

Kendrick School

Weekly Update

Friday 8th January 2021

WEEKLY LETTER FROM MR SIMMONDS, ACTING HEADTEACHER

In my last update of term in December I was looking forward to January with hope for the continued smooth running of school, political consensus and wise leadership and I reaffirmed my 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. Already this week we all been called to draw upon our creativity, professionalism, resolve and unbreakable spirit and love of learning. I felt a little daunted in the holiday at the prospect of setting up from scratch a fully functioning LFD rapid test centre in school but this is what our amazing team led by Mrs Brunson and Mrs Haynes has achieved. I took my first weekly test yesterday and the infrastructure is now in place and ready for when students are welcomed back into school again.

In the community of Reading schools we are deeply shocked and saddened by the senseless attack and death of Olly Stephens last weekend and our thoughts are with his family and friends and the whole of his school and local community.

I am afraid that I have further tragic news, this time from amongst our own community, to tell you about. Anna Franco, who is known to many students as an ever smiling, warm and wonderful presence in the canteen, died suddenly and unexpectedly on New Year's Eve. She was always so kind and jolly with everyone and her colleagues from Chartwells and all the staff and students who knew Anna are grieving her passing. We will be finding a suitable way to commemorate Anna in the canteen and I will work with Charlie and the other cooks on this in the coming weeks.

If any student needs support with their feelings following these events, they can let their TLC know and this can be arranged. There is also a parent leaflet on dealing with frightening events via this [link](#).

I still know no more than anyone else about the details for what replaces summer examinations this year, but the school will work closely with all students and their families on whatever system is devised. For now students should continue to work as best they can on what their teachers ask them to do; meanwhile we are contributing our views on how such a system could work to as many of the various bodies involved in the examinations as we can.

In addition to the new members of staff that I mention last term we are delighted this week to have welcomed to the school Mr Christopher Miller as an additional Chemistry Technician and Miss Nor Zidouri who is training to be a Chemistry teacher. I can also update you on Ms Kattirtzi's continuing recovery and let you know that she has been working in school regularly this week and it is fabulous to see her physically back in school again.

We have all quickly settled into remote learning and over the coming weeks we will continuously seek feedback from teachers and students to further refine our plans. Remote learning is clearly more demanding for all involved than being in school and we are seeking a workload balance that is appropriate and manageable.

Can I finish this week by thanking the entire school community for their continued flexibility, good humour and capacity to manage the continuing changes and challenges that we are presented with. The future remains bright and I wish you all a very happy new year.

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.

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.

CORONAVIRUS ANXIETY

If you're worried a child may be struggling with their mental health or has anxiety about coronavirus (COVID-19), the NSPCC has got advice to help you support them.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/childrens-mental-health/depression-anxiety-mental-health/>

This includes a link to 8 tips to help talk to your child about coronavirus from Blackpool Better Start. You can access this via the link below.

<https://blackpoolbetterstart.org.uk/covid19-update/>

10 AMAZING FREE THINGS TO DO ONLINE DURING THE LOCKDOWN

Kendrick School is not responsible for the content of the following:

1. Visit Niagara Falls https://www.earthcam.com/canada/niagarafalls/?cam=niagarafalls_str
2. Experience the Northern Lights <https://lightsoverlapland.com/virtual-aurora-tours/>
3. Explore the Eden Project <https://www.edenproject.com/>
4. Go on a virtual holiday https://www.kuoni.co.uk/inspiration/movie-locations?utm_content=CTA_button&utm_medium=email&utm_source=BAU_non-Targeted&utm_campaign=newsletter_090420&person_ID=105246924%20#
5. Go to the Theatre <https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/shows/nt-at-home-treasure-island%20>
6. Head to the Zoo <https://www.edinburghzoo.org.uk/webcams/penguin-cam>
7. Take a tour inside a space shuttle <https://artsandculture.google.com/project/360-videos>
8. Go to the museum <https://www.britishmuseum.org/>
9. Take a tour of the Grand Canyon <https://www.nps.gov/features/grca/001/archeology/>
10. Experience the circus https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VL0TG_nCqzE&feature=youtu.be

NEWS AND EVENTS - WHOLE SCHOOL

NEWS ON OUR WEBSITE, LOCAL PRESS AND SOCIAL MEDIA

[All the World's a Stage – As You Like It Review](#)

NHS TEST AND TRACE: COVID-19 TESTING FOR STAFF AND STUDENTS

We are working to keep Kendrick School as safe as possible. You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests'.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and students to remain in school safely. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. By testing we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep Kendrick School open as safely as possible. The test is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it.

We will communicate with staff and students when testing is to take place.

I enclose an instructional leaflet with some more information.

Please fill in the form via the link below to let us know whether you are happy for your child to be tested. The form also includes a consent statement (one per student).

- For students younger than 16 years - this form must be completed by the parent or legal guardian. Please complete one consent form for each child you wish to enrol.
- Students over 16 (Years 12 and 13 only) can complete this form themselves, having discussed participation with their parent / guardian if under 18.
- Staff will complete this form themselves.

<https://forms.gle/JbneSRD4F2jQ6fzy5>

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat. For under 18s, staff can oversee the swab process.

I have been assured by government that these tests work - in validation studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, they were shown to be as accurate in identifying a case as a PCR test (99.68% specificity). The tests have lower sensitivity but they are better at picking up cases when a person has higher viral load, hence the need to test frequently.

Testing will be offered free of charge.

What if a student tests positive?

Participating staff and students who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be notified. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results.

Students will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in local and regional testing sites) on the same day (or as soon as possible). Kendrick School will be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home or you can go to www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or call 119 to book a follow-up test. If ordering a PCR test yourselves,

you should choose to visit a drive-through test site if possible, as it is faster than requesting a home test. The nearest testing site to Kendrick School is at Reading University.

During this time while they wait for the PCR result (via text / email) they will need to self-isolate.

If the PCR test returns a positive result, the student and their household will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

What happens if the test is negative?

Students will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. A student will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear you can assume it was negative. A small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

What if a close contact at school tests positive?

A close contact of someone in school who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be able to return to school if they agree to be tested once a day for 7 days and the test is negative. If they do not want to take the test, they will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines. This does not apply to household members or close contacts outside of school who will still need to self-isolate. Further details will be provided at the time, but if you would prefer to self-isolate instead of doing daily testing, you can.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.