

Kendrick School

Weekly Update

Friday 26th June 2020

WEEKLY LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

We have all been affected by the events that occurred in **Forbury Gardens on Saturday 20th June**, last week and our deepest sympathy and condolences go to the family and friends of the victims. Although we do not know the people that died, somehow the fact that one of them was a teacher made the situation very close to us. In response to the incident at Forbury Gardens we have been keen to do all we can to support our Kendrick community, all of whom have been affected in some way. In the updates students received from their TLCs at the start of the week, reflections on the incident were offered and students were reminded of how to access support should they need to. Our counsellor, Emma, has offered her ongoing support for students affected by the incident in any way and **Brighter Futures for Children** has set up a helpline for Reading families on **0118 937 2080**. Additional psychological support is also available so please do not hesitate to contact us if this would be helpful. Ms Stacey and I attended **Critical Incident Response** meetings with **Brighter Futures for Children** earlier in the week and have been able to identify some of our families who have been more directly affected by what has happened. Some of our Sixth Form students were taught by Mr Furlong at The Holt School before joining Kendrick or were present in the park at the time of the incident, and other students who live close to Forbury Gardens or the location of the raid on the suspect's flat on Basingstoke Road. We have been in touch with these students and families and offered our support.

The developments this week affecting schools have been about the **easing of lockdown**, in particular, **social distancing** and the reduction from two metres to one metre plus. Further measures will be needed if the ambition of the government that all children return to school in September is to be realised. Guidance from the government is expected next week which should set out plans for September. I hope that in next week's Weekly Update, I will be able to give some direction as to how school will end this term and begin next term. Also the **support programme** the government announced last week to provide '**catch up**' is still to be clarified and schools are waiting to know how the **£1billion** will be distributed amongst schools. There is a growing feeling that '**catch up**' is not the appropriate phrase that educationalists wish to use when describing the work and support that students may need as they return to school. There is a reference that we use more **positive and encouraging** language with our students and parents to demonstrate that we are **building** on what they have learnt and done during the lockdown period rather than viewing this period in seemingly negative terms. Motivation and encouragement for everyone must be what we need to do as we ease everyone back to more normal routines and life which is much more than 'catch up'. I hope everyone appreciates the distinctions here and I am sure government will also realise this in their future messaging.

Library News, our wonderful weekly digest of books compiled by our Librarians, which shares people's reading and suggests other books to read, features a super photo of our **crocheted Kendrick doll** who I only discovered this week when I went to the Library. The doll is called **Stella** and sits on the window ledge in the Library. She is supposed to depict a reading Kendrick student and her name **Stella** was given to her by a Year 10 student because she felt the name Stella, which derives from the Latin word 'star', seems an appropriate name for a Kendrick student who loves to read! Click here for a [link](#). Also this week, we are able to feature the second of our **Online Performer Series** music concerts with once again contains contributions from students and staff. I am sure it will be as enjoyable to watch as the first concert. Click here for a [link](#). A group of Year 12 students: Mridhula, Arzina, and Ananya have successfully

got through to the final round of the **Schools' Aerospace Competition 2020**. In the project they aimed to improve the environmental impacts of tactical airlifters, by using a hybrid power system to reduce the carbon footprint of RAF operations. Although they will miss out on a week's residential at Cranfield this year, they will be invited next year. They have to make their final presentation virtually to a panel of experts on 29th July. We wish them well and feel very proud of their achievements. As I said last week Year 10 and 12 students will embark on their **virtual Work Experience programme** next **Wednesday –Friday 1st 3rd July**. All students in Year 10 and 12 should have received the materials for the online programme from **Mrs Rock, Work Related Learning Coordinator**.

The deadline for the last of our annual **Bursaries and Grants** that are available to our students is 30th June 2020. This new **STEM Bursary** sponsored by a parent and former governor is an award of £500 for a Year 13 students who wishes to explore an engineering or related technology course in her future plans. The details of the award scheme and application process is [here](#).

I would like to end by remembering the victims of the attack last Saturday night in Forbury Gardens. All three men had family and friends who are now grieving for them. For us the fact that one of the victims was a local teacher, Mr James Furlong, who some of our own students knew and were taught by, makes the loss of this individual most profound for our community. The Co-Headteachers, **Ms Kennedy and Ms Pearce** of **The Holt School** spoke bravely and movingly in a tribute to their colleague and I would like to share some of their words with you as we end another week.

