

Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Friday 12th March 2021

WEEKLY LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

This week's word of the week is **challenge**; a verb most apt and relevant at the moment. As always, Ms Musgrave chooses just the right word to reflect the times that we are in. Firstly the theme for **International Women's Day** on Monday was **choose to challenge** and in the example of the definition it says '*we are called to challenge the status quo*', of course there are many other ways the word can be used. Another challenge we have encountered this week is the welcome challenge of bringing students back to school, testing them and making sure that they are able to return safely to their classrooms. I am pleased to report that the return of our students to school and lessons has gone very well indeed and by lunch time yesterday the whole school was back, working face to face with their teachers. Moreover, everyone has responded to the strong recommendation to wear a face mask. Yesterday I was in a lesson with Dr Smalley and her Year 11 Physics class and we agreed that whilst wearing a mask is not conducive to helping to read non-verbal signals, which are so helpful for a teacher to gauge how a class is responding and working, the fact that students and teachers are in the same room together is very much better for their learning. Thank you to everyone for helping us manage this challenge. I would like to particularly highlight the team conducting and administering the **Lateral Flow Tests**. Led by **Mrs Brunson**, the team comprises **Mrs Saunders, Mrs Haynes, Ms Nolte, Mrs Call, Mrs Joshi, Mr Miller, Miss Lawlor**, and volunteers **Miss Blakey and Mr Brunson**. I have observed the thorough and careful process, clear guidance and assurance given to students by this super team as they have shown students how to administer the test themselves. As you know all students will have three tests altogether and then they will be provided with kits to conduct testing at home. I do hope everyone will follow this guidance so that we can do what we can to help limit transmission of the virus and slowly unlock society.

This week has also been significant for the discussions that are taking place regarding the **GCSE and A Level assessments**. Mr Simmonds has emailed students in Year 11, 12 and 13 and parents to set out a timeline from now until July with details about the assessment process, the evidence gathering and how teachers will be able to accurately and fairly provide **Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGS)**. During the next few weeks students and their teachers will be having conversations about how this process will be done at Kendrick, as well as teacher student discussions on progress. To that end a **Profiling Day** has been organised for **Monday 22nd March** for the whole school where every student will have a one to one conversation with their Tutor or Head of Year to discuss their learning and progress over the last few months. These interviews will be done remotely and students will be at home for that day. You will receive more information about Profiling Day next week.

Other school events recently have been the completion of consultations we have had with our own Year 11 students and with students from other school who have applied to join us in the Sixth Form. It has been a joy talking to these young people who despite what they have been through these last few months are being very optimistic for the future. Also this week students in **Year 9** started the process of choosing their **options for GCSE**. A video talk and information from Dr Perry has been given to them and sent to their parents.

In line with regularly reviewing and changing some of our practices, this week we launched the application and election process for the **Kendrick Student Leadership Team 2021-2022**. Last year we made the momentous decision to change the name of the team from Head Girl Team to **Student Leadership Team** and this year we are going further with a complete restructure and an expansion in numbers and roles. The team is likely to almost double in size which will give more students an opportunity to be part of it and support the vision and initiatives of the school. The process is

also happening slightly later in the school year, but over a shorter period of time. I am very excited about this development and hope that students in Year 12 are also keen to put themselves forward to be considered.

Mrs Cooper, Head of Music and Drama, wanted me to remind everyone about our **Spring Concert** which will be on **Tuesday 30th March**. Again it will be virtual and we would like the theme to focus on **kindness, being positive, helping others** - ideas that reflect some of the many experiences, feelings and emotions we have all had over the last year. The Music Department asks that students and staff contribute songs, music, poems that are uplifting and convey a positive message which can help people feel hopeful about the future. At this time of year we would also have a joint Kendrick and Reading School Air Ambulance concert led and organised by students, but unfortunately we cannot hold the event this year. However, the funds we raise for our concert will be shared by our Music Department and Thames Valley Air Ambulance. If you would like to get involved or want more information, please contact Mrs Cooper and or send your video entries (or audio if this is not possible) to cocooper@kendrick.reading.sch.uk by **Friday 26th March** at the very latest, stating your name, the piece you are playing and who composed/wrote it. Entries can be from any year group or staff member, and if you want to get your family involved too, we welcome that. We look forward to receiving your entries soon.

