https://youtu.be/x5ludMTkT5Y>

YEAR 10 PANTOMIME - IT'S PANTO SEASON (OH NO IT'S NOT!)

During this unusual festive season, our Year 10 Drama students at Kendrick have tried to maintain their 'normal' routine of putting on a panto for students to watch, and this year it is no different! They have worked tirelessly to put on this show for everyone to enjoy and we hope that you do.

You can access the pantomime via the link below:

<https://youtu.be/l8BOs9FdbMg>

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 30th 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

Android phone users, download the app here: 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.

The login details are your email address and mobile telephone number. You can check and change these details by sending an email to admin@kendrick.reading.sch.uk. **When you are downloading the app you need to CREATE an account using these details.** You will then be texted a PIN by School Gateway to verify your account.

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.

PARENTPAY REMINDERS

All parents/carers: Please top up dinner money accounts if they are in debit. Please also check your ParentPay account to ensure there are no outstanding payments due.

NEWS AND EVENTS – STUDENTS

ACCELERATION TRAMPOLINE CLUB

Starting in January, Kendrick School students will have access to an on-site trampoline club run by an experienced and fully qualified British Gymnastics coach, the club welcomes students of all abilities from complete beginner to competitive performer.

Trampolining provides a number of health benefits, such as increased fitness, strength and flexibility, and can also increase the mental well-being of participants by improving self-confidence, leadership skills and providing a sense of achievement.

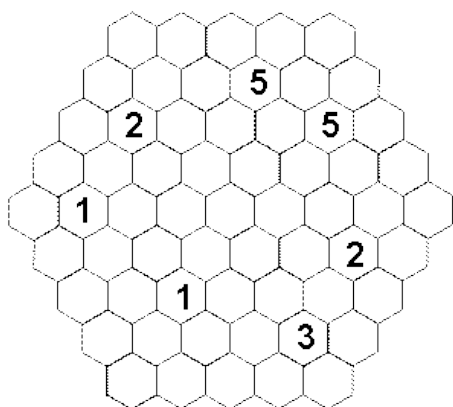
As an individual sport, trampolining can be conducted in a very safe, COVID-secure environment and all precautions will be taken to ensure the safety of the participants.

Acceleration Trampoline Club will run in the sports hall after the school day finishes, Monday to Friday. Membership spots are limited, and will be on a first come first serve basis.

For more information, please contact us at accelerationtc@gmail.com

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

Find a looped path through the diagram subject to the following constraints. The path proceeds from one hexagon to an adjacent hexagon through the center of each hexagon, passes through no hexagon more than once, does not go through any numbered hexagon, and never makes a acute angle turn (i.e., a turn at a 60° angle). Each number indicates how many of the adjacent hexagons are part of the path



Answer to last week's challenge:

