

Kendrick School

Weekly Update

Friday 14th February 2020

WEEKLY LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

You may have seen the government tables about **GCSE results** that were published last week. Very pleasingly, Kendrick tops the table for GCSE results this year against the value added measure, which also includes the additional statistic of 100% of students achieving above grade 4 in five subjects including Mathematics and English. This is of course an incredible achievement that we must all be immensely proud of and reflects the hard work of our students and staff, day in day out. Being at the top of such statistical tables is indeed a huge success, but it is not necessarily all that we are about and doesn't reflect all the other areas of school life that we value like our community, our values and beliefs, our practices and relationships, and the passion that we have to do the best for our students, which altogether provides a more rounded picture of our school.

Some of the non-academic elements of life at school were discussed yesterday when Mr Simmonds and I spoke to **Years 7, 8 and 9 in assembly**. We went back to the theme that I mentioned in January, the **personal development of students**. In the assembly, Mr Simmonds and I wanted to define and demonstrate what we believe personal development of our students is and how in a planned way, students are able to take part in what the school offers them. The slides from the assembly are [HERE](#).

Some examples of personal development at Kendrick can be seen by the varied number of activities that took place this week. Starting on Monday the **cake competition** that kicked off **Fair Trade Week**, with the local cake baker, Catherine Scott coming into school to judge the cake competitions, please see the news article [HERE](#). Then on Tuesday morning, **10J** gave an assembly to their year group on relaxation methods and demonstrated some Yoga techniques. On Wednesday afternoon and evening a super **Piano Masterclass** took place with some of our most gifted pianists having a one to one session with an expert piano teacher, Dr Nigel Wilkinson, culminating in a most amazing concert featuring the students playing very challenging pieces, photos and information [HERE](#). On Thursday during their wellbeing session, Years 12 and 13 were given an [engaging and informative presentation](#) from the charity CoppaFeel! filled with tips on looking out for their health and some serious facts and statistics about cancer. Also this week, our now annual **Harry Potter Book Night** took place where once again the Conservatory and students were transformed into scenes and characters from Harry Potter. And this morning, an assembly on **LGBT History month** was given to sixth form students by the **Pride Society**, see link [HERE](#). And finally congratulations to the Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 Badminton team that are now through to the Regional round - link [HERE](#). Such a super breadth of activities to suit a wide range of interests and ages.

In the background of normal school life, the **new building** is being assembled. By the end of today, 33 lorries will have delivered the required number of panels that make up the building so that by the time we return to school after half term, the building will be up and the internal works will begin. It has been quite exciting to watch the panels come together to form the three stories and nine rooms of the building; a super opportunity for all of us to see a modern construction in the making. There has been some inconvenience to us on site and to our neighbours because East

Street has had to close for the lorries to drive in and out of school, but students and staff and our neighbours have been most considerate and patient as the work is being done. Thank you. There are some photos [HERE](#).

Finally we are all looking forward to half term and the **rest and relaxation** that time away from school will give everyone. I know that all students have worked hard this term, in particular, Year 11, who have taken their mocks and definitely need some down time from their studies. Similarly students in all the other years, I hope will be able to enjoy some recreational time and plan activities that can rejuvenate and refresh them for the new term.

Thank you to everyone for all the hard work that has been done this term and I wish you all a restful holiday.

Ms Christine Kattirtzi, Headteacher

SAFEGUARDING

Positive Parenting Guide from NSPCC

All parents can come under pressure or stress from time to time. The NSPCC Positive Parenting guide shares practical advice and tips for parenting techniques that work well for children of all ages – from babies to teenagers.

You can download the guide via this [link](#).

