

Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Thursday 1st April 2021

WEEKLY LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

The end of this term is significant in so many ways. I am pleased that we have been able to remain in school in a Covid safe environment, where everyone has behaved responsibly and sensibly. The **Lateral Flow** testing that we did a few weeks ago must continue through the holidays and students and parents must remember to do these tests and log them on the NHS website and Medical Tracker. I am also happy to report that some of our premises initiatives and improvements are complete, in particular, the swimming pool is now ready for use by our students next term and hirers. The super benches outside Horizons, bought by KPS, are being well used by students this week since the weather has improved. A new screen has been installed in the dining area of the Horizons building, also bought by KPS, ready to be used next term and the water fountain requested by students is being ordered and will be installed soon. Money raised at the KPS Quiz last Saturday evening will support this initiative.

At this time of the year we acknowledge the work of our **Kendrick Student Leadership Team** as they come to the end of their term of office and a new team takes over next term. I would like to thank and praise this team for carrying on the Kendrick spirit which has been much more of a challenge to maintain during the Covid and lockdown times. Through their enthusiasm and creativity, events and activities have continued to take place to engage the students. On everyone's behalf I would like to thank Angelica, Letitia, Many, Kalkidan, Khadija, Rhea and Temi and House Captains Zainab, Georgia, Ndego for all they have done this year. Yesterday we had a small gathering and celebration of the work of the team and we took some photos which you can see [HERE](#).

A wonderful new initiative is being introduced and this is the **Kendrick Student Newspaper! School Council** has been discussing these ideas with Mr Simmonds. The newspaper will include articles on school life, national and international issues and local area news that deserves a voice. The idea is to encourage conversations and inform the student body in an entertaining, engaging way. Students will have opportunities to write articles, make comic strips, recommend songs, books, movies and more. It is an opportunity for the whole school to interact and learn from one another. Key roles need to be made, including an editorial team etc. Information about how students apply to be in the editorial team was sent to everyone today in the daily bulletin.

In our remote final assembly today, I asked students to take some time to reflect on the times we have all been through this last year, and to try to look with hope and optimism to the future. For some people it has not been easy, as they feel everything they planned or have been working for has been snatched from them. This is being particularly felt and voiced by our Year 11 and 13 students who we are encouraging and trying to reassure every day. I would like to ask parents of these students to do what you can to calm and reassure the students that everything will be alright in the end. Far from being seen as the generation that has been cheated, they will be seen as the young people who triumphed over adversity and achieved so much. Let's make sure that we are always encouraging and supporting our students in everything they do.

Looking to the future and hoping we will all be able to do more as lockdown eases, I am delighted once again to offer students across the school some **bursaries and grants** that are available to them. Through the generosity of people who have had an association with the school, as well as the Kendrick Trust, Kendrick students can apply for grants and bursaries to pursue some educationally enriching activity or course. The details of the grants and bursaries available is [HERE](#). I will talk more about these next term.

A few weeks ago Miss Swaine shared a poem with me which I would like to share with you to end this week.

Tell the Teenagers

Tell the teenagers

That this will not go on forever, that very very soon, their life will begin again and it will begin in glorious technicolour.

Tell the teenagers

That they are not being left behind, that all the other young people are waiting too, this stress is collective.

Tell the teenagers

That night is darkest before dawn, so if they are feeling extra hopeless right now, that's because it's coming to an end, soon.

Tell the teenagers

That it's possible to feel utter despair and misery, then, for no apparent reason, to wake up one day and to suddenly feel joy again, we don't know why. Don't believe anything to be permanent, it's not.

Tell the teenagers

That we may not understand how this is affecting them but we can imagine, and we can worry. We don't know what to do for the best but we are here.

Tell the teenagers

That one day they will look back on this and realise it made them a far better human somehow. They will seize the moment, face the fears and take every opportunity with open arms. And when tough times come, they will remember they survived.

Tell the teenagers

To find a little purpose every day and hang onto it, like a life raft. Anything, no matter how small, can keep you afloat.

Tell the teenagers

That what they are enduring right now is not fair, it's not easy and it is hard. But great things are coming, if they can just hang on and wait...

Wait...

Just a little longer.

Donna Ashworth

Wishing everyone a restful and relaxing holiday. Please take some time to enjoy the wonderful online Spring Concert which you can access via this [link](#).

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.

MANAGING UNCERTAINTY WITH YOUR CHILD

Please click on this [link](#) for an article on top tips for managing uncertainty with your child.

PREVENTING HARMFUL SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR

Stop it Now has created a guide for parents, carers and professionals to explain the warning signs, risks and the steps to prevent harmful sexual behaviour in children and young people as well as how to talk about worrying behaviours, if they are already present.

The guide has got support, advice and information, plus resources and links to useful organisations. To access the guide please click on this [link](#).

WATER SAFETY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

During the school holidays, and in particular in hot weather, increasing numbers of children put themselves at risk of drowning. On average 40-50 children drown per year in the UK. To keep yourself safe, when you are in, on or beside water, always follow the Water Safety Code which you can access via the link below.

<https://www.rosipa.com/leisure-safety/water/advice/children-young-people>

KEEPING SAFE ONLINE IN THE HOLIDAYS

The information via the link below refers to the summer holidays but the general principles are the same.

Children and young people across the UK are getting ready to have more free time to spend with friends and family as the holidays get into full swing. For many young people this time will be spent using the internet to keep in touch with school friends, catch up with the latest apps and online trends, and play their favourite games. In this blog Safer Internet UK look at the ways in which parents and carers can help keep their children safe as they start to spend more time online. Please click on this [link](#) to access the article.

