

Kendrick School

Weekly Update

Friday 27th March 2020

WEEKLY LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

It doesn't seem possible that only a week ago we had a fully functioning school and one week on we are all in our homes and adapting to a new way of working and living. I hope that everyone is adjusting to the 'new normal' and trying to accommodate everyone's needs in the family; not an easy challenge I am sure.

I would like to start by thanking the students and staff for their incredible response to this new way of life that we have all been plunged into. Staff had been planning for the event of school closure and so I know that there is very good communication with students and their teachers and Heads of Years. Our 'keeping in touch' emails with Year groups have all been sent to students across the school today and another will be sent on Monday to welcome them back to the new week. Teachers are also communicating with their teaching groups and some online lessons are taking place. I am aware that some students are feeling overwhelmed by the different expectations being put on them and which subjects they should be focusing on. To those students and parents, please may I ask that you are patient with us as we try to organise how your learning can be best be achieved and how it can be manageable for you and your teachers.

Mr Simmonds, Deputy Headteacher leads our **assessment work** across the school and will be keeping in close contact with students and parents in Years 11, 12 and 13 regarding grades allocations we will be asked to give to the examination boards in due course. Please may I ask that all queries about grades that students and or parents have are directed to Mr Simmonds and not to the individual subject teachers. I would like to reassure all these students that we will be communicating with you our plans as and when we receive the guidance from the examination boards. Nevertheless, I appreciate that students and parents are feeling anxious at the moment with the current uncertainty, however, be assured that we will do everything we can to support our students in the coming weeks.

I am also extremely impressed with our staff and students about the way we are recreating the Kendrick community in a virtual world. As well as the email communications that are taking place across the school and online lessons, staff meetings are occurring remotely at all levels and in all areas. We are seeing some new community activities being sent to everyone to share so that everyone feels involved in their school community. There is the [Kendrick Arts Instagram](#) (kendrickschoolarts) where students have been invited to submit pieces of Art, this week under the theme of Hope. The Librarians have sent what will become a [Weekly Library Newsletter](#). In the emails that have been sent to students via their Year Heads, there are lots of suggestions about how to carry out school work, as well as recreational suggestions and activities to help manage and structure people's days. Personally, I have adopted a daily school work routine and in the evenings I am taking a walk with my husband and an hour of reading for pleasure after dinner; a luxury I never managed to fit in during term time which is certainly helping my wellbeing. Our new Head Girl Team

is preparing themselves to be introduced to you next term and our current Head Girl Team is preparing a presentation to everyone to summarise all they have done this year so that we can acknowledge and thank them for their service to the school.

Earlier in the year I mentioned the various annual **Kendrick Awards** that students across the school can apply for and I would like to remind students that these have not been put on hold. The link to the information is [here](#) and students can be thinking of what suits them and what they wish to apply for. The first deadline coming up is for the Trust Awards where applications need to be the end of April.

I hope that many of you joined in the *#clapforourcarers* initiative last night at 8.00pm to show how much we value and appreciate all the people in the NHS and others who are caring for the ill, vulnerable and elderly in our communities. By way of a small gesture, we have been asked if we can donate any (new) goggles and gloves to the NHS at this moment. My colleagues in the Science Department are very happy to do this and next week we hope to be giving what we can to the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

Finally, I would like to finish by remembering Manasvini, our student who unexpectedly died this time last year. As you know I sent an email to everyone yesterday. Miss Swaine has been communicating with Year 9, Manasvini's year group, and set them a Manasvini workout as an activity they could do during the day. Photos and comments have come in saying how much they appreciated the communication and activity. Only two weeks ago a commemorative garden, funded by donations that were made by parents and friends at the time, was created outside the Drama studio at the back of Cedars; it is a beautiful area filled with colourful flowers and plants. As soon as we can we will send a photo of the garden.

Just as we did last year, in the most tragic of circumstances, our community was tested and proved to be strong and resilient, so this year, as we face the challenge of COVID 19, let us all come together as a community and support each other. This pandemic will pass and we will get through these difficult times but we must remember that others, both now and in the past, have and are dealing with worse situations.

As always my best wishes to you all; keep well and safe,

Ms Christine Kattirtzi, Headteacher

SAFEGUARDING & SUPPORT AVENUES

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.

This week we highlight the World Health Organisation (WHO) information on helping children cope with stress during the COVID-19 outbreak. Please see the link below:

<https://www.kendrick.reading.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=276&type=pdf>

KENDRICK SCHOOL COMMUNITY DURING COVID-19

Below are links to news, activities and initiatives which are helping us recreate the Kendrick community in a virtual world. If you have anything you would like to add here that you are personally doing or doing as a group, please email aemberson@kendrick.reading.sch.uk

[Kendrick Arts Instagram](#)

[Down on the Farm – with Frau Alderson](#)

[Remembering Manasvini](#)

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

You will be well aware that there is lots and lots of information, resources and activities being promoted and advertised online and on social media to help get us all get through these difficult weeks. We will include ones that we are aware of, and if you know of any that you would like to promote then please let us know. IMPORTANT NOTE – Kendrick School is not responsible for the content of the external activities or resources.

[Kendrick School Coronavirus Library Newsletter](#)

[Kendrick School 'Of the Week'](#)

www.stem.org.uk/home-learning.

Everything on this page does not require registration to download materials- so can be used by parents (and students) directly. STEM have added guidance to some of the materials on how they might be used in a home learning environment and will continue to add more.

[BBC - Bitesize](#)

In April, BBC Bitesize will be changing to bring daily content that supports education and well-being.

[Chester Zoo - Webcam](#)

Today Chester Zoo hosted a live tour of its facilities. You can catch up with the day's events on Facebook.

[Natural History Museum Virtual Tours](#)

[Stream the Globe's Library of Shakespeare Plays](#)

[Google Arts and Culture Collection of Museums](#)

[30+ Virtual Field Trips](#)