

# Kendrick School

## Weekly Update

### Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020

#### WEEKLY LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

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In normal times, according to our calendar, we would have had **Open Day** yesterday when we would have welcomed hundreds of people into our school. In typical Kendrick community style, our students would have politely and enthusiastically guided our visitors around the school, coordinated by our Student Leadership Team and key staff. Then children and their parents would have come to the Hall to hear speeches from me, our Student Leaders and some Year 7 students. The atmosphere would have been buzzing with excitement with lots of questions being asked by the visitors. Although a tiring day for all, students and staff, we would have agreed it was a successful event and we would all be eager to begin the process of a new cohort joining us next year. Alas that did not happen this year, however other key parts of the process for the **September 2021 Entry** are going ahead as normal and today the applications for entry to Kendrick is live and the link to our admissions process is [HERE](#). Please tell your family and friends or anyone else you think might be interested in applying to Kendrick for September 2021. Regarding the **Open Day**, we will be holding a **webinar** on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May at 5.00pm** where a few of us will speak to an audience of prospective students and parents. More details about this event can be found [HERE](#).

I have received a number of responses to my message to everyone last week about fun/whacky activities that we can all share to stay positive and keep up spirits. These have come in the main from teachers who have told me what students are doing and the challenges they have set them. I hope as more of these activities are shared we can document them and share. The Student Leadership Team is completely on board and will help encourage and coordinate the activities. The kind of things I am hearing that students are doing are: cooking and craft challenges, music and drama activities, creative writing, reading, puzzles, [Good News articles](#) for a 'Good News Newspaper' etc. I am sure everyone has something to share about their lockdown experience. I heard this morning on the radio that Edinburgh Museum will be asking people to share artefacts of their lockdown experience so that in time the curators of the museum can create exhibitions about what life was like during the Lockdown; I am sure we could do something similar when we are back at school. In a couple of weeks' time it is **Mental Health Awareness Week, 18-24<sup>th</sup> May** organised by the charity **MIND** and the theme this year is '**Kindness**', most apt given the current situation. Last year, as a school a huge number of activities were organised for staff and students and I hope that once again we will be able to do some community activities which, as well as being fun, can also support this vitally important charity. More details and information to follow in the coming weeks.

I would like to mention this week our Muslim community of parents and students who are fasting at this time and how they are managing Ramadan during the Coronavirus lockdown. Usually a time of reflection and togetherness, Ramadan is now happening in isolation for many people and without the support of friends and family. A short video gives us an insight into the challenges there are for some in the

Muslim community and how they are managing Ramadan during the lockdown.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/stories-52472091/ramadan-and-coronavirus-breaking-my-fast-on-zoom>

I would like to once again thank students and parents for the way that remote learning is working at Kendrick. As I said I am getting regular updates of work being done from across departments and I am hearing there is good engagement from all year groups. I would also like to thank the many parents who have written to me or my colleagues thanking us for all that we are doing to guide the learning of the children. It means a lot to us when parents appreciate and acknowledge the hard work that is being put into lesson planning and delivery, as well as the efforts behind the scenes by Support Staff who are running the business and processes that are still going on to keep Kendrick going. We are certainly all adapting to new ways of working and communicating, some of which we will be able to continue with when the lockdown is lifted, I expect, some we will not want to revert to again. Nevertheless it is very encouraging to hear messages of thanks from parents which we are passing on to our staff.

The Prime Minister announced yesterday that next week, 7<sup>th</sup> May 2020, the government will outline their exit plan and the possible lifting of certain restrictions, including possibly plans for the reopening of schools. I am sure the return to normal life will be slow and gradual and as we have been told before, we must all be patient and safe and do what is best for our community. We have already started to discuss a **Kendrick School Recovery Plan** across all functions of the school which we will begin to share with our governors and staff in due course. However, I think it is important to stress that whilst we yearn to return to our old way of life, we are all sensible and intelligent enough to know that the safety of our community comes first.

To finish I will mention another news item that caught my eye on the BBC website this morning. It was an article about the **Archbishop of Canterbury, The Most Reverend Justin Welby**, who was giving an assembly to the Oak National Academy, the free online school set up for students studying at home during the lockdown. Sitting at his kitchen table to deliver the assembly, he had next to him a copy of Nelson Mandela's autobiography, **Long Walk to Freedom**, a book I highly recommend to everyone to read. The assembly acknowledged the difficulties families across the country are encountering during this time and like every public person, he encouraged the students to persevere, be patient and look forward to better times. Please click on this [link](#) to access the assembly. At some point in the assembly he quoted a sentence from one of Mandela's speeches which I would like to share with you as we end another week in lockdown:

*'may your choices reflect your hopes not your fears'*

Wishing everyone a good 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 information we have added is Learning Safely Online. Click [here](#) to access the resources.

### **BBC Own It App Updated for COVID-19**

The BBC's Own It app helps young people new to social media manage their well-being, whilst empowering children to make smart choices, and helping them to lead a positive life online.

The Own It app and keyboard lets children:

- get advice whenever they type
- track their feelings
- win badges as they reflect
- find help when they need it
- taking quizzes to learn more about themselves

The app also includes a special keyboard to use which offers helpful tips and friendly advice to children when they need it. The app can be downloaded for free from the App Store or Google Play. Further information can be found here: <https://www.bbc.com/ownit/take-control/own-it-app>

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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)

[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](mailto:14pgehlot@kendrick.reading.sch.uk) for more information. The link to the blog is <https://www.theconversant.co.uk/blog>

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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'](#)

**Mental Health and Well-being (Education Endowment Foundation)**

One of the most important ways to keep mentally healthy is to have routine and structure, and to maintain a healthy sleep pattern. The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) have produced a series of checklists to help parents and children manage their routines.

Supporting home learning routines: Planning the day

[https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19\\_Resources/Resources\\_for\\_parents/Supporting\\_home\\_learning\\_routines - Planning the day.pdf](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19_Resources/Resources_for_parents/Supporting_home_learning_routines_-_Planning_the_day.pdf)

All the EEF materials to support home learning can be found here:

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/covid-19-resources#nav-covid-19-resources>