

Kendrick School

Weekly Update

Friday 15th January 2021

WEEKLY LETTER FROM MR SIMMONDS, ACTING HEADTEACHER

This week has all been about the experiences of remote learning and teaching and, for the Year 11 students, the remote mock examinations. I understand how much harder it is to study remotely and the wellbeing of all students and staff is the highest priority on the school's agenda at this time. With this in mind the remote learning plan, which you can find on the website, is being reviewed and an updated version will be posted next week.

Once Ofqual has just launched its consultation on replacing summer examinations we will be working through the proposals in order to feed into the consultation process. I will keep all parents and students who are due to take public examinations this year updated throughout the consultation and afterwards once the final procedures are known. At this time the best we can do is carry on working on our planned curriculum in order to be as well prepared as possible for whatever is required.

May I point your attention to the online links that KPS have set up for us that are an easy way to shop and raise funds for the school at the same time.

At this week's KPS meeting an exciting set of new ideas to connect our community together and to raise further funds were discussed. Finances were high on the agenda and I am delighted with the great range of projects that KPS fundraising is supporting the school with, including more outdoor benches and play equipment, curtains and lights in the Drama Studio, enhancements for the Horizons building, furniture for our new student welfare safe space and redecoration of toilets across the school. In addition to this there is some money given in a legacy to KPS that we are starting to spend bigger projects with news of these to follow.

Since last week we have decided to give the name of 'Anna's Café' to the corner of the canteen where the breakfast service operates and drinks and snacks are sold. This is in memory of Anna Franco who started working at the school in 2011 and a plaque is being commissioned accordingly. I know that some students are collating their memories of Anna to send to her family.

I am delighted that next week, with the help of our student volunteers, we will be starting up again the Widening Horizons homework club remotely for Year 5 students.

This week I attended an online drawing lesson and had immense fun being on the receiving end of a live lesson complete with shared screens, mute/unmute, 'putting it in the chat' and ultimately a wonderful shared experience. I trust that everyone in our school community can still find things that they love to do and fills them with hope and good spirit.

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 AND YOUR WELLBEING

Many of us are struggling to maintain our mental wellbeing during the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. The Mind page below has tips to help yourself cope, including ways to support yourself during winter.

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/>

TEN WAYS TO HELP CHILDREN COPE WITH CHANGE

Please see this [poster](#) from YoungMinds.org.uk with ten ways for parents to help children cope with change.

OMEGLE

Omegle is a website that pairs random strangers for live text or video chats. It was first launched in 2009 and its slogan is "Talk to strangers!" There is an option for adult (18+) content and a section for people aged 13+ with parental permission. Anyone can use the site. Users simply go to Omegle.com and then choose 'Text' or 'Video' chat and the page states how many users are currently online. Depending on the time of day this can be hundreds of thousands. Omegle markets itself as a great way to meet new friends however has been known to feature pornography and inappropriate content within chats, so it is important parents are aware of the risks associated with the site. This [document](#) will give you more information on what it is, main concerns and tips for parents.

NEWS AND EVENTS - WHOLE SCHOOL

KENDRICK SCHOOL VACANCIES

We have two exciting full time teaching vacancies for **September 2021!** We welcome applications from NQTs or more qualified teachers for both roles.

ENGLISH AND DRAMA TEACHER

Both the English and Drama departments are constantly evolving and developing to suit the needs of the students in the 2020s. We are seeking innovative and creative practitioners, who are keen to engage with the enquiring minds of the students, and to contribute to the ongoing development of the departments, across the key stages. 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.

The school offer an extensive extracurricular programme across the Arts and we are looking for someone who could contribute to this in the Drama Department. There may also be opportunities for further responsibilities in English.

This role would suit both experienced teachers and NQTs. Kendrick School provides wide-ranging CPD opportunities and a full and supportive NQT programme.

Applicants need to be able to teach Chemistry throughout the school including A Level and Science at KS3. Kendrick School is a centre of academic excellence with a track record of high performance and achievement. Our expansion makes this an exciting time to be joining the school.

CHEMISTRY TEACHER

The Chemistry Department has benefitted from Specialist School status and there are large numbers of students who study the subject at A Level with many students going on to study Chemistry related subjects at university.

This position would suit a recently qualified teacher or more experienced teacher who is able to impart passion and enthusiasm for the subject to highly motivated, creative and engaging students. Kendrick School has a very good track record of developing NQTs and the successful candidate would be joining a supportive and experienced department. There would be opportunities for professional development within the department and the school as a whole.

For more information on both roles and an application forms, please click [here](#). Please forward this information to family and friends that you think may be interested in applying.

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

HOUSE JOKE COMPETITION

Q: How do astronomers organize a party?

A: They planet!

Students and staff are invited to enter the House Joke Competition for the chance to show off their subject/interests with a cheesy joke! The deadline is 5pm on Monday 25th January. The link to enter is here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf-uWG1pNSgiku7s6tP71LmrEQkVCnD5T9niBLNe7YhOcaOdw/viewform?usp=sf_link