

# Kendrick School - Weekly Update

## Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021

### WEEKLY LETTER FROM MR SIMMONDS, ACTING HEADTEACHER

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Three weeks ago I reported on Ms Kattirtzi's rapid return to work and I am delighted to be able to tell you that she will be resuming her position as Headteacher from the start of next term. This means that I will be stepping down from the Acting Headteacher role that I took on at the start of the academic year. It has been an extraordinary privilege to have led such an incredible school for a few months. I am not sure that it is possible to have a more dedicated, talented and supportive group of staff or more focused, inclusive and interested students. It is now great to have the leadership team back to full capacity and to be working again with a fully recovered Ms Kattirtzi.

Another term is drawing to a close and as staff and students finish off the last tasks of the week and pause to draw breath we can all reflect on another highly rewarding yet challenging term. School holidays are always a time for rest and recuperation and at the moment they feel as valuable as ever. In school I have asked the staff to reduce email traffic to effectively zero with only the most critical of communications to be made. I hope that our students will enjoy a break from the stream of emails and notifications that are part of the essential rhythm of remote learning.

Last week we had some excellent staff training on managing wellbeing and workload and now Miss Heath has distributed a series of workshops to tutors and these are being shared with students who are encouraged to identify some of their own working traits, and consider strategies they can use to help manage them.

Parents too can read and consider the information sent out by Miss Heath for parents on [managing workload and perfectionism](#). I am sure that all of us will find something of use in what is presented.

I am pleased to say that the Oxford Schools' debating competition was a great success and two of our students, Abbie and Sasha in Year 13, were quite brilliant and have progressed to the finals. We will keep you posted.

I have been remotely popping into lessons in the last few weeks and it is privilege to join in what are always fascinating and engaging lessons which I never want to leave; it has been terrible for my time management. Yesterday I was with a Year 11 class who were all discussing and questioning the material that they were working on and I left the lesson wishing that I had had a similar experience when I was taught Biology. The students were so interested and able to raise their ideas and questions and have them answered and discussed with great knowledge and clarity. I could not resist joining an Art class in which year 7 were recreating work by Friedensreich Hundertwasser; I was furiously sketching away and cannot wait to finish the assignment during the holiday. On Wednesday the PE department were busy recording their latest workout video lesson and I am sure that their willingness to do the exercises is a strong motivational lead for students to follow.

Tuesday was Safer Internet Day and the theme was *An Internet we trust: exploring reliability in the online world*. This could not be more relevant than it is today when sorting the facts and the truth from the speculation and misinformation is what might make the difference to the battles we face as a community and nation and the decisions and responses we make to the challenges of the COVID pandemic.

Next week I will be enjoying a break from the usual flood of emails as well as tackling my next drawing class on 'colour pencil portraits' and relaxing with an at-home spa break which hopefully will be as much fun to do as it has been to plan. I wish you all a safe and relaxing holiday.

**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](mailto: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.

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.

## SAFER INTERNET DAY – TUESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2021

February 9th was [Safer Internet Day](#) and this year the theme was:

### **An Internet we trust: exploring reliability in the online world**

The internet has an amazing range of information and opportunities online, but how do we separate **fact** from **fiction**, and **safe** from **unsafe**?

### **Top tips for 11-19s**

- Protect your online reputation: use the services provided to manage your digital footprints and 'think before you post.' Content posted online can last forever and could be shared publicly by anyone.
- Know where to find help: understand how to report to service providers and use blocking and deleting tools. If something happens that upsets you online, it's never too late to tell someone.
- Don't give in to pressure: if you lose your inhibitions you've lost control; once you've pressed send you can't take it back.
- Respect the law: use reliable services and know how to legally access the music, film and TV you want.
- Acknowledge your sources: use trustworthy content and remember to give credit when using others' work/ideas.

For more tips and information please click [here](#)

If you would like more information on what you can do to support your child with this please see further information below:

[Safer Internet UK](#) have created a collection of materials that contain safety tips, advice and resources about how young people and children can ensure that they stay safe online.

Please find a link too some helpful Online Safety Guides [here](#)

There is also a [National Online Safety Mobile App](#) which can be found [here](#).

## SUPPORTING PARENTS HELPFINDER (YOUNG MINDS)

Times are tough for many people right now. Parents find themselves pulled in many different directions and children may be struggling being in the house for so much longer than usual. A mixture of concern about COVID, work from home and children at home, along with a possible financial impact make for a stressful household. Young Minds have created a useful 'Supporting Parents Helpfinder'. By answering six questions, parents can find out how to support their child's mental health during the pandemic (and beyond).

