

Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Friday 28th May 2021

WEEKLY LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

For Years 7, 8 and 9, it has been a super week; Year 7 had an **Eco Awareness session** in which they were introduced to the [EcoSpot](#) initiative which we have adopted to promote our commitment to improving the environment. Specifically, it requires students to achieve certain eco challenges which once achieved will lead to the planting of trees on our behalf. They also listened to Greta Thunberg's speeches and considered her famous phrase '**you are never too small to make a difference**', a phrase I whole heartedly believe in, and asked themselves whether are we doing enough to tackle the climate crisis. They also had a business enterprise activity called the **Wheelie Fun Challenge** where groups were given a brief to come up with an idea for selling goods or a service based around the use of up to 6 wheels. They had to use skills of team work, communication, time management design and presentation skills and produced some fantastic business ideas. Both Year 7 and 9 took part in **Wilderness team building activities** where Year 9 did a project based activity based on Ernest Shackleton's Trans-Antarctic voyage in 1915/16. Year 9 also had a Product Design Day, an egg challenge based on landing a shuttle on Mars and how forces act in order to ensure a safe landing, which started with them watching an inspirational video by NASA scientists. Elsewhere Year 8 were on the **Bushcraft Residential trip** and I have yet to hear how that trip went, but it seems they had a great time away. There will be more information and photographs about all these activities which we will share with you after half term. My thanks to the students for embracing the week with such enthusiasm and the staff, including Mrs Brunson, Ms Nolte, Mme Marlow and Miss Lawlor, Mrs Rock, Mrs Saunders, Mrs Haynes, Mrs Call, Mr Miller, Mr Yao, Mrs Joshi, Mrs Cavacuiti, Mrs Williamson Mrs Souch and Miss Dickens who organised and ran the week's activities. Today all these students are at home and I hope enjoying some rest and relaxation after such and energetic week.

In school Year 10 are finishing their examinations today, well done to them, and Year 12 are on study leave preparing for their exams after half term. For the teachers this has been a most intense week as the marking, moderation and grading for the GCSE, AS and A Levels continues. I cannot emphasise enough the challenge this has been for our staff and the hours and hours of work it has taken and continues to take to complete the process. I am so proud of the staff for their hard work and dedication; the extent to which they have worked to do the very best for the students is nothing short of extraordinary.

Looking forward to next term, we will be launching the **Kendrick Society Summer Raffle** to raise money for new lighting equipment for the Hall in anticipation and preparation of school events. Talking to the House Captains this week there is considerable excitement about the prospect of a **House Musical** in the next academic year, such a wonderful event to look forward to and possibly the first event that students will be able to take part in with year groups from across the school. Please support the raffle which will be launched on 7th June.

An item on the website I would like to mention is the [Poetry Masterclass](#) that took place last week, organised by Miss Akcay in the English Department and some 6th Form students. Our Poets' Society invited the poet **Kate Clancy** (via Zoom) who inspired the students to think and write poetry. During the workshop they were all encouraged to write a poem starting with the line '*When this is all over...*'. I can imagine there is so much we can all say both in poetry and prose on such a theme.

One of our members of staff **Mrs Brunson**, Cover Supervisor, is retiring this week after 16 years at the school. All students, past and present, know Mrs Brunson and the work she has done for Kendrick. She is variously known as a

facilitator, fix it person, expedition leader, organiser, first aid expert, the go to person who knows everything about the school! Mrs Brunson is an utterly reliable and dependable individual, who has a passion for young people and cares deeply about their wellbeing. Mrs Brunson is someone who has been, and will remain, immensely loyal to the school; a true Kendrick student, which indeed she is having attended the school herself. We will miss Mrs Brunson and the enthusiasm, energy and dedication she has shown over the many years' of service she has given the school. We sincerely thank her and wish her well for the future.