CALENDAR

WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 24th FEBRUARY 2020 (B WEEK)

Year 13 Mocks

Monday 24th February	Start of Term 4, 8.25am
Tuesday 25th February	Year 12 High Education Conference
Thursday 27th February	KPS Mindfulness Event

The full school calendar can be found via this [link](#)

KEY EVENTS IN TERM 4

Monday 2nd March	Launch of KPS Spring Raffle
Wednesday 11th March	Year 9 Parents' Option Evening
Thursday 12th March	Year 10 Parents' Consultation
Thursday 19th March	Governor Learning & Teaching Committee, 4.30pm
Friday 20th March	Governor Resources Committee, 4.30pm
Friday 20th March	Air Ambulance Concert, 7pm
Tuesday 24th March	Year 9 Parents' Consultation
Tuesday 31st March	Spring Concert, 6.30pm
Friday 3rd April	Music Trip to Belgium departs
	End of Term 4, 3.15pm

NEWS AND EVENTS - WHOLE SCHOOL

NEWS ON OUR WEBSITE, LOCAL PRESS AND SOCIAL MEDIA

[County Badminton Tournament](#)

[Fairtrade Week Bake Off](#)

[Harry Potter Book Night 2020](#)

[Piano Masterclass 2020](#)

[CoppaFeel Visit Kendrick](#)

We like to celebrate student successes in and out of school and rely on parents/carers to pass us this information so we can publish it on our website. Please send any articles and photos to aemberson@kendrick.reading.sch.uk. However, please ensure you have your child's 'permission' to do so! Thank you

KPS NEWS

The KPS supported the Year 8 parents' consultation evening on Tuesday providing refreshments which were much appreciated by staff and parents. Many parents also purchased second hand uniform. We wish to thank Ms Kattirtzi for the idea to serve refreshments at Parents' Consultation evenings and all the Year 8 parents who generously donated. We are pleased to let you know that we raised over £100 that evening!

The next consultation evening is on 12th March for Year 10 and if you can help that evening, kindly email chair.kps.uk@gmail.com.

Going forward we will be accepting all used, good conditioned uniform and PE kits from parents on any day of the week. Students can drop items in the KPS Second hand uniform collection box which is in the lost property cupboard.

Please book for the Mindfulness session to be held on Thursday 27th February in the School Dance Studio from 3.30pm to 4.30pm. All year groups are welcome! This will be facilitated by a well renowned Mindfulness Practitioner who specialises in children's meditation. Meditation has proven to improve learning, memory and self-awareness. Here is the [booking link](#) and the flyer is attached to this newsletter.

If your child is unable to attend this date/day but you would still want them to attend a future Mindfulness session, please email chair.kps.uk@gmail.com.

We are looking for prize donations for the School Spring Raffle and we are asking parents to contact a known restaurant or hairdresser or any local businesses to ask for a prize. If they are able to help please let the team know by emailing Raffle.KPS@gmail.com. If you need a letter, we will give you to give it to the establishment.

We would appreciate if you could help us with matched funding. Many companies have pots of money which they want to give away to charities like ours – they are just waiting for us to ask. They will ask you for a letter which we are more than happy to provide confirming your participation and in return you will have to fill a form for them.

Please ask your manager or your HR department, it is as simple as this. Vodafone, Microsoft, Visa, Thames Water, National Grid, IBM, RBS, Shell, BP and many such companies do offer matched funding to their employees. We want to hear from you if you work for one of these companies. Please email Raffle.KPS@gmail.com.

PARENTPAY REMINDERS

- Ski Trip additional payment of £10 – a few people are still to pay this
- Year 10 History trip on 2nd March 2020 - £22
- Year 12 UCAS Exhibition on 25th February - £8

Please log on to your ParentPay account and check that you have paid for all trips and have topped up dinner money.

VACANCIES

Kendrick School has the following vacancies. Please click on the links for each role for more information. Please forward this information on to friends and family that you think may be interested.

[Second in the English Department](#)

[Mathematics Teacher](#)

[Examination Invigilators](#)

NEWS AND EVENTS - STUDENTS

WORK RELATED LEARNING

Women in STEM Resources

- [The WISE Campaign](#) - A campaign to inspire girls and women to study and pursue careers within women in STEM fields.
 - [STEMettes](#) - An organisation running panel events, hackathons and exhibitions aimed at inspiring the next generation of women into STEM.
 - [Women's Engineering Society](#) - A network of female engineers, technologists and scientists offering both support and professional development opportunities.
 - [Women in Technology](#) - An information resource aimed to promote female employment within IT and technology.
 - [ScienceGrrl](#) - A grassroots organisation representing the female face of science in the UK, working to inform women in STEM policy at a national level.
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- [STEMNET](#) - A network of ambassadors working to encourage young people who are under-represented within women in STEM subjects and careers to pursue their interests in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.
- [CodeFirst:Girls](#) - An organisation working with companies and young women with the intention of increasing the number of women working in tech.
- [Sparxx](#) - A division of the Women's Engineering Society focussed on inspiring girls to become part of the next generation of innovative thinkers.
- [BCSWomen](#) - A specialist group aligned to the Chartered Institute for IT, providing a networking platform for professional women in IT

