

Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Friday 21st May 2021

WEEKLY LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

The three week assessment period of GCSEs, A Levels and some AS Levels finishes today to the huge relief of our students. I would like to thank the students once again for getting through this period with diligence, focus and determination. It has not been easy for them and I hope that this weekend they can begin to relax and look forward to their future plans in the knowledge they have tried their best in these unprecedented times. The teachers with their unfailing commitment and dedication to the students will do their very best to get through the challenging processes of marking, moderation and grading over the next few weeks, which as I have said before is an enormous amount of work. My thanks to everyone involved in this assessment process so far.

Elsewhere in the school, Years 7, 8 and 9 can look forward to a week of activities and new experiences with Year 8 embarking on the first residential trip we have been able to have since February 2020, whilst Years 7 and 9 will be having some in house events, team building and working together in some creative activities. I am looking forward to having conversations with Year 7 students in small groups, something I usually do in the first term of the academic year, but was unable to do because of the restrictions and the fact I was not in school. I look forward to hearing how they have found their first year at Kendrick.

Following the excellent assembly prepared by the **Curriculum and Current affairs Committee of the KSL**, on the COVID situation in India, a themed Own Clothes Day was held yesterday to raise money for the international COVID charities. Some students, and even a few members of staff, dressed in beautifully coloured and designed saris and Punjabi suits and some photos were taken which we will share with you next week. At my meeting with the Kendrick Student Leaders yesterday, plans are already being considered for the next assembly they wish to do on another most urgent current issue. They wish to highlight the situation in Israel and Gaza; a politically difficult situation which regularly claims victims to violence and war, but which rarely seems close to being resolved. A ceasefire agreed yesterday may temporarily bring peace to the region, but the long term resentments and fears of both groups in the conflict will take a long time to resolve. I am impressed with the awareness that many of our students have to situations of conflict and their humanitarian impact. I feel inspired that there is a new generation of young people, who like generations before them, will endeavour to do what they can to make lives better for people and who will try to challenge the political impasse there exists in so many parts of the world.

Another drop-in session was organised by KPS with parents of students in Year 10. To my surprise, about 52 parents joined the chat with me and committee members of KPS. Understandably there were some questions about how the students' learning has been affected this year and what might we expect for this cohort next year. Similar questions might also be asked by parents of Year 12 students. These and many other questions about next year's A Levels and GCSEs are being discussed by the DfE and the examination boards. We are being told that in September 2021 we will receive further information and guidance. What appears certain is that the normal process of public examinations will resume next year. Our Year 10 and 12 students therefore must continue with their studies as they have done so sensibly so far and continue to prepare for the end of year assessments which for Year 10 begin next Monday 24th May and Year 12 begin on Monday 7th June.

Finally I would like to remind everyone that we continue to remain COVID safe in school wearing masks and adhering to our cleaning regimes. We must also continue to do our Lateral Flow Tests twice a week. By doing this we will keep

the virus under control in our school and community. Having been so patient and diligent over the last year, we do not want to return to the restrictions of a few months ago.

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 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.

BBC BITESIZE – PARENTS’ TOOLKIT

BBC Bitesize has top tips, expert advice and fun activities to help you support your child’s wellbeing and learning in a changing world. For more information click on the link below:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/znsmyxc>

ONLINE GROOMING NEW CAMPAIGN (INTERNET WATCH FOUNDATION)

A new IWF safety campaign aims to help parents have conversations with their children about keeping their 'door' closed to child sexual abusers. The campaign includes a booklet for parents, explaining the risks, explaining why children are vulnerable, and suggests practice steps that parents can take.

The mnemonic used in the campaign is TALK:

- TALK to your child about online sexual abuse. Start the conversation – and listen to their concerns.
- AGREE ground rules about the way you use technology as a family.
- LEARN about the platforms and apps your child loves. Take an interest in their online life.
- KNOW how to use tools, apps and settings that can help to keep your child safe online.

For further details go to: <https://talk.iwf.org.uk/>

NEWS AND EVENTS - WHOLE SCHOOL

NEWS ON OUR WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

[Poetry Masterclass by Kate Clanchy](#)

CALENDAR

Monday 24 th May	Start of Activity Week for Years 7,8,9, and 11 Year 8 leave for Bushcraft trip (Monday to Thursday) Start of Year 10 Exams Year 12 study leave week
Thursday 27 th May	Governor P&R Committee, 4.30pm
Friday 28 th May	Curriculum Day, only Year 10 students in school Last day of Term 5, 3.15pm

KENDRICK PARENTS' SOCIETY (KPS)

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

Our big fund-raising event of the year, **Kendrick's Summer Raffle will be launched on 7th June and will be drawn on 26th June**. We are happy to let you know that there is a wide range of prizes that the Raffle team has sourced; full details of these will be shared with you in our subsequent newsletters and other communication channels.

If you know of anyone who can sponsor a prize or if you have started a new business and would like us to promote your venture, please reach out to any of the KPS members. We need your support as always to make this event a success. Form groups will be asked to put together hampers of goodies for prizes, more details will be passed on to students through the form tutors.

We are raising the funds to support the school with the next phase of upgrading the stage lighting in the main Hall. This will benefit all students and departments in the school. The cost to upgrade this is approximately £7k. We are certain that with your generosity and patronage we will be able to raise this for the school.

Please do support us as much as you can; only collectively we can achieve more.

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

KEEPING SAFE ONLINE – ONLINE REPUTATION

The things online that you have liked, shared and commented on, as well as what others have shared about you, may shape what other people think about you; this is your online reputation.

The Childnet Hub has answers to the questions you may have about your online reputation and top tips to help you make good choices. For more information click on the link below.

<https://www.childnet.com/young-people/secondary/online-reputation>

If something upsets you online or you are worried about a friend it can really help to talk to someone.

Talking to an adult you know and trust is a good starting point, but if you don't want to speak to someone you already know then there are other options...

You can always call a helpline, such as **Childline** (0800 11 11) or **The Mix** (0808 808 4994).

If something has been shared online which is upsetting you, you may also be able to **report it**.

There is more information about all of the different support available when things go wrong online on the Childnet **Need Help** page.