I would like to finish with what has been the highlight of my week. I spent a few hours on Monday and Thursday speaking to all students Year 7. In groups of 16, I had a super half an hour with each group in which we talked about a variety of topics prompted by my questions and theirs. We talked about the Kendrick Pledge and its origins and meaning, we remembered the first time we met which for most of them was in April 2019 when they attended our Open Day. Some could remember conversations they had at the time and their first impressions of the school and me! We also talked about parents and how sometimes they don't always appreciate that their child is growing up and is inquisitive and enquiring. In all the conversations I had with the students they demonstrated their intelligence and thoughtfulness and it was clear to me that they were happy and proud to be at Kendrick. They still have much to see and learn about the school, having been confined to one building for most of their time this last year. They understand and appreciate the Kendrick community they belong to and cannot wait to take a more active part in the life of the school next year.

I hope that everyone, staff and students, will have a good break from school work next week. It is important that we all rest and relax after what has been another long and busy term. The prospect of good weather and greater freedom to see people must be welcomed by everyone. I hope that people enjoy catching up with friends and family who perhaps they have not seen face to face for a long time. During the half term I would urge students in Years 11 and 13 in particular to look at the **Awards and Bursaries** that they are eligible to apply for, including the **Valerie Hume Award**, an award specifically for Year 11 and Year 13 students, the **Music Award**, available to students across the school and **Tech Award** for Year 13 students only. The deadline for applications for these awards is Monday 7th June. The link to the information is [here](#). For the rest of us perhaps we can take some time in the holiday to reflect on the thought discussed in the Poets' Society '*when this is all over....*'

With my very best wishes to you all, I hope everyone has a restful and safe holiday,

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.

WELLBEING - FAMILY INFORMATION SERVICE ACTIVITIES GUIDE

The Family Information Service (FIS) has created a web page featuring lots of activities and events to entertain families in the borough during the May/June half term. You can view these on the [half-term activities](#) page.

WELLBEING - HALF-TERM FUN AT READING MUSEUM

Reading Museum has re-opened its doors and is offering a range of family activities and trails this half-term. These include the Bee Happy Craft Pack, Indoor and Outdoor Explorer Trails and Arts and The Study of Drawing Art Pack. Visit the [Reading Museum website](#) for more details.

WELLBEING – BE A BETTER PHONE FRIEND

We call, we chat. We hear them. But are we really listening? Sometimes, listening is the only thing they need. It can be the difference between feeling connected and safe or feeling all alone. But it's not as easy as it sounds.

3 has partnered with The Samaritans to help everyone learn how to be a Better Phone Friend. To uncover your listening style and how to get tips to improve, click on this [link](#).

SAFEGUARDING - RORO CHAN CHALLENGE

Please be aware of the Roro Chan challenge which is linked to Japanese Anime. The content of Japanese Anime is quite dark, and the Roro Chan Challenge is supportive of self-harm and encourages people to take their own lives.

A recent suicide of a 13 year old female has been linked to Japanese Anime and had been shared between her peers via WhatsApp, Pinterest and possibly Tik Tok.

For more information, please click on this [link](#)

If you or someone you know are experiencing suicidal thoughts, call the [National Suicide Prevention Hotline](#) at 1-800-273-8255 or text HOME to the Crisis Text Line at 741741.

NEWS AND EVENTS - WHOLE SCHOOL

COVID-19 TESTING OVER MAY HALF-TERM

We would like to encourage students to continue to test twice-weekly over half-term and test before returning to school after the holiday.

If your child takes a positive test within 48 hours of last being in school, please email admin@kendrick.reading.sch.uk. After 48 hours of being in school, students should follow the NHS Test and Trace instructions.

YEAR 11 - SECOND HAND UNIFORM

Do you have any good quality second hand uniform or sports kit that you would like to donate to the school? If yes, the Year 11 students can bring this with them on their celebration day. The uniform and kit is sold to make money for the school.

EU SETTLEMENT SCHEME – LESS THAN 40 DAYS LEFT TO APPLY

If you are an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen, resident in the UK by 31 December 2020, you and your family need to apply to

the EU Settlement Scheme by 30th June to continue to live, work and study in the UK. For Further information see <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

ECOSPOT

EcoSpot Half Term Bonus Challenges

2 bonus challenges, 7 days, 100 trees to win
There are two new mini-challenges to complete over half term on EcoSpot! We'll be planting 50 trees for each challenge - can you complete them both in a week?

The EcoSpot leaderboard so far...