I attended a **Kendrick Parents' Society (KPS)** meeting on Monday evening. It is always an enjoyable occasion being with parents who are trying hard to make a difference to our school by supporting initiatives and planning events for our community. As you know KPS has been active throughout the last year and tried to do many events remotely which will continue for the rest of this academic year. Forthcoming events are a **Quiz Night on Saturday 26th March** and the launch of the **Summer Raffle in June**. There may be other events that they can do as lockdown eases, but in whatever they do, I do hope they will receive the support of the wider body of students and parents. More information will be sent to you by KPS in due course.

On the theme of **kindness**, a student in Year 9, **Kaya**, decided she wanted to raise money for the **Little Princess Trust**, a charity that provides wigs for children and young adults who have lost their hair from cancer treatment. Kaya will be donating 9 inches of her hair to the charity as well as raising money for this important cause. Please see Kaya's article on the website [here](#) and her just giving page where she is trying to raise £1000. <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rajesh-patel10> Well done, Kaya!

To finish, this week I want to share a quotation that Mrs Hearn used in her assembly to the Sixth Form this morning. Describing the process that the GCSE and A Level students are going through at the moment, she referenced Professor Sarah Gilbert the scientist that led the development of the Astra Zeneca vaccine at Oxford University. Professor Gilbert has explained that she and her team went through a series of small steps to get to their goal of producing a vaccine. Mrs Hearn said this process of small steps is what we will be going through with our students to get to the teacher assessed grades this summer. She finished this assembly with the following quotation by Professor Gilbert:

'We can be resilient enough to get through this year. It's a time to concentrate on health, education and good relations with each other.'

With these thoughts in mind, I wish you all a good weekend.

Ms Christine Kattirtzi, 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.

WORKING FROM HOME WITH A FAMILY

Coronavirus (COVID-19) has changed a lot for families with children in the last year. We know parents and carers might be worried about balancing working from home with family life, from creating structure to coping with difficult feelings. The NSPCC has got tips and advice to support you and your family – whether you want to try something new today or just start thinking about changes to make over the coming weeks. Please see the link below:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/coronavirus-parents-working-from-home/>

ONLINE CONTENT AND STAYING SAFE

Video streaming and chatting online can be really exciting but do you know how to protect your child from adult content and contact? Find out how to help them stay safe from abuse via the link below.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Concerned-about-your-child/Online-contact-and-staying-safe/>

SELF-CARE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Self-care is about the things we can do to look after our own mental health. The Anna Freud Centre has put together a list of strategies young people use and have shared these strategies via the link below.

<https://www.annafreud.org/on-my-mind/self-care/>

NEWS AND EVENTS - WHOLE SCHOOL

NEWS ON OUR WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

[Fundraising for the Little Princess Trust](#)

[Maths Challenge Results](#)

GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE ON LATERAL FLOW TESTING (LFT)

The government guidance on Lateral Flow Testing (LFT) can be found below:

Around 1 in 3 people who have coronavirus (COVID-19) have no symptoms. By rolling out rapid testing to schools and universities at pace we are helping to uncover hidden cases of the virus, break the chains of transmission and stopping outbreaks before they get a chance to develop.

Students in secondary schools and colleges are currently testing on site – 3 tests, each 3 to 5 days apart – using Lateral Flow Devices (LFDs) as part of the rapid asymptomatic testing programme. Robust evaluations from PHE and the University of Oxford show that LFD tests are accurate, reliable and successfully identify those with coronavirus (COVID-19) who could pass on the virus without realising. The tests have extremely low rates of false positives. LFD tests taken on test sites, such as on school and college grounds, do not need a confirmatory PCR test. This is because these tests are done in a controlled environment and trained staff read the results.

If a pupil or student received a supervised school-based LFD test, as part of the rapid asymptomatic testing programme, and it was positive then they and other members of their household must self-isolate. PCR testing is not advised if you have received a positive result from an LFD test at a school or college test site. If a parent was to do this and it returned a negative result, the policy remains that the pupil or student, their close contacts, and other members of their household must still self-isolate.

All positive results from rapid tests undertaken at home do need to be confirmed with a standard PCR test. This is because these tests are not conducted in a controlled environment and will not have trained staff on hand. Following positive LFD test at home, a confirmatory PCR test should be booked online or by calling 119. Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the pupil or student and their close contacts should self-isolate. If the PCR test is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test (at home only) and a child can return to school.

HIGH STREET HERITAGE ACTION ZONE PROJECT

No5 Young People has an exciting opportunity for you to explore new creative ways to help your mental health and wellbeing whilst having your say on how you would like the history and art of Reading's Oxford Road area to be celebrated!

No5, in partnership with Reside Dance C.I.C and Reading Borough Council's 'High Street Heritage Action Zone' project, are running two dance and movement workshops that will explore the community of Reading, particularly in and around the Oxford Road where No5 is based.

