

# Kendrick School - Weekly Update

## Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021

### WEEKLY LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

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School is being made ready for the return of students starting on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. I cannot tell you how pleased and excited we are to welcome back students after such a long absence. We know that returning to school is daunting, but I am sure that once students cross the threshold and begin to see familiar faces, their fears and worries will subside. The testing centre for the Lateral Flow tests (LFT) is ready and there will be staff who will be directing students on the first day of their return, the details of which are in the email sent to you last week. A summary can be found [here](#) and a presentation explaining the LFT can be found [here](#). Before each cohort is due to return we will email you a reminder. By Thursday lunch time all students will be back at school and receiving their lessons from their teachers in classrooms.

I would like to acknowledge some of the many things that have been happening whilst students have been absent from school which I am sure you are all aware of. Firstly the twice weekly emails from Heads of Years on Mondays and Fridays. I am always so keen to read the messages to students from Mrs Hearn (Sixth Form), Mr Stride, Mrs Cooper and Miss Long (KS4) and Miss Swaine and Mme Hulley (KS3). They each find something interesting or relevant to brighten the start of the week and sign off positively at the end of the week. I am sure students and parents are most grateful for receiving such regular and encouraging messages. Equally teaching staff have worked incredibly hard to make remote lessons work for students, to engage and challenge them, as well making sure they are covering the curriculum as far as is possible in the more restricted circumstances. Finally our support staff, whose work is often less visible, have done an incredible amount of work to keep school systems going and in fact have enhanced practices across the school. I am sure you will join me in thanking them all for what they have done for our students in the last few months.

On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March is **International Women's Day** (IWD), an important day for everyone to appreciate and acknowledge women and their contribution and achievements everywhere. This year's theme is **Choose to Challenge**, which encourages everyone to accelerate gender parity through action. In an article by Mrs Cavacuiti and other resources drawn together by Miss Edwards, which you can find [HERE](#), you can read lots of information about the theme. You are asked to consider what **choose to challenge** might mean for each of us. Some prominent women have given their views and how they intend to *choose to challenge*. Perhaps you and your family and friends might like to consider how you might choose to challenge; I look forward to having that discussion with my husband and sons this weekend.

Across many areas of the school the idea of **choose to challenge** is often demonstrated by the displays and attention we give to women's achievements. Mrs Cooper, Head of Music and Drama, reminded me this week that in Cedars where we teach Music and Drama, the music practice rooms have been named after prominent women musicians: Hildegard von Bingen – 1098-1179 – first female composer, Ella Fitzgerald – 1917-1996 – singer, Alison Balsom – b.1978 – trumpeter, Dame Evelyn Glennie – b.1965 – percussionist, and Chi-chi Nwanoku OBE – b.1957 – double bass player and founder/Artistic Director of Chineke! Orchestra and former student of Kendrick School. We will feature these women and their amazing achievements in our 'Of the Week' sheets in the coming weeks. I think this is a good example of how we **choose to challenge** by highlighting to everyone women's musical achievements. I know there are similar examples across many other subjects, for example science, philosophy, history and English Literature. A link to the website article is [HERE](#).

Last week I mentioned that I would be able to announce the winners of the Holocaust Memorial Day Poetry Competition. After considerable discussion, Miss Akcay, Mrs Cavacuiti, Mrs Williamson and I decided on two winners: **Xuan in Year 10** and **Koyenum in Year 8. Well done Xuan and Koyenum!**

*Xuan's poem was moving and explored the other side of being the light for others. It explored the difficulty of slicing through one's own darkness, in a daring, vulnerable and authentic manner. It was skillfully written and felt like a puzzle of the mind.*

*Koyenum's powerful poem combined hope and delicacy with historical urgency in her exploration of what it had meant for individuals to be the light throughout historical injustices and what it means to be the light today. It was clear-voiced and rich with historical awareness, thought and emotion.*

We also agreed on seven runners up and they are: **Bhoomija (Yr8), Samragee (Yr9), Nidhi (Yr8), Lucy (Yr9), Shreya G (Yr7), Eryena (Yr8) and Usmi (Yr7)**. Congratulations to them all! I strongly recommend that you take some time to read these poems which can be found [HERE](#).

I am sure everyone noticed it was **World Book Day** yesterday, but as our students are not in school yet, we have decided to postpone the events and plans for World Book Day until later in the term.

I would like to finish by saying again that we all understand the trepidation there is amongst some of our students and indeed staff regarding returning to s

chool next week. I know that I felt very worried when I began my return to school in January after a long absence. There is also considerable worry at the moment amongst Year 11 and 13 students about the plans published last week by the DfE and Ofqual on Teacher Assessed grades for this year's GCSE and A Levels. All of these fears can make one feel very overwhelmed and anxious, but I would like to reassure everyone that your teachers and staff are working very hard to make things as manageable as possible for you as you begin your return to school. Once everyone is back it will be easier to speak directly to students and allay their fears and show them what is being done to keep them safe and to support them through the rest of the year.

