

Kendrick School

Weekly Update

Friday 5th February 2021

WEEKLY LETTER FROM MR SIMMONDS, ACTING HEADTEACHER

While we continue to wait for news on how examination grades will be awarded this summer and on when school may begin to reopen, the main topic of discussion in school this week has remained remote learning. We regularly receive feedback through tutors and TLCs from different year groups and from teachers through our various meetings. We are trying hard to give a variety of learning activities that do not over or under use live teaching and screen time. Lessons with an element of both live content and set tasks are being used to good effect to help achieve this balance. Teachers often ask students to put on their cameras more readily and I echo this request as teaching to a wall of inanimate icons rather than responsive faces is very hard work. The ongoing feedback of nods, smiles, frowns, heads down working or heads up looking around makes the teaching process much easier and more rewarding.

Our Librarians Mrs Cavaciuti and Mrs Williamson have created another wonderful display 'Meet the Latest Female Noble Prize Winners', in the vestibule ready for the students' return to school. You can view this display on our website via this [link](#).

I am told that many parents still need to connect to School Gateway and I encourage all parents to do this especially as we are aiming to issue the next sets of school reports through the Gateway. If you are experiencing problems with setting up an account please email admin@kendrick.reading.sch.uk.

This week we received over £20,000 from the Kendrick Parents Society, an amount that represents money raised by KPS and some money left to the society in a legacy to be spent on music and the arts. We have budgeted for this money to be spent on a variety of projects including the Horizons building, benches, play equipment, a new student welfare office and adjoining safe space, musical instruments including an orchestral harp and LED stage lighting in the Drama Studio. You will hear more about these projects in due course; in the meantime many, many thanks again to KPS and everyone who supports their activities.

In regards to our LFD rapid testing centre, I see that there are still over 200 consent forms to come in and we would like these as soon as possible to enable the time consuming registration process to continue and for us to be ready for mass testing when school opens. Please click on the link below to complete the form if you have not already done so.

<https://forms.gle/UdmJDYq3tfGuCjq7>

Next week a group of students, organised and led by Abbie in Year 13, is entering an event called [Oxford Schools'](#) which claims to be the largest British Parliamentary school level debate competition in the world. We wish them luck and I am sure it will be a fantastic experience.

I cannot believe how this term is now approaching the end of its fifth week. This leaves one more week of teaching, studying and learning before a welcome chance to take a break and recharge all our batteries. In the meantime please have a wonderful weekend.

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.

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

This week is Children's Mental Health Week and the theme this year is 'Express Yourself'. Expressing yourself is about finding ways to share feelings, thoughts, or ideas, through creativity. It is about finding a way to show who you are, and how you see the world, that can help you feel good about yourself.

The week was launched by the HRH The Duchess of Cambridge with a video message which you can view [here](#).

Earlier this week, all our students were sent an email with a link to various virtual sessions on creative expression:

[Art](#)

[Dance](#)

[Creating Content](#)

[Writing](#)

[Acting](#)

[Sensory Activities](#)

Please click [here](#) for an article for parents and carers on how you can support your child's mental health and wellbeing. There are also some free activity ideas which you can access [here](#). For more advice on supporting your child's mental health click [here](#).

PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM RADICALISATION

It can be hard to know when extreme views become something dangerous and the signs of radicalisation are not always obvious. For help and advice from the NSPCC click on the link below.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/reporting-abuse/dedicated-helplines/protecting-children-from-radicalisation/>

NEWS AND EVENTS - WHOLE SCHOOL

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>

KENDRICK SCHOOL VACANCIES (PLEASE SHARE WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY)

****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.

KENDRICK PARENTS' SOCIETY (KPS)

DROP IN SESSION WITH MS KATTIRTZI FOR YEAR 7 PARENTS/CARERS AND STUDENTS

The Kendrick Parents' Society has scheduled a drop in session for all the Year 7 parents and students with Ms Kattirtzi on Monday 8th February between 6pm and 7pm. We invite you all to this meeting and we look forward to seeing you there.

Topic: Year 7 meeting with Ms Kattirtzi

Time: Monday 8th February 2021 at 6:00pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2963158886>

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

YEAR 11 SIXTH FORM CONSULTATIONS

Year 11 students have been sent an email regarding a 1:1 conversation with a member of staff they will have next week regarding their Sixth Form options/future.

These 10 minute consultation appointments for all Year 11 students have been arranged using the SchoolCloud system we use for Parent Consultation Evenings.

We will make appointments for all students and the appointment details for your child will appear in your SchoolCloud account. Please allow your child access to your SchoolCloud account for this appointment **but you should not attend please as these appointments are for students only.**

SchoolCloud can be accessed via the link below:

<https://kendrick.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

All Year 11 students must complete the [Google Questionnaire](#) to confirm their A Level options by **midday on Monday 8th February 2021**. These choices must, of course, be the choice of the student and be what they would enjoying studying for the next two years.

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.

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK 2021

The annual, week-long celebration of apprenticeships, taking place across England, will showcase how apprenticeships have helped employers and people of all ages and backgrounds. The event will run from Monday 8th to Friday 12th February.

The week will be made up of pre-recorded presentations and videos, along with live presentations and Q&As, which will be delivered by local employers and Activate Apprenticeships alumni. Open to students, their parents and employers from across Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Surrey, you can register your interest on their website.

<https://activateapprenticeships.co.uk/national-apprenticeship-week-2021/>

TIPS AND TRICKS FOR SOCIALISING WITH PEERS DURING LOCKDOWN

- To catch up with friends, maybe take a few minutes to send a text asking how everything is going.
- If you like to work in groups, you can call your friends and do your work together.
- Engage in a conversation/play a game with you parents and siblings. Try not to talk about work too much, talk about other interesting things that you are interested in, or are doing.
- Try to call your friends and just have a nice chat with them.
- Text your friends throughout the day if you need help with anything, it can feel like you are still in school.
- Do some work together, German, French, Maths, whatever it is, it's always better to chat with your friends while you complete it. Be careful with this, however, as you do want to be focused. So, if it is distracting to work with others, do this with easier or more relaxing tasks.
- Do your work or revision together so then you feel like you have something to talk about and ask your friends first if they are also finding something hard or confusing.