A video of what the workshops will involve can be found at: <https://youtu.be/K5qKk1IO9-8>

These workshops will be an opportunity to meet other local young people and to explore and try out some new creative ways to help your mental health and wellbeing. Afterwards, there will also be an opportunity to feedback on your experience which will help Reside and the HSHAZ to develop future workshops for young people in Reading.

If you are interested in being involved, please let No5 know by **Friday 19th March** by contacting Jen at jen@residedance.co.uk who will then email you a registration form.

Workshop details:

Dates: Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th April

Times: 5:30-6:30pm

Location: Zoom

SPRING CONCERT – TUESDAY 30TH MARCH

At this time of year, we would be normally preparing for our Spring Concert in which some of our Y13 students would have the opportunity to perform a movement from a concerto with our Symphony Orchestra and all of our small and large ensembles would perform to a packed audience. At a similar time, students from both Kendrick School and Reading School would be working towards putting together a student-led concert in aid of Thames Valley Air

Ambulance, as they have done for a number of years now. Sadly, those plans have had to be put on hold until things are safer for us all, but we still wanted to share our musicality with everyone.

This year, on Tuesday 30th March, we will be publishing another virtual concert and we want as many people to get involved as they can! The theme for this year's concert is all about positivity and helping others; this could be as simple as singing an uplifting song, writing or reading a poem that conveys a positive message for others or playing a piece that may put a smile on someone else's face. As part of this concert, we are looking to raise money for both the Music Department and Thames Valley Air Ambulance and will be sharing the donations equally between the two. Donations can be made via Parent Pay.

If you would like to get involved, please send your video entries (or audio if this is not possible) to ccooper@kendrick.reading.sch.uk by **Friday 26th March** at the very latest, stating your name, the piece you are playing and who composed/wrote it. Entries can be from any year group or staff member, and if you want to get your family involved too, we welcome that. We look forward to receiving your entries soon.

Kendrick School Music Department

KENDRICK PARENTS' SOCIETY (KPS)

KPS has been planning a few events for all parents and students and would like to invite you all to them. Please see the details below:

KPS Meeting: Monday 8th March 2021 from 6pm to 7.30pm. If you are able to attend please email secretary.kps.uk@gmail.com

Y8 drop in session with Ms Kattirtzi: Tuesday 16th March 2021 from 6pm to 7pm.

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Y9 drop in session with Ms Kattirtzi: Tuesday 23rd March 2021 from 6pm to 7pm.

Join Zoom Meeting

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

If you would like to attend please email kpschair@kendrick.reading.sch.uk. Please note that you do not need to be a member of the KPS to attend one of these sessions.

KPS Quiz: We are planning for a KPS quiz this month. Look out for more information via our newsletter and what'sapp channel.

Uniform Sale: Now that the students are returning to face to face learning, KPS would like to offer the opportunity to buy a second hand Kendrick jumper for £5. We have a number of jumpers in various sizes and they will be allocated on a "first come – first serve" basis.

The available sizes are 9-10 years, 11-12 years, 13 years, S and M.

Please email Teresa at thaynes@kendrick.reading.sch.uk and let her know what size jumper you would like to buy and she will let you know if there is still a jumper available in the size you require. Payment will be either by cash, when the jumper is handed over, or by transfer to KPS account.

We would also like to remind everyone that there is a box for donations of second hand uniforms in the cupboard where lost property is kept.

Please click [here](#) for the latest KPS newsletter.

The KPS Committee

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, ARTICLES AND EVENTS – STUDENTS

ARRIVAL IN SCHOOL

If you arrive at school before 7.45am, please wait in the Canteen until you can go to your form room.

CHANGING YOUR PASSWORD

If you have not changed your password since Christmas, your password will expire on **Monday 22nd March**.

If you wish to change your password before then, log on as normal and then press <CTRL><ALT><DELETE> and choose the "Change a password" option. Please note: you **cannot** do this from the PCs in the Library, 6th Form study, Sidmouth basement or Sidmouth top floor.

Your new password must be at least 8 characters long, contain at least one character out of three of the four character groups (Uppercase, Lowercase, Numbers and special characters), must not contain your name or username and must not be one that you have used before.

The most secure passwords are now believed to be ones that contain two unrelated words and a number. E.g. CarfoX14 (but please do not use that one!).

Whatever you change it to, please make sure it is something you can remember.

Lastly once you have changed your school login password, this will then sync with your school Gmail account.