

Kendrick School

Weekly Update

Friday 29th January 2021

WEEKLY LETTER FROM MR SIMMONDS, ACTING HEADTEACHER

We had snow on the ground on Monday and very few here to enjoy it. I hope that last weekend you managed to get out and enjoy those massive snowflakes and the snow that had the very best consistency for making snowmen and snowballs.

On Wednesday it was [Holocaust Memorial Day](#) and Ms Kattirtzi recorded an assembly for the school's community to help them pause and reflect. This year theme for Holocaust Memorial Day is 'Be the light in the darkness'. We are all encouraged to reflect on the depths that humanity can sink to, but also the ways individuals and communities resisted that darkness to 'be the light' before, during and after the genocide. This year, as always, students from Kendrick will participate in the Lessons From Auschwitz Programme. This year, sadly, they have had to adapt the programme, removing the visit to Auschwitz but maintaining a three-part structure of remote meetings.

Last night we had the parent and teacher consultation afternoon for Year 12 and it is amazing how conducting these meetings remotely has already become quite natural. There are some advantages as well as parents are not having to travel and park and the software keeps everyone strictly to time. I thoroughly enjoyed chatting to the students and their parents in my class.

In the news this week we learnt that the school will not be opening to students again until at least 8th March 2021 and that there would be two weeks' notice given in advance of any return to school. The delivery of remote learning continues to dominate many of the agendas in school and the feedback that students and parents have given to the school always feed into these discussions. In our survey of all students conducted through the online register last week we found that on average across the school students are receiving half their lessons in a live format and the other half have a mixture of activities including set work, challenges, projects and pre-recorded content. This balance feels about right and we remain mindful that there is a wide variation in everyone's ready access to live lessons and that time away from computer screens is terribly important. We are also conscious of the work load for staff and students and you should find that all work set to students is carefully time bonded so that students know how long they should work on each task and that they should stop when the time is up.

Since last week the swimming pool is now empty of water and ready to be renovated and I will keep you updated with this project.

Ofqual's consultation on the mechanism to award A level and GCSE grades closes tonight. We have debated the strengths and weaknesses of the proposals and many staff have given a response to Ofqual and I encourage you all to do so as well if you have time tonight before the window closes.

As always I wish everyone a safe and fun weekend and we will all be refreshed and ready for the week ahead.

Mr Nick Simmonds, Acting Headteacher



Empty swimming pool 1

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.

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.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES DURING LOCKDOWN

When you are ready for a break from your school work, enjoy some of the activities in this [link](#).

WORKING FROM HOME WITH CHILDREN

Coronavirus (COVID-19) has changed a lot for families with children in the past few weeks. We know parents and carers might be worried about balancing working from home with family life, from creating structure to coping with difficult feelings. The NSPCC has got tips and advice to support you and your family – whether you want to try something new today or just start thinking about changes to make over the coming weeks

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/coronavirus-parents-working-from-home/>

NEWS AND EVENTS - WHOLE SCHOOL

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

Holocaust Memorial Day, 27th January 2021, marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp. Remembering the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, we bear witness for those who endured genocide, and honour the survivors and all those whose lives were changed beyond recognition.

Please click [here](#) for a link to Ms Kattirtzi's Holocaust Memorial Day assembly and other related activities including a poetry competition and a book list.

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>

SIGNING UP TO SCHOOL GATEWAY

Thank you to the parents/carers that have signed up to use School Gateway. However, there are only **42.2% of parents/carers** who have done so and only **36.9%** who use the School Gateway app.

Once you are signed up to School Gateway (either online or using the App) you will be able to:

- **View the contact details we have on record for you and inform us of any changes. It is very important that we have the correct contact details on record for you. This year we cannot send out paper version of the data sheets so it is very important that you sign up for School Gateway so you can check the details we have on record for you. It will also mean that you are receiving all the information from us that you need.**
- **View your child's medical details and can inform us of any changes**
- **View your child's timetable**
- **View your child's report (when it is available)**
- **Report your child's absence and see their attendance stats**

To register for School Gateway please log in using the link below. **Please ensure that you are registering as a new user if you are logging in for the first time.**

<https://login.schoolgateway.com/0/auth/login>

The **FREE** app for your phone can be found in the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google play](#) and follow the instructions below.

We look forward to **100% of parents/carers** being signed up to School Gateway in the very near future.

Creating an account is simple and will take no more than a couple of minutes:

1. Register

Register using the same email address and mobile number held by the school

2. Four digit PIN

School Gateway will send you a text with your PIN

3. Login

Login, you are ready to go

KENDRICK SCHOOL VACANCIES

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

Cover Assistant for March 2021

Required in March 2021, a Cover Assistant who is enthusiastic, well organised and self-confident with good communication and inter-personal skills. Kendrick School provides an environment which allows students and teachers alike to work and develop in a purposeful atmosphere, which is both dynamic and studious.

Your role would involve supervising classes when a teacher is absent, invigilating exams when required, accompanying staff on school trips, and assisting the Cover Supervisor with administrative tasks and the organisation of resources and display work.

You 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. You must be ICT competent and be able to work calmly under

pressure, use your own initiative and work well as part of a team. Being versatile, proactive and well organised are key skills required for this role.

To arrange an informal enquiry, please contact Mr Geoff Hill, Assistant Headteacher, by email ghill@kendrick.reading.sch.uk. Further details of the school and post can be found below.

[Cover Assistant - Application Pack](#)

Applications should be made electronically through completing our online application form via our [website](#). **All completed applications must be submitted to Amanda Emberson at aemberson@kendrick.reading.sch.uk by 12noon Friday 12th February 2021.**

Interviews will take place in mid-February 2021. Due to the COVID pandemic the interviews may take place remotely.

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'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

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY POETRY COMPETITION

For details of the Holocaust Memorial Day Poetry Competition please click [here](#). Deadline for entries is Friday 12th February 2021.