

Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Friday 7th January 2022

WEEKLY LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

A very Happy New Year to everyone, I hope you all had a good Christmas and a restful break.

Our **Lateral Flow Testing** (LFT) for students on Tuesday 4th January went very well and only a very few tests were positive and these students are now isolating. Similarly, our staffing absence is very low, but inevitably both amongst staff and students, people did have Covid over the holiday and so had to spend some of their holiday in isolation. I hope these people did not have severe symptoms and they managed to have some rest and relaxation. The government guidance for schools this term is that students should wear masks in the classrooms and lessons, as well as in communal areas. An update on the guidance was sent to you on Wednesday, link [HERE](#) and our Risk assessments for the new term have been updated and can be found [HERE](#). We encourage all members of our school community to stay safe by taking regular LFT, wearing masks when in large groups and having their booster jabs when they can.

The staff returned to school on Tuesday 4th January to an excellent **training day** organised by Mr Simmonds. As always, the work we do on these days reflects the priorities we have in school, as well as the agenda and priorities set by the Department for Education. This week, we had some safeguarding sessions, which included an update on the actions we have followed through on our Safeguarding Audit that took place last term, a session by Mr Duncan on the Sexual Abuse Review and a session led by Miss Lawlor on TikTok. We also spent some time looking at our self-review work, including Ofsted requirements on schools in this area. Some excellent presentations of work and practices being developed by the Geography Department were shared and discussed, as well as further training on supporting the pastoral needs of students, plus whole school training on cyber safety; altogether a very good and productive day.

We welcome some new staff to the school this term: Ms Alicia Morando has joined us as Subject Leader for Computing and Technology and Mrs Khyati Jadav has joined us as a Technician in the Biology Department.

Some updates since last term are on our website, in particular, the report on the [Regional UK Space Design Competition](#), that a group of students entered and won! Their task was to design an efficient vehicle suitable for business travellers in the future, in order to continue working effectively and comfortably whilst they travelled between Earth and Mars, a most interesting brief. Congratulations to all the students involved and to Dr Smalley, Subject Leader of Physics.

This week we invited back to school last year's Year 13 students to their **A Level Certificates Presentation event**. It was wonderful meeting the students and hearing about where they are now and what they have been doing since they left Kendrick last summer. The speaker is always a former Kendrick student, and this year it was Alicia Morando (now a teacher at Kendrick!) who spoke about her journey since leaving Kendrick and the path she took in the world of Computer Science leading to her training as a Computer Science teacher. Ms Morando said that one of her reasons for choosing her career path was to be a role model to women so that they can see that this is a world they can join should they want to.

A New Year is a time for plans and resolutions and I hear many people determined to be optimistic about 2022 after the difficult last couple of years that we have all had. I hope as a school and in our community more widely, it will be

a good year for everyone. When I spoke at the A Level presentation evening this week, I said to the students that both they and us have learnt a lot over the period of the pandemic: living and working in different ways, reassessing our priorities and what we want to do in life. One thing in particular we have all recognised over this time is the importance of our mental health and wellbeing, as well as, the support and encouragement, kindness and care we should show each other. I wish for all of us that these remain our priorities as we begin this New Year.

With best wishes for a happy and healthy 2022.

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 and holidays), 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 vi-sit the Student Welfare Team in the General Office or Sixth Form Office or email studentwelfare@kendrick.reading.sch.uk.

WELLBEING – ORGANISE YOUR DAY

SOURCE: [ANNA FREUD](#)

Organising your day can give you a sense of satisfaction, as well as keeping you feeling grounded and structured. Sometimes even getting out of bed seems impossible, let alone making it through a busy day. Breaking things down into smaller steps can help things seem less intimidating, and possibly build a routine that can help you manage symptoms, such as from depression or anxiety. Some people like to use [lists](#) or [bullet journals](#) as a way of focussing on or visualising the things you need to do, either every day or as a one off. It can feel really rewarding to keep track of what you have achieved in this way.

Student Welfare Team at Kendrick School



Mrs Hackett **Mrs Shaw**

Ms Lawlor **Ms Edwards**

The Base (in Slidmouth 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

It is okay if you don't manage to stick to your to-do list. It is very normal to not complete everything you want to in a day. If the only thing you were able to do was to get through the day, that is a great accomplishment. Remember to take consideration of your 'spoons' (energy levels) and to reward yourself with treats or things you enjoy.

For more information on organising your day please click [here](#).

SAFEGUARDING – PARENTS' GUIDE TO KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE DURING COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS AND TUTORING

SOURCE: DfE

The Department for Education (DfE) has produced an online booklet with questions for parents to out-of-school settings. Please click [here](#) for a copy.

NEWS, NOTICES AND EVENTS - WHOLE SCHOOL

MESSAGE FROM THE DfE: UPDATE ON THE DELIVERY OF THE 12 TO 15 VACCINATION PROGRAMME

Young people aged 12 to 15 in England will be offered a second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine at a minimum of 12 weeks from the first dose, following advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).

NHS England have now confirmed that, as with first doses, healthy school-aged children aged 12 to 15 will be able to receive their COVID-19 vaccination in their school next term, as well as having the option to receive the vaccine out of school, such as through vaccination centres. These offers will run in parallel.

Vaccination for this group will continue to be deployed primarily by the school age immunisation service (SAIS). In school vaccination will begin from Monday 10 January and all schools should have received at least one visit before February half-term. We expect most schools to require multiple visits so vaccines can be administered to all consenting pupils. SAIS teams will be in touch with schools from the start of next term to discuss what is best for their circumstances.

For some very small schools, on-site vaccination may not be appropriate but alternative arrangements will be put in place to ensure timely, accessible, and equitable vaccination for these children.

More information for schools on the vaccination programme and how second dose delivery will work, including information on consent gathering, will be published by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) shortly.

We are grateful to schools for their ongoing support with the rollout of the 12 to 15 vaccination programme. Vaccinating young people is increasingly important for keeping them, their friends, family members and teachers safe as we approach the Christmas holidays.

Over the Christmas holidays, parents can already book first vaccinations for their child, if aged 12 or over, through the [NHS booking system](#). Second doses will be available for eligible children by Monday 20 December.

Further information on [vaccination for 12 to 15 year olds](#) is available on the NHS website

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.**

We will be advertising for a Food Technician in the New Year – please look out for our emails for more information.

KENDRICK PARENTS' SOCIETY (KPS)

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.