

Kendrick School

Weekly Update

Friday 22nd May 2020

WEEKLY LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

'Three things in human life are important: the first is to be kind; the second is to be kind; and the third is to be kind' By Henry James

I am starting this week's Weekly Update with a quotation by Henry James about kindness, the theme of this year's Mental Health Awareness Week. There is so much information and conversation going on at the moment and the aptness of this year's theme, given the current situation, makes me feel hopeful that out of the horrible COVID-19 crisis some permanent good will emerge. I have seen the emails that have been sent to students (and parents) across the school from Miss Swaine and Mme Hulley, Mr Stride, Dr Wilson and Mrs Hearn. In their messages they too have mentioned kindness and I know that students and families are being encouraged to think about this theme and to try to be kind to each other and themselves during Mental Health Awareness Week and always.

This morning, the whole staff gathered together in a live meeting to hear and share updates about the school and the work that has been going on this term. We also talked about the plans we have for the future, which I have set out to you below.

In last week's update, I mentioned that we are planning to 'open' the school to **some students in Years 10 and 12** in Term 6 and this continues to be our plan. At the start of Term 6, online/meetings conversations will take place between groups of students and their Tutor about how remote learning has been going. To this end, questionnaires have been sent to students in Years 10 and 12 to seek their views. This information, plus knowledge and information that is coming from teachers about how remote learning is going on in subjects, will inform us about which students could benefit from coming into school. Staff will assess the needs as they see them for any student and if it is considered helpful/supportive that a student would benefit from 'face to face' support in school, they will be invited into school at certain times. The permission of parents will be sought, as well as consideration of any other safety issues, including travel arrangements. Students will be invited into school for **no more than two hours** at a time which may be in the morning from **9.00-11.00am** or in the afternoon from **12.00-2.00pm**. At no time will there be **more than 50 students** in school and I expect fewer students attending. Once in school, students will be directed to certain prepared rooms where they may receive the help/support that has been identified for them. I would like to make it clear that we will **not be asking or expecting whole groups of students** to come back to school at any one time and that there will not be a resumption of the school timetable on the school site. If any additional support identified can continue to be given remotely, it will be done in this way as before. **Remote learning for everyone will remain the norm and carried out as it has been for the last few weeks.**

All safeguarding, health and safety and social distancing measures will be in place and an appropriate number of staff will be in attendance to supervise and be with the few students who have been invited in. No student will be forced to come to school. If at any point the government advice changes, after the next review of lockdown on May 28th or there is a spike in the pandemic, our plans will change and respond to new guidance and advice given. We need to plan ahead, but at the same time we will be reactive to the changing circumstances and will follow the advice that is given to us. We intend to begin this plan from **the 8th or 15th June.**

Throughout this term, I have received emails from students and parents, sometimes querying how things are going and making suggestions about how things can improve, but most often thanking me and asking me to thank the staff for all that they have been doing this term to teach our students. It was **National Thank a Teacher Day** on Wednesday and I hope everyone thought about the teachers and staff and found a way of thanking them in their own individual way. A couple of weeks ago, our **Student Leader, Angelica**, sent a letter to the teachers and staff, thanking them for all they are doing at this time. She said in her letter: *'It has been made clear how vital teachers have been in helping us reach past achievements, supporting present endeavours and empowering us to aspire towards our best future; their partial absence has demonstrated how much we take them for granted under normal circumstances..... We admire how the staff have endeavoured to maintain the Kendrick community spirit, regardless of the distance. There is a collective pride and honour we have to be taught by teachers/staff, who value our education and learning as much as they do. We strongly believe that their efforts should not go unnoticed.'*

Thank you Angelica for your letter and the appreciation you have expressed for the teachers and staff of Kendrick. In return Ms Stacey has put together a video from the staff to the students to thank you too.

<https://www.kendrick.reading.sch.uk/page/?title=Student+Wellbeing&pid=50>

We have also been thanked by CISCO for loaning them our 3D printer to make face masks for NHS workers, [link here](#).

To finish, as I drove into school this morning, I listened to 'Thought for the Day', on the Today programme on Radio 4. Today's 'thought' was given by Rabbi Lord Sacks and as you would expect it focused on the theme of kindness. The title of the podcast is '**Lifting others, we ourselves are lifted**'.

I recommend that you listen to the three minute reflection, particularly the last minute of it.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p08dwxgk>

Thank you to you all for your continued support and kindness. I wish you a restful and peaceful half term. As always, stay safe and well.

Best wishes

Ms Christine Kattirtzi, Headteacher

SAFEGUARDING & SUPPORT AVENUES

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.

The latest information we have added is Thinkuknow help sheets to for parents to support their children's learning. Click [here](#) to access the resources.

KENDRICK SCHOOL COMMUNITY DURING COVID-19

Below are links to news, activities and initiatives which are helping us recreate the Kendrick community in a virtual world. If you have anything you would like to add here that you are personally doing or doing as a group, please email aemberson@kendrick.reading.sch.uk

Kendrick School Virtual Concert

Dear Students, Parents and Staff,

I hope you have all been keeping safe and well during lockdown. Times have probably been tough for you all at some point recently and music can be a way to deal with the day-to-day stresses. I would therefore like us to come together and share a little music:

During Term 6, I would like to put together a series of short online concerts (30 minutes maximum) made up of performances from students (and their families if they want to join in) and staff. These would consist of **short performances of songs and instrumental pieces in any style (they must not include any expletives)**. They can be of **any standard** and should last **up to 4 minutes (they can be shorter than this)** so that we can fit in as many as we can within 30 minutes.

If you would like to perform, then please send/share a video of your performance to Mrs Cooper by Sunday 31st May – ccooper@kendrick.reading.sch.uk and put – ‘Online Concert’ in the subject heading, detailing the name of your piece and who it is by in the body of the email. You may get dressed up if you like (no big slogans or short tops/skirts/shorts please) or you may wear school uniform.

Once I have received these, I will look to put them online using a suitable platform during June (dates TBC). If this proves to be popular then I will have another deadline for new videos.

You must have your parent’s permission (unless you are staff) to perform and should record yourself in an open space, such as a living room, kitchen or garden (not your bedroom). If you have any questions, then please do not hesitate to ask.

Yours musically, **Mrs Cooper, Head of Music**

Kendrick School Tour

Are you missing the Library, the Science Labs, canteen, even just a normal classroom in main school? If so, click [here](#) for a virtual tour of the school produced by Charlotte, a former Kendrick student.

Kendrick School Remote Open Evening

If you would like to see how we carried out our Open Evening remotely, which included impressive talks from our Student Leader, Angelica, and a Year 7, Paris, please click on this [link](#).

Some feedback from participants included:

‘Thank you Angelica, what an amazing young lady’. ‘Love the enthusiasm and passion from the students – so confident!’. *‘Thank you Paris, very confident’.* *‘Thank you Paris for your inspiring speech. You have some amazing students!’.* *‘Love the confidence of the young girls’.* *‘She surely loves her school – that was very confident account of her experience’.*

Valerie Hume Bursary – deadline to apply 1st June 2020

This bursary award has been set up in memory of Valerie Hume, Head of History at Kendrick School, 2009-2012. The bursary was set up by the family of Mrs Hume from donations received and will thereafter be supported by James Hume and Denis and Mary Cooper.

The bursary consists of an annual award of two x £250 for a student or students in Years 11 and 13 to pursue an activity that is constructive, useful, supporting an academic interest or vocational development in the area of Arts, Science, Humanities, Languages, Mathematics or a practical discipline. The award is to encourage an activity that would otherwise not take place. It needs to be equivalent to that which at a later stage in life might be defined as:

'Enhancing to professional development, being relevant to the acquisition of particular skill or knowledge, helpful to the individual either to make better academic choices (* Y11) or to reinforce those made (*Y13).'

For Year 11 this may be an extracurricular activity which may be undertaken to assist an individual in a decision about what they may wish to do when they leave school. **For Year 13**, students may have already chosen a university course or professional direction and the activity they choose may help to strengthen their foundational knowledge.

Examples of activities may include a visit to a museum or an ancient site, attending a lecture or series of lectures, a masterclass, buying key books or equipment to assist in a practical activity/area of interest, experiencing an activity that will enhance personal and intellectual development.

At both levels the award is about studying positively, joyfully and constructively because you want to rather than because you have to, as well as well, as practising good decision making skills and making appropriate responsible choices, demonstrating courage and conviction and taking risks but measured ones.

How to apply:

- Write a statement in no more than 500 words explaining the purpose of the activity you wish to pursue and how it will help you pursue the objective as set out above. State who you are and confirm your eligibility and financial need as well as the costs involved
- Make your application by **Monday 1st June 2020**
- Address it to Ms Kattirtzi, Mr Hume and Drs Cooper

AFTERWARDS

Award winners will be notified by the end of June 2019. When an award has been received and used for the purpose intended, bursary recipients will be asked to submit a brief statement, no more than 300 words, explaining what they did and the outcome of their activity.

KSLT Lock Down Challenges!

Are you feeling bored in quarantine? Are you tired of scrolling through your For You Page on TikTok? Well, we have come up with exciting new challenges which you can participate in. We will set four different challenges every fortnight; you can select whichever challenges appeal to you the most. If you decide to join in, send photos of your results to:

14mkrishna@kendrick.reading.sch.uk (Manya Krishna, Communications Prefect)

In the case of the General Crafts challenge, send to:

14lzhao@kendrick.reading.sch.uk (Letitia, Deputy Student Leader and Inclusion Prefect)

The deadline is on Friday 22nd May. Have fun!

Click [here](#) for the challenges.

Other Community News

[Kendrick School Supports Project Face Shield](#)

[Positive News Stories](#)

[Kendrick Arts Instagram](#)

[Down on the Farm – with Frau Alderson](#)

Kendrick School Student News Blog

Two students in Year 12 have created a news blog with many writers for the site, all of which are Kendrick students. All students across the school are welcome to contribute and if you are interested in writing a blog please email Preesha Gehlot 14pgehlot@kendrick.reading.sch.uk for more information. The link to the blog is <https://www.theconversant.co.uk/blog>

ENRICHMENT AND WELLBEING ACTIVITIES

As well as enrichment activities and newsletters being produced by Kendrick School, there a lot of information, resources and activities being promoted and advertised online and on social media to help get us all get through these difficult weeks. We will include ones that we are aware of on our website via the link below, and if you know of any that you would like to promote then please let us know. IMPORTANT NOTE – Kendrick School is not responsible for the content of the external activities or resources.

[Stonehenge Virtual Tour](#)

[Coping with Unexpected Endings and Loss](#)

[Virtual tour of the Netherlands most spectacular tulip garden](#)

[Cirque du Soleil – an hour of surreal acrobatics each Friday](#)

[Theatre to watch online](#)

[Online Yoga](#)

[100 Jean-Michel Basquiat artworks - free exhibition](#)

[Kendrick School Wellbeing and Enrichment Resources](#)

[Kendrick School Coronavirus Library Newsletter](#)

[Kendrick School 'Of the Week'](#)

[Thinkuknow Activity Sheets](#) (can be found under Boredom Busters)