

# Kendrick School - Weekly Update

## Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021

### WEEKLY LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

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I will start by congratulating Palmer House for winning the **House Cup** this year. At a small gathering of 10 people, six students and four staff, we made the announcement and presented the cup to the House Captain and Vice-Captain of Palmer House. The presentation was recorded and was seen by the school during registration this morning. We all agreed that we have had a very successful year with enterprising and original ways in which to do inter-house events. At the same time, we are all looking forward to getting back to being able to put on our big events like House Drama and House Music, which are such highlights of the House year and bring together students from across the school. Thank you to everyone for their contribution to house events and special thanks to the House Leaders: Mr. Duncan, Dr. Smalley and Miss Grice for being such enthusiastic advocates of our house system. You can find the news item [HERE](#)

We launched our **Virtual Open Day** event yesterday for prospective students and parents who will join us in September 2022. This is the second time round of having to do this event in this way. Although there is nothing like visiting the school and meeting people, we hope that our presentations and information will give prospective students a good flavour of the school. My favourite bit of the information is the video made by our new **Kendrick Student Leaders** who, in less than a week, put together conversations with younger students about life and work at school, as well as a tour of the school. The information is [HERE](#).

I have often mentioned the **No 5 Counselling Service** that provides our super counsellor Emma. This year they are celebrating 50 years since they started as a counselling agency in Reading. We have had an association with No 5 for 20 years and I know that for many students No 5 Counselling has been a lifeline. To celebrate their anniversary, they are asking anyone who may have had any association with No 5 in the past to get in touch and share their story. The link is here [no5.org.uk/stories/](https://no5.org.uk/stories/) Please look at their blog where there are articles written by Emma, most recently about sleep.

Our students in **Year 11 and 13** finish working with us in school today and begin a three week period of GCSE and A Level assessments, which together with the other work they have done this year will contribute to awarding them a final grade. Although these assessments are not like the public examinations of the past, in that they have been set and will be marked by their teachers, the students are all understandably tense and nervous about the prospect of the next few weeks. As the government has said repeatedly, teachers know their students best and better than any anonymous examiner, and as such will assess their work accurately and fairly. So my message to our students is trust your teachers and believe in yourself; this period will pass quickly and you will soon be able to feel proud and pleased that you have got through a most challenging time and proved that you are resilient learners. When the assessments are finished, students will be sent work by their teachers to finish the course where topics were missed or not done sufficiently because of the disruption over the last two years. This will allow students to complete their courses and know that they have studied a full GCSE or A Level. It will also allow them to progress and access the next stage in their learning, whether it be A Levels, university or whatever plan they may have. We wish them well.

Last week I spoke optimistically about the lockdown easing and life beginning to return to normal. Staff have been telling me how they have started to venture out with their families and do things that seem so strange and alien following the period of isolation, for example visiting a zoo. So many of the staff have had a vaccine, which is also making us all feel safe, and together with the Lateral Flow testing twice a week, we know that the situation is improving

daily. We are very lucky to be in this position, however, it feels somewhat unfair that this is the case here in the UK whilst other places are still experiencing surges of the virus. The news that we have been hearing every day from India is most distressing. I am sure many of our families have loved ones in India and must be feeling very worried about them. It has been heartening to see an international response with shipments of oxygen tanks being sent to help and support the people there. Our best wishes go to the people and the health workers in India at this time.

I will end with an inspiring news story of one of our students, Adishree in Year 13 who has reached the International stage of a Physics and Business competition. The event would have normally taken place in Florida, but I believe it is being done remotely. Well done and many congratulations to Adishree! When she is able to, Adishree will write an article about the competition for the website.

Wishing everyone and restful and happy Bank Holiday 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.

## **TALKING TO CHILDREN ABOUT RACISM**

The NSPCC has advice on helping parents understand how to talk to children about race and racism, and what you can do to support a child who is experiencing racial bullying. Click [here](#) for a link.

## **GAMING**

The popularity of online gaming has grown massively over recent years. Children can now access these games through a range of consoles as well as being able to play on their phones, laptops and tablets.

Online gaming carries many of the risks that other online activities carry. The games often involve many other players, meaning your child could be interacting with strangers in an environment they feel completely comfortable in.

Many games ask users to create a profile, where they fill in personal information, and might not have the same safety and privacy settings that social media platforms have.

Many of these games also have a chat function; which can be used to communicate with players in a multiplayer game setting. This is usually only open to your friends, but in some games, this can be open to a wider pool of people. The same risks that apply to general chat rooms therefore apply in gaming situations, particularly to personal information and inappropriate conversations/language.

Parents Protect has some very useful and informative information on gaming which you can access via this [link](#).

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## NEWS AND EVENTS - WHOLE SCHOOL

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### NEWS ON OUR WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

[Palmer Win House Cup 2020-21](#)

### OPEN EVENT FOR ENTRY INTO YEAR 7 IN SEPTEMBER 2021

Our virtual Open Event is now live and available on our website to view at your leisure.

The application process for entry into Year 7 in September 2022 will open on 1st May 2021.

To view the **Open Event** please click [here](#).

To access the **application form** on 1st May 2021 please click [here](#).

### 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  
English Teacher 0.7FTE to full time  
Religious Studies and Sociology Teacher 0.7FTE to full time

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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### ‘MEETOO’ APP FOR IOS AND ANDROID

MeeToo is a multi-award winning, free, anonymous app where young people can talk about difficult things. Built on research showing the positive impact of peer support for mental health, MeeToo provides a safe, pre-moderated (by humans) space for young people aged 11+ to experiment with opening up about whatever may be on their mind.

Posts can be responded to by other users, as well as a team of trained university psychology students and MeeToo counsellors who help to guide discussions and ensure that no post goes unanswered.

Moderators check every post and reply before they go live to ensure the safety and anonymity of our users, and our counsellors uphold a sophisticated system for monitoring and tracking potential safeguarding risks.

MeeToo supports over 6,000 young people each month. It is featured on the NHS Apps Library and promoted by more than 1,000 schools in the UK.

You can easily see how MeToo works here: <https://www.meetoo.help/how-meetoo-works>

For more information and to request engagement materials please contact [info@meetoo.help](mailto:info@meetoo.help) or visit [www.meetoo.help](http://www.meetoo.help)