NEWS AND EVENTS - WHOLE SCHOOL

NEWS ON OUR WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

[Bursaries and Grants 2021](#)

[Online Spring Concert 2021](#)

[Departing School Leaders](#)

LATERAL FLOW TESTING (LFT) AT HOME DURING THE EASTER HOLIDAYS

Students should continue to carry out the LFT as normal during the Easter holidays and report the results to Kendrick School and NHS Track and Trace.

Please click on this [link](#) for instructions on how you should report LFT results to [Kendrick School](#). This is a very quick and simple method using a system called MedicalTracker. You also need to report the result to [NHS Test and Trace](#).

Taking part in testing is voluntary and all students will be able to attend school whether they take part in testing or not. **However, we are strongly encouraging all students to take part.** Testing at home will allow your child and other students to attend school as safely as possible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (FAQS) PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE VIA THIS [LINK](#).

ONLINE SPRING CONCERT

Now we are approaching the end of another term and spring has sprung, we thought we would share with you another online concert which guarantees to put a smile on your face. With the theme of positivity, kindness and helping others, this series of performances showcases the abilities of students from across the school community.

As part of this concert, we are looking to raise money jointly for Thames Valley Air Ambulance, as we would do at this time of year, and our Music Department. We hope you thoroughly enjoy each and every one of these performances and would gratefully appreciate any donations via [Parent Pay](#). You can access the concert via the link below.

<https://www.kendrick.reading.sch.uk/news/?pid=6&nid=4&storyid=284>

We hope you all enjoy a restful holiday and thank you for your continued support.

Kendrick School Music Department

KENDRICK PARENTS' SOCIETY (KPS)

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

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

KENDRICK SCHOOL IS LAUNCHING A SCHOOL NEWSPAPER!

Kendrick is launching a school newspaper!

It will include articles on Kendrick life; school, national and international issues and local area news that deserves a voice. We are running with the hopes of sparking conversation and informing the student body in an entertaining, engaging way.

There will be opportunities to write articles, make comic strips, recommend songs, books, movies and more. This is a chance for the whole school to really interact and learn from one another.

But first, we need an editorial team! And that's where you come in. If you're passionate about being a part of this newspaper and the editing that goes into it, this is your opportunity.

To apply, we need one editorial written by you on a Kendrick issue, a national issue OR an international issue by the end of the Easter Holidays. If you're unsure what an editorial is, I will be sending another notice regarding a Google classroom and criteria soon.

You will be a fixed team that has a first-hand say in what appears or doesn't appear in this newspaper - we're looking to make it count! We would love to have someone from every year group, so please don't hesitate to get involved.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Arya Kalavath at 16akalavath@kendrick.reading.sch.uk

Have a good Easter break and happy writing!

IMPERIAL COLLEGE VIRTUAL STEM DAYS FOR YEARS 9-12 OVER THE EASTER HOLIDAYS

We have received the following invitation from a former Kendrick student. However, please note that this event is not connected to Kendrick School and Kendrick School is not responsible for the content in any way.

Imperial College are holding virtual STEM open days most suitable for Years 9-12 over the Easter holidays, which Kendrick students may be interested in. Imperial WSET has inclusivity and diversity as our key principles, and we aim to increase female participation in male-dominated STEM fields. We are holding free open days to give secondary

school girls a taste of STEM subjects outside the classroom through a range of interactive activities throughout the day, run by Imperial College student volunteers.

The days will include:

- Beginner coding workshops using Tynker software
- Q&A panels with current Imperial students
- A range of subject-specific presentations to give an intro into STEM degree courses at Imperial

We would like to invite Kendrick students in **Years 9-12** to attend WSET's virtual open days on **Thursday 8th April** and **Friday 9th April 2021**, each **from 1pm to 5pm**. Students may each sign up for one day only. A timetable of the days is included below.

Requirements:

- Students should be in **Years 9-12**. Other year groups are welcome but the content may be less relevant to them
- The students will need a **desktop computer or laptop** which they can access from home, with microphone and camera access for the best interactive experience (not a mobile device such as a tablet or phone, as they cannot be used for the Tynker coding workshop)
- A stable internet connection to be able to join a **Microsoft Teams** meeting
- Students may sign up for **one day only** (the events are both days are identical)
- Be interested in STEM!

Sign-ups will be taken on a first come, first served basis and other schools have also been invited, so please encourage sign-ups ASAP or before Wednesday 7th April at the latest.

Thursday 8th April sign-up [link](#)

Friday 9th April sign-up [link](#)

Students will be able to attend a subject-specific presentation by an Imperial student in the latter half of the afternoons. The sign-up form contains the list of presentations and allows students to choose preferences for which one they would like to attend.

WSET Open Day Timetable

Time	Description	People Responsible
12:45 - 13:00	Students may start to log in to the Teams meeting	Shannan Huang
13:00 – 13:15	Brief introduction about Imperial College London, Imperial Women in SET and the logistics of the open day	Ciara Gibbs
13:15 – 14:15	Small-group Tynker coding workshops	
14:15 – 14:30	Break	
14:30 – 15:30	Rotations through Q&A panels	
15:30 – 16:15	Subject-specific presentations	

16:15 – 16:30	Break	
16:30 – 16:50	Intro to applying to university: hear from an admissions tutor	
16:50 – 17:00	Closing remarks	

The activities on the day are subject to change. The Q&A rooms will be divided by course, and will include Imperial students studying:

- Mathematics
- Physics
- Chemistry
- Aeronautical Engineering
- Bioengineering
- Chemical Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Medicine and Medical Biosciences
- Life Sciences
- Computing