Every week, my PA, Ms Emberson, is ever more resourceful in finding guidance to support students and families through challenging times. Please read beyond my update and find the links to helpful and supportive materials that can help you with worries you may have and how you can deal with these. The link here, for example, is very useful <https://www.annafreud.org/on-my-mind/>

Wishing everyone 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](mailto: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.

## RETURNING TO SCHOOL AFTER LOCKDOWN

Please find below some useful resources to share with your child regarding returning to school next week.

**Childline:** <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/school-college-and-work/school-college/school/>

**Place2Be:** <https://www.place2be.org.uk/our-services/services-for-schools/mental-health-resources-for-schools/return-to-school-resources/>

**NSPCC:** <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/away-from-home/at-school/#coronavirus>

**Trauma Informed Schools UK:** [https://6282.s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/Recognising\\_and\\_responding\\_to\\_Anxiety-4+Trauma+Informed+Schools+UK.pdf](https://6282.s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/Recognising_and_responding_to_Anxiety-4+Trauma+Informed+Schools+UK.pdf)

**YoungMinds:** <https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/coping-with-anxiety-about-going-back-to-school/>

**YoungMinds:** for parents/carers: <https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/supporting-a-child-returning-to-school-after-lockdown/>

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## NEWS AND EVENTS - WHOLE SCHOOL

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### NEWS ON OUR WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

[Celebrating International Women's Day in Music](#)

[Holocaust Poetry Competition](#)

[Music in Lockdown](#)

### RETURN TO SCHOOL – WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

Please see the emails that have been sent to parents/carers of each year group giving details of the return to school week commencing Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

The COVID arrangements within school are the same as before lock-down, however, students must now wear masks in lessons and when moving around the school. We are not aware of any students who are medically exempt from wearing masks, but please contact [admin@kendrick.reading.sch.uk](mailto:admin@kendrick.reading.sch.uk) if you believe your child fits into this category.

Arrival times are below:

<b>Year 7</b>	<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March</b>	between 8am and 8.20am
<b>Year 8</b>	<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March</b>	between 8am and 8.20am
<b>Year 9</b>	<b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March</b>	between 8am and 8.20am
<b>Year 10</b>	<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March</b>	between 12.15pm and 12.30pm
<b>Year 11</b>	<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March</b>	between 12.15pm and 12.30pm
<b>Year 12</b>	<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March</b>	see email for time of arrival
<b>Year 13</b>	<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March</b>	see email for time of arrival

The canteen will be open as normal unless stated in the email sent to you.

Please see the presentation via this [link](#) about Lateral Flow Testing (LFT) at Kendrick School.

## 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 [cocooper@kendrick.reading.sch.uk](mailto:cocooper@kendrick.reading.sch.uk) by **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> 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**

## CHARTWELLS

Please click [here](#) for Chartwells' (school meal provider) latest newsletter which is regarding the safe return to school and school meals from 8<sup>th</sup> March.

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## KENDRICK PARENTS' SOCIETY (KPS)

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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 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 from 6pm to 7.30pm. If you are able to attend please email [secretary.kps.uk@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.kps.uk@gmail.com)

**Y8 drop in session with Ms Kattirtzi:** Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021 from 6pm to 7pm.

**Y9 drop in session with Ms Kattirtzi:** Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 from 6pm to 7pm.

If you would like to attend please email [kpschair@kendrick.reading.sch.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](https://smile.amazon.co.uk), (not [www.amazon.co.uk](http://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.

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## NEWS, ARTICLES AND EVENTS – STUDENTS

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### MUSIC IN LOCKDOWN

I am sure many students are looking forward to seeing their friends and getting back to some sense of normality when they return to school next week, but we in the Music Department thought this recording was well worth sharing with the whole school, demonstrating just how wonderful and adaptable our students have been during lockdown.

In Year 9, students were tasked with composing their own pop songs from scratch in groups of five or six. Following the guidance of their teachers, they had to write their own lyrics on a topic of their choice, compose a melody and accompanying chords, as well as add in additional layers for different parts of their song. Doing this in any 'normal' year is difficult enough, but remote learning has provided extra challenges as you can imagine.

This group from 9C, Miloni, Moksha, Mukta, Zunairah, Ananya and Amelie, rose to this challenge and worked together exceptionally well to create this song, ['Can You Keep My Secret?'](#): which makes use of a beautiful melody, effective accompanying parts and an engaging guitar solo. We think this work is worth celebrating and is but one example of what all students have shown they are capable of in their varying subjects. Well done!

**Mrs Cooper, Ms Rohweder and Miss Lawlor**  
**Music Department**