MEET LESLEY URBACH – WEDNESDAY 26TH FEBRUARY (ALL STUDENTS)

Following on from Holocaust Memorial Day (27 January) and the **75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau**, Lesley Urbach has agreed to visit us at Kendrick to share her family's story of murder and escape during the Holocaust during World War II.

Lesley's interesting story is bitter-sweet because although her mother & aunt escaped Germany, sadly her grandparents were killed at Auschwitz in February 1943.

Join Lesley to learn more about the Holocaust and how she uses the experiences of her family to help others.

STUDY LEAVE (YEAR 13)

Please be advised that week beginning Monday 24th February 2020 will be study leave for all Year 13 students, who are only expected to attend school for their mock examinations.

Home Study will begin from Monday 2nd March and students have been advised that it can only be taken on Monday morning Periods 1 and 2 and any Period 4 or 5 when students do not have a lesson or directed independent study period (DISP).

All students must be present and on time for morning and afternoon registration as this is a key communication point and important information may be circulated at these times. The one exception to this is Monday morning registration; on this day students must ensure they are in school by 11.00am.

Students are asked to sign in and out at Main Reception when they leave or when they arrive late on a Monday. They do not have to leave the site if they prefer to work in school during their Home Study time.

They are not permitted to go home at any other time without permission from the Sixth Form Team or they will lose their Home Study which is a privilege and may be withdrawn at any time.

We have asked that students complete a Google Form to agree to these arrangements. If you have any concerns or queries regarding the above please email nedwards@kendrick.reading.sch.uk as soon as possible.

YEAR 11 INFORMATION FROM DR WILSON

The Year 11 students have worked extremely hard for their mock examinations and we are very proud of them for the way they coped with the stresses of an intense examination period, as well as for their strong performances in

their papers. Students have been having profiling discussions with myself and their tutors this week and I have been impressed with the mature way they are taking on feedback and advice for improvement.

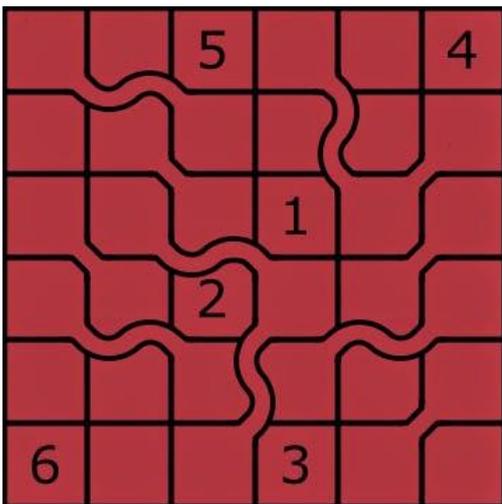
It is very important that the students have a complete rest over half term. This is a busy year, they worked hard over the Christmas holidays and they need relaxation and “downtime” before the final push towards the summer examinations. We would ask that you do not suggest to your child that they should be working over half term.

After half term, I intend to speak to some students and parents from across the year group to see how the students are managing their studies and what further support and guidance we can provide them and parents as we approach the period of study leave and the final examinations. There are some helpful guides to exam well-being for both students and parents on the school website here:

<https://www.kendrick.reading.sch.uk/page/?title=Exam+Wellbeing&pid=230>

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

In the given picture, you can find a few numbers. Now you have to fill each square of the grid in a manner that every row and every column contains the digits 1 to 6. Keep in mind that the connected squares must have the same number in them.



Answer to last week's challenge:

Explanation:

Number in the series = (Top Left Number * Bottom Left Number)/(Top Right Number * Bottom Right Number)

= (30 * 2) / (4*5)

= 3