

# Kendrick School

## Weekly Update

### Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020

#### WEEKLY LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

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We are already at the end of our first week of Term 5! I sent a communication to everyone on Monday and will resume my Friday Weekly Update to you. I appreciate that we are all receiving many emails at this time, but I would like to ask you to read what I send to you, as well as all other communications from school. More than ever I need to feel that you are hearing the messages that are coming from school; it really does matter that we maintain our community contact so that no one is left out, left behind or misinformed. If at any time anyone feels that they have missed something, then please email [admin@kendrick.reading.sch.uk](mailto:admin@kendrick.reading.sch.uk) or get in touch with my PA [aemberson@kendrick.reading.sch.uk](mailto:aemberson@kendrick.reading.sch.uk) and you will get a response and an answer to your query. This applies to students as well as parents. Further, the twice weekly emails that Miss Swaine, Mr Stride, Dr Wilson, Mrs Hearn and Ms Stacey are sending to the students in the different year groups will also be sent to parents so that there is clarity and transparency regarding the communication students are receiving from school.

I hope everyone has settled back into their term time routine of being **'back at school'** in the world of remote learning. As I said in my message on Monday, every student and family is no doubt operating their own routine that fits in with their family circumstances, however, five hours of learning every day should be what everyone student must be trying to do. I would like to thank all our students for the way they are responding to working in this remote environment. For some this is working really well, but I know for others there are some problems which we are trying to work through with people individually. Please may I ask both students and parents, if you feel there is a problem with your child's learning in terms of access or routines, please let us know either via the student's tutor, teacher or Head of Year. We cannot help if we do not know there is a problem. Also a parent has been in touch and kindly offered to loan us a couple of computers should any family feel they need another machine. We also have more Chrome books in school if anyone needs one. Please contact [admin@kendrick.reading.sch.uk](mailto:admin@kendrick.reading.sch.uk) if any of this IT hardware might be of use to you.

I know that teachers are working very hard in their departments preparing materials and resources for teaching students. Through line management meetings, we are keeping records of what all students in all subjects should be doing during this lockdown period. I am confident that the learning of our students, whilst not ideal because of the lack of social interaction, is not being compromised in terms of content and challenge. However, if parents and or students feel this is not the case in some areas, please do not hesitate to get in touch. We need to get used to this way of learning and make it the best it can be, as we all know from the news we hear daily, the lockdown is with us for some time yet.

We are reviewing events on the calendar as they come up and making adjustments so that they can fit in with the current circumstances. This week we confirmed our decisions regarding **summer examinations for Years 10 and 12**. These will go ahead when we return to school whether this will be in June, July or September. Timetables for these exams were in place before the lockdown and the arrangements will be picked up when we return to school. It is important that students in these two important years and stages are keeping up with their work and are being tested on content and understanding so that they can remain on track in their studies. Mrs Hearn and Mr Stride have sent messages to Year 12 and Year 10 respectively about the proposed examinations. Also at this time of the year, we

launch the **Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) to students in Year 12** and this was done this week by Mrs Rock.. The work experience plans for Year 10 and 12 have been postponed but we are working with our Work Related Learning providers who are looking at alternative ways in which we can still give students in Years 10 and 12 a meaningful experience when we return to school. In the meantime, we will be asking businesses and companies that we deal with if they can provide us with promotional videos of their work and professions to share with our students.

An important launch at this time of the year is to announce to everyone our new **Student Leaders**. From now on the title *Head Girl Team* will no longer be used, instead the new title for this group of students who were elected and confirmed in their roles back in February, is the **Kendrick Student Leadership Team (KSLT)**. The new team and I felt that the time was right for this change to take place and with this change comes an even greater focus and appreciation of **inclusion** which the new team has whole heartedly embraced. Our student leaders and their roles can be found [here](#) and it is my great pleasure to officially welcome them to their roles for the coming year. Despite the current restrictions they are feeling very upbeat and very keen and excited to get into their roles working with staff and students. I wish them well and look forward to working with them. Well done to **Angelica** – Student Leader, **Letitia** – Deputy Student Leader and Inclusion Prefect, **Manya** – Communications Prefect, **Kalki** – Community Prefect, **Tem**- Pastoral Prefect, **Khadija** – Curriculum Prefect, **Rhea** Management Prefect and House Captains **Georgia** – Palmer House, **Zainab** – Cedars House, **Ndego** – Sidmouth House- our Kendrick Student Leadership Team 2020-21.

Finally, to finish I would like to ask everyone to try to stay positive and optimistic at this very difficult time. I shall be asking our new Kendrick Student Leadership Team, as one of their first initiatives, to think about ways in which the **whole school** can be involved in **community activities** (which of course have to happen in isolation) which can be videoed and shared with our wider community. Having watched some of the **Big Night In** last night (available on the BBC iPlayer via this [LINK](#)) I was inspired by the very many initiatives that so many people are doing up and down the country to support one another and keep up morale. I know our students can step up to this challenge and it would be great if each week we could feature some fun/whacky activities people might be doing at home with their families so that we can share, enjoy and keep up our spirits. The lovely weather certainly helps and keeping up with daily exercise and some fresh air is to be recommended. I am managing to maintain my daily evening 5k walk with my husband and appreciating the lovely flowers, plants and trees that we see around where we live, which in previous times I hardly noticed. I hope many of you are trying to do something similar.

Best wishes for the weekend, stay safe and well.

**Ms Christine Kattirtzi, Headteacher**

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## **SAFEGUARDING & SUPPORT AVENUES**

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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 article we have added is from the [UK Safer Internet Centre – Keeping Children Happy and Safe Online during COVID-19](#)

Brighter Futures for Children has some useful information including stay at home learning, stay at home activities and support for parents and carers. You can access this information via this [link](#).

**Free school meal extensions** - The DfE has announced it is temporarily extending the offer of free school meals to children from some groups which have no recourse to public funds. New guidance explains who is

eligible and how schools can confirm eligibility and award free school meals. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance>

Aldi has joined the list of supermarkets taking part in the national voucher scheme. Schools will be able to order vouchers for Aldi through Edenred from next Monday (27 April). <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/aldi-joins-free-school-meal-voucher-scheme>

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## KENDRICK SCHOOL COMMUNITY DURING COVID-19

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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](mailto:aemberson@kendrick.reading.sch.uk)

[Kendrick Arts Instagram](#)

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

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## ENRICHMENT AND WELLBEING ACTIVITIES

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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.

[Kendrick School Wellbeing and Enrichment Resources](#)

[Kendrick School Coronavirus Library Newsletter](#)

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