1st Place - Cedars

76 actions taken

2nd Place - Palmer

46 actions taken

3rd Place - Sidmouth

22 actions taken

Sign up: www.ecospot.io/kendrick

Access code: 549742



We now have over 80 community members (we need more sixth formers to sign up though!).

Cedars came in first place with 79 actions taken, Palmer at 47 actions and Sidmouth at 22 actions. PLEASE sign up! There are two extra 2 mini challenges during half term (if we complete, extra trees planted!!).

The first one is all about repair, repurpose, which we know some of our students do already, like turning a cardboard box into a tray of stationary etc.

There will be a mini Kendrick website released on 7th June, which is very exciting.

For more information click on this [link](#).

VACANCIES

We have the following vacancies at Kendrick School. Please click on this [link](#) for more information and please pass to friends and family that you think would be interested.

Senior Technical Engineer for September 2021	Full time
French and German Teacher for September 2021	0.3 FTE
English Teacher (maternity cover) for September 2021	0.6 FTE

CALENDAR

Monday 7 th June	Start of Term 6, 8.25am Start of Year 12 internal exams
Monday 14 th June	Year 12 Work Experience Week Year 11 Celebration Event
Tuesday 15 th June	Year 10 Geography Trip (half of year group) Year 13 Celebration Event
Thursday 17 th June	Year 10 Geography Trip (half of year group)
Tuesday 22 nd June	New Year 7 Induction Day
Wednesday 23 rd June	New Year 12 Induction Day
Thursday 24 th June	INSET Day
Monday 28 th June	Year 10 Work Experience Week KPS Meeting at 6pm
Wednesday 30 th June	Year 7 Profiling/Enterprise Day
Thursday 1 st July	New Year 7 Parents' Information Evening
Friday 2 nd July	Year 9 Profiling/Enterprise Day
Monday 5 th July	Year 10 Profiling Year 12 Futures Week

Wednesday 7 th July	'Life After Kendrick' Year 12 Event
Thursday 8 th July	Year 12 subject profiling
Friday 9 th July	Year 12 subject profiling
Monday 12 th July	Sports Day
Friday 16 th July	End of Term 6, 1.10pm

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 the Raffle team has sourced **almost 35 different prizes from our sponsors**.

There is a wide range of donations and gifts - apart from our usual sponsors like Windsor Castle and Waterstones, we have gifts from many of our local and nearby restaurants from different cuisines, jewellery shops, book shops, ethnic wear, different type of yoga sessions, coding sessions, tutorials, paintings, harp learning, Indian spice set, gift hampers, and many more. Watch out for our promotional materials that we are sending through whats app channels and FB pages regularly.

We will be sending you detailed information on the day we launch the raffle, the 7th June.

We would like to thank all the parents who have contacted us to donate a prize. We are still collecting prizes and if you know of anyone who can sponsor us a prize or if you have started a new business and would like us to promote your venture, please reach out to one 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 & 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.

Thanks a lot for your support!

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

BERKELEY HOMES BUILDING FUTURES SCHEME

Property developer Berkeley Homes is currently accepting applications from school leavers to take part in its Building Futures scheme. It is an opportunity for young people to join the company and rotate departments over an eight-month period to see which role best suits them. Visit the [Berkeley Homes website](#) for more information.

Applications must be in by Friday 4 June.

Please note that this is an external initiative and Kendrick School cannot take responsibility for the content or output

AMINATION WEEK RUNNING OVER HALF TERM

Students! Would you love to learn how to make an animation? Parents! Are you looking for fun and free online STEM activities to run with your children?

TeenTech Innovation Live Animation Week takes place next week, over half-term! Join them on **Tuesday 1st June at 10:00am** for their live kick-off session and ask questions to animation experts from film, television and gaming. Then, take part in practical masterclass workshops on Tuesday and Wednesday morning where we will help you turn your ideas into a short animated film (using free tools)!

All participants will be invited to submit their final animations to them, and they will be showcasing them all during a special TeenTech Animation Film Festival the following week! You can [register](#) and watch the session from home.

Please note that this is an external initiative and Kendrick School cannot take responsibility for the content or output