

Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Friday 23rd April 2021

WEEKLY LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

It was wonderful to be able to return to school this term with everyone present. Being able to start the term altogether in a whole school assembly, albeit remotely, meant that our community could be together again. This time last year we were settling into the first lockdown with absolutely no idea of how events would unfold. One year on there is such hope and optimism that the virus can be controlled, that the numbers of people being vaccinated is increasing every day, and a more normal life is being resumed. I spoke to the students in the assembly on Monday about the new beginning that this term and season bring and the hope that everyone can begin to feel happier and able to make some plans that have a chance of happening in the months ahead.

Our assembly on Monday is always the time when I am able to introduce our new student leaders. This year we have reorganised, reshaped and renamed our student leadership group. There will now be 18 **Kendrick Student Leaders**, as they will now be known, who make up four separate committees, elected by students and staff, to represent their school. The four committees are: **Curriculum and Current Affairs, Student Welfare, Community and House System Committee**. Having only just assembled, the committees have yet to articulate their vision for the coming year, but very soon they will be able to introduce themselves to you and explain their plans. My expectations of them are that they are Ambassadors of our school and good role models to students. They will be expected to uphold our values and standards, understand and appreciate our Kendrick Pledge and serve their school in the coming year; positions of immense leadership and responsibility. I am confident they are all up to this challenge and we wish them well.

It was **Earth Day** yesterday, 22nd April, a day in the year which is dedicated to raising awareness about the state of the planet and environment. The day has been marked for over 50 years, but many would say that whilst people's consciousness has been raised, actions have been slow to respond to the current crisis. On the world stage there were a lot of prominent people advocating the need to take the climate and environmental crisis seriously and many pledges were made by world leaders yesterday, all of which sounded very encouraging and hopeful for the future. Let us hope they can deliver on their promises. At Kendrick we have had an active **Eco Committee** for some years and many students and staff are dedicated to trying to improve the management of our environment by introducing a number of initiatives to make us recycle more, reduce use of plastics, reduce use of energy etc. This term we are planning a new drive in our work by setting challenges for students to try to meet and demonstrate how they are actively trying to be more ecofriendly. We may not be able to reach the ambitious targets of the politicians, but I know many of our students are very determined and dedicated to this work and take inspiration from activists like Greta Thunberg and David Attenborough who inspire us all to take this world crisis very seriously. You will hear more about the work of our Eco Committee in the future, including how we intend to mark Earth Day in a few weeks' time.

We had the results of our **House Reading Competition** and I am pleased to announce that Cedars was the winning House. Well done to them! Please read more about this fun event that took place last term [here](#).

We are delighted that our **swimming pool** is now completely renovated and in use. I believe a number of swimming lessons have taken place this week and the PE Department is delighted to be able to use this wonderful asset we have in school. Also since April 12th, children's sports activities have been able to resume and our hirers and swimming clubs, who use our facilities, have returned and been pleased to use the renovated pool. We are most grateful to our Kendrick Trustees for funding the swimming pool renovations that were needed and giving the pool a new lease of life.

Finally, **Angela Strach's** story about her father Eric's survival as a Czechoslovakian Jew during the Second World War, reaches its last episode with Eric revisiting the country of his birth and experiencing both joy and sadness. The link to episode 5 is [here](#).

Wishing everyone a happy 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.

SEXUAL ABUSE LEARNING PROGRAMME (PARENTS PROTECT)

Parents Protect (a project of the Lucy Faithfull Foundation) has developed an online child sexual abuse and exploitation awareness learning programme for parents, carers and professionals to help:

- Understand potential risks
- Recognise the signs of possible abuse in children
- Be aware of inappropriate behaviour in adults
- Know where to go for help if you have concerns and would like to talk about them

Find the programme here: <https://www.parentsprotect.co.uk/sexual-abuse-learning-programme.htm>

SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media platforms let people connect and communicate with friends, family, colleagues. They even let people meet others who they haven't met in the real world.

Popular platforms with children and young people include Snapchat, Instagram, Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter and TikTok. According to Ofcom (2019), Snapchat is the most popular platform amongst 12-15-year olds (27%), with Instagram (24%) and Facebook (23%) following closely behind.

Social media platforms receive a lot of positive and negative coverage in the news. Some show stories about them bringing friends and family together or that channels are used to harm and target young and vulnerable people. It is important that young people know how to behave responsibly on these platforms, what to do if they are being harassed and where they can report harmful content.

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

NEWS AND EVENTS - WHOLE SCHOOL

NEWS ON OUR WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

[World Book Day 2021 Celebrations](#)

[Angela Strach's Family's Story](#)

[Inter-House Reading Competition Results](#)

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

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

Reading School Vacancies

Reading School is seeking to appoint a full time Finance Manager/Management Accountant. If you are interested in applying for the position, please see the details below or visit : www.reading-school.co.uk

[Finance Manager/Management Accountant Details of the Post](#)

KENDRICK PARENTS' SOCIETY (KPS)

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, (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

WELLBEING – “STUDENT MINDS”

We all have mental health and our mental wellbeing can [fluctuate day-to-day](#). When you're not feeling great, it can feel harder to take action to benefit your wellbeing.

However there are small steps we can take in our everyday lives to look after our mental wellbeing. According to the British Medical Association, research has shown that there are many benefits of taking action to support your wellbeing, such as:

- Greater self-confidence and control
- Improved quality of life
- Healthier behaviours
- Better understanding of your own health

On the Student Minds website you will find:

- When to take action to support your wellbeing
- How do I know what will help?
- What can I do if I don't have a lot of time?
- Taking small steps
- Further resources

For more information click [here](#).