Find the help finder here: <https://youngminds.org.uk/supporting-parents-helpfinder/>

## WHEN EMOTIONS EXPLODE (YOUNG MINDS)

Young Minds have also created a useful poster highlighting ways to give support to children when they have angry feelings or outbursts and may help families start a conversation and talk about each other's feelings.

Download the poster here:

<https://youngminds.org.uk/media/4291/when-emotions-explode-poster.pdf>

## SCHOOL NURSING LETTER FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Please click [here](#) for the February edition of the school nursing letter for secondary schools. This letter is aimed at both parents/carers and students.

## NEWS AND EVENTS - WHOLE SCHOOL

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### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

Dear Parents and Carers

In advance of the break I would like to update you in relation to Ms Kattirtzi's full return to school.

You will be aware from Mr Simmonds's updates that we have been pleased to welcome Ms Kattirtzi back to work in recent weeks and they have been working together to ensure a comprehensive update so that Ms Kattirtzi can fully resume her role after the holiday.

On behalf of the Governors I would particularly like to acknowledge and thank Mr Simmonds for the very professional approach he has taken as Acting Headteacher; the school has continued to be well led in what has been very challenging circumstances.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a good break and thank you for continuing to support our students in their remote learning. Let us hope that there will be some relaxation in the lockdown arrangements in the near future so that they can all get back into school.

Best wishes

**Jan Nowecki**

**Chair of the Governing Body**

### NEWS ON OUR WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

[Chinese New Year](#)

## BERKSHIRE MAESTROS HALF TERM HOLIDAY COURSES

This February half term, Berkshire Maestros will be running a series of courses for only **£10!** Some of these require an instrument and a bit of musical experience (perfect for those doing In2Music, Play On or have just started lessons), some are for more advanced students, and some are for complete beginners, no experience or instrument needed! Click on the link below to find out more:

<https://www.flipsnack.com/bmaestros/february-half-term-music.html>

## KENDRICK SCHOOL VACANCIES (PLEASE SHARE WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY)

*Kendrick School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any successful applicant will be required to undertake an Enhanced Disclosure check by the Disclosure & Barring Service. Kendrick School is an Equal Opportunity employer*

### School and Pastoral Administrator

**Required for March 2021**, an experienced and professional Administrator who has excellent verbal, written and IT skills. This is a busy and varied role and the successful candidate must be able to use their initiative, be able to work as part of a team, be versatile, proactive and well organised. Applicants must have a desire to see every child reach their highest possible outcome and have excellent communication and interpersonal skills with both adults and children.

Your role would involve:

- Being a member of the General Office Team ensuring the smooth and effective running of the school office and student reception including the provision of first aid.
- Providing efficient and accurate administrative support to the school, Senior Leadership Team and Pastoral Leaders.
- Being part of the Student Welfare Team, providing support and advice to students across all year groups with issues such as social, emotional, behaviour and attendance.

To arrange an informal enquiry, please contact Ms Amanda Emberson, by email [aemberson@kendrick.reading.sch.uk](mailto:aemberson@kendrick.reading.sch.uk). Further details of the school and post can be found at [www.kendrick.reading.sch.uk](http://www.kendrick.reading.sch.uk)

Applications should be made electronically through completing the application form available to download on our website. **All completed applications must be submitted by 12noon Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021. We cannot accept CVs as a method of application.**

**Interviews will take place during the week of 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021.**

## KENDRICK PARENTS' SOCIETY (KPS)

### KPS SHOPPING LINKS

#### AmazonSmile donations

We encourage you to continue your purchases at [smile.amazon.co.uk](http://smile.amazon.co.uk), (not [www.amazon.co.uk](http://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's all together contribute to something that our daughters 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**

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### **TOP TIPS FOR MANAGING REMOTE LEARNING**

#### **From Miss Swaine and Mme Hulley**

- You must stick to the time limits given for work – write on the piece of work how long it has taken you/where you have got to in the time limit so your teachers are aware
- Aim to take a minimum of 1 hour break when we return after half term
- Aim to get fresh air every day
- Communicate to your subject teachers if you are unsure of anything or need some extra support
- Reply to your teachers emails within 24 hours, checking your emails 2-3 times a day will allow you to stay on top of the email traffic
- If you have any worries, questions or queries, please complete the remote register in the morning asking to speak to your tutor