'James was a very kind and gentle man. He had a real sense of duty and cared for each and every one of our students....he truly inspired everyone he taught through his passion for his subject and his dedication. He was determined that our students would develop a critical awareness of global issues, and in doing so, (they) become active citizens and have a voice.'

Have a good weekend.

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.

[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. I hope that you find it helpful.

Another item that might be of interest is that Oak National Academy is teaming up with The Careers & Enterprise Company next week to create Careers Week with sessions giving young people insight into life in one of 15 major public and private sector employers from across the country! [#LearnWithOak](#) <https://oaknat.uk/3eoOc4Y>

For Kendrick School safeguarding guidelines for online meetings, tutor time and lessons visit [Safeguarding Guidelines for Live Sessions](#)

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

Pebbles for Pride

In order to celebrate Pride month, the KSLT, are proposing the project, 'Pebbles for Pride'. The details below tell you what you, as staff or student, have to do to participate:

[Pebbles for Pride](#)

Kendrick School Sixth Form – Virtual Induction Event for Year 11 students

The **Year 12 Virtual Induction Session** took place on **Thursday 25th June 2020 at 10.00am**. Year 11 students can watch the recording of the session and review the presentations via this [link](#). They will need the user name and password which was shared with them and will also give them access to the bridging work.

How Should We Decide Which People from our Past to Commemorate?

There has been a great deal of discussion recently about monuments to Britain's past, such as the names of buildings and streets, and especially statues. You are probably aware of the protests which resulted in the statue of Edward Colston being pulled down in Bristol, and others being damaged elsewhere. People have put forward strong views on both sides of this debate.

The question of whether it is right to pull down statues of people from our past makes us ask interesting and difficult questions about why we put up statues of people in the first place. Mr Duncan, Subject Leader for Classics, and Mr Curran, Subject Leader for History, have been considering some of these questions and you can read their analysis [here](#) and [here](#).

Rather than arguing about tearing down statues, we would like to invite you to consider why we should put them up in the first place. Imagine a situation where Kendrick has got five empty plinths on which we are going to put statues of people from history. Your challenge is to choose the five individuals, and to write up to 500 words to justify your choices. You need to think carefully about the individuals' achievements, attitudes and actions. What values and beliefs would it show that we at Kendrick hold to be important if we put up statues of those individuals? You could choose individuals who are already familiar to us and may appear in the school curriculum, or individuals from different cultures around the world who may not be well known in Britain.

This challenge is open to students in all year groups. A blank entry form is available for you to fill out, or you can submit your entry in your own format if you prefer. Entries should be sent by email to Mr Curran by Sunday 5th July 2020. Winning entries in each year group will be awarded with a prize! Good luck!

Anthology- Reflections on a Decade

This year sees the beginning of a new decade and with each periodic in the calendar we find an opportunity to reflect on the past and form new visions of our future.

The last decade, and now including 2020, has seen remarkable national and international events that have changed the landscape of the world:

- We shifted from thirteen years of Labour to [so far] ten years of Tory rule.
- We're still Brexiting.
- We've seen mass movement of people out of the Middle East after the Arab Spring and the rise of ISIL.
- America has a new kind of political leader.
- Social media has sky rocketed in its influence.
- Climate change continues
- And now we're in lockdown, one of the most significant social, political and scientific challenges in more than generation.

Both the arts and the sciences have had a real impact on these and other changes and challenges listed in the document you can access via this [link](#).

But what does the future hold?

In response to this we are looking to you, the talented staff and students of Kendrick, to offer your ideas about the last decade and your hopes for the decades to come.

We intend to consolidate these essays, poems, lyrics and works of art into an anthology of ideas to be published in hard copy and online by the end of 2020.

Do read the attached document and think whether you could write an article, poem, lyric or paint or draw a work of art that reflects on the last decade with a vision for the future.

We are living in unprecedented times and it is for people of all ages to come together and share their thoughts.

Guidance on submissions is in this [document](#). We look forward to your contributions.

Kind regards, Mr. Nemeth

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'.

KSLT Instagram Page

To keep up to date with 'all things Kendrick' click [here](#) for the Kendrick Student Leadership Team Instagram page.

Other Community News

[Pride Month presentation](#)

[Scrubs and Hats for Nurses in ICU](#)

[From all the Staff at Kendrick School](#)

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

MUSIC@KENDRICK

Kendrick School