

# Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021

## WEEKLY LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

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I have now had a number of meetings with our new **Kendrick Student Leaders (KSL)** who are beginning to substantiate their ideas and plans for the future. I can now properly introduce them to you as their photos are on our website, please see [HERE](#). By next week more information will be added about the individual committees and some of their plans for the school. So far, the **Curriculum and Current affairs Committee** is planning a whole school assembly about the COVID situation in India and the **Community Committee** is following this up with a fund raising event on 20<sup>th</sup> May when students will be able to have an **Own Clothes Day** to raise money for a charity that supports COVID victims in the UK, India and other parts of the world. The news yesterday that the United State will be waiving their patents on vaccines, enabling poorer countries to make their own vaccines, is encouraging and demonstrates some collective responsibility that is desperately needed. Everyone, regardless of their means or where they happen to have been born, must be given a chance to survive and get out of this terrible situation. I am sure over time our KSL will give their attention to many other important and relevant current affairs issues that have a relevance to everyone in school.

Over the last couple of weeks I have had the pleasure of being in lessons with teachers and observing students in their learning. On Wednesday I observed a super Year 10 English lesson on literary devices in which the class was challenged to identify as many of these as possible. After 15 minutes of feedback on the question, over 25 literary devices were identified and confidently discussed by the students. A deeply focused lesson on a small extract of a novel followed with the students' concentration and thought being encouraged by the teacher, resulting in some excellent learning. I observed a similarly challenging lesson with a Year 9 class in Chemistry last week when students were exploring theoretical, actual and percentage yields of a chemical reaction. Again, encouraged by their teacher the students were able to make most intelligent and meaningful contributions to the calculations and the discussion that followed.

I have been impressed by the way our students in Year 11 and 13 have responded to their assessments by being present, on time and focused. Although most assessments are being done in the Hall and Gym, there is a lighter touch in terms of the length of tests, invigilation and other arrangements, to try to make the whole experience less intense. I am sure this is not what it feels like for the students, but it is quite different to how public examinations are normally conducted. The huge efforts of the students and their work means that teachers are now marking on an unprecedented scale and are having to do the job of teams of people at the examination boards. I know that this part of the process will be done well and fairly, but the burden of marking is still immense on teachers. To support teachers and Heads of Departments, we will be devoting most of our time on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May to complete marking, moderation and grading in order to meet the deadline for submission of grades to the boards after half term. We have organised a four day activity week for Years 7, 8 and 9 in the week beginning 24<sup>th</sup> May. On Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will not need to come to school and will be able to start their half term holiday from then. More details about the activities that week will be sent to parents of Years 7, 8 and 9 next week.

We are beginning to consider and discuss plans for the next academic year and the events we will be able to put into our calendar, including meetings, house events, parent consultation and information events and other occasions that will resemble a more normal school life. Of course we are still a long way off from our 'normal' but we are all hoping that greater interaction across the school, within and between year groups, will be possible next year. A development that was necessary and introduced last September was the reorganised times of the school day. In order to maintain the bubbles that were necessary and to manage the lunch time, second break was extended to an hour. This has proved to be extremely popular and many people are keen that we maintain this time in the day because it allows everyone to have a good break and provides time for people to eat and rest, as well as, participate in activities and clubs. We will be asking students more widely through School Council and the KSL to give feedback on their views about the lunch hour before we confirm the times of the school day for next year. To be clear, however, there will be no changes to the start or end of the school day or length of lessons, what may change are the break times, registration time and what we call movement time between lessons.

Finally, Eric Strach's story, as told by his daughter Angela Strach, comes to an end in Part 6 of the video talks that Angela has prepared for us. Eric returns to the UK from his visit to Czechoslovakia, settles with his family in Liverpool and takes a position in the local hospital as a Paediatric Orthopaedic Surgeon. In his retirement he begins to research his family history and tries to discover how they came to their fate in the concentration camps in Poland. He is aided in his research by being able to freely visit Czechoslovakia in the early 1990s when, like many eastern European countries, the communist governments collapsed and he was able to travel there freely and without fear. Eric was able to reconnect with survivors of his family and begin to piece together their story. In a most interesting and unexpected Epilogue, Angela brings the Strach family story to an end, when she is coincidentally reunited with a family treasure. I will not give any more details away about this part of the story, but urge you to watch and listen to the video and find out what this treasure is. Angela ends her story movingly by saying that in her family's story '**glimmers of light shine through the darkness of the past**'. And returning to the theme of this year's Holocaust Memorial Day, she reminds us to try to '**be the light that shines the way through dark times**'. I would like to thank Angela Strach for sharing her story with us and I hope that next year she will be able to visit Kendrick and speak more about Eric and the beautiful tribute she has shared with us about his life as a survivor of the Holocaust. The link to all the episodes is [HERE](#).

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.

## IN GAME CHAT

Thinkuknow has teamed up with Ukie (The Association for UK Interactive Entertainment) to give you advice about online games and chat. While playing games online is often great fun, it's important you understand why your children will chat online, what risks there are and what measures you can take to protect them while they're playing their favourite games.

Online games are really popular amongst children. 59% of 5-15 year olds play online games, as games like Fortnite, Minecraft and Roblox become increasingly important part of their social lives.

While playing games online is often great fun and a good way to chat, there is a chance that your children will play with people they don't know who may use in-game chat inappropriately to expose them to harm or risk.

For more information and to access the guide please click [here](#).

## MENTAL HEALTH FOUNDATION: MAKE IT COUNT: GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

It is important that children are encouraged and supported to look after their mental health every day. This guide offers suggestions for how you can help your child do this. The guide also offers advice for what you can do when things get tough and if you're worried about your child's mental health.

To access the guide please click [here](#).

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## NEWS AND EVENTS - WHOLE SCHOOL

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### NEWS ON OUR WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

[Our Virtual Open Event is Now Live!](#)

### VACANCIES

We currently have the following vacancies for September 2021. Please share the information with family and friends.

**Biology Teacher** (maternity cover) 0.7FTE to full time CLOSING DATE MIDNIGHT FRIDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2021

**English Teacher** 0.7FTE to full time CLOSING DATE MIDNIGHT FRIDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2021

**Religious Studies and Sociology Teacher** 0.7FTE to full time CLOSING DATE MIDNIGHT THURSDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2021

For more information on both these roles and how to apply please click [here](#).

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## KENDRICK PARENTS' SOCIETY (KPS)

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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](https://smile.amazon.co.uk), (not [www.amazon.co.uk](https://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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### WORRIED ABOUT A FRIEND?

If you're worried about a friend, talking to them about it can be a real help. It can be really tricky – even a bit nerve wracking - to know how to start a conversation. Remember - people often want to talk about a problem but wait until they're asked.

#### **What if they don't want to talk?**

If they are bottling things up inside it might be because they are scared of talking about what's going on. Sometimes people find it hard to talk because:

- They think they'll get in trouble
- They think you or other people will judge them
- They are being told by someone not to talk about a problem

You should never force someone to talk about a problem. If they don't want to talk, let them know you're always there to listen. Maybe they'll change their mind later on.

Remember – you can support your friend by listening to them but a lot of problems you won't be able to solve on your own.

**Always seek support from an adult you trust if you think your friend is unsafe.**

For more help and advice please click [here](#).

### HOUSE ART COMPETITION

House Arts Competition has launched this week. If you would like to create a piece of art to display on the House boards in the main school then get involved! Everyone who submits art will receive a house point and the winners will be displayed. Deadline is the 28<sup>th</sup> May, submit your work to one of your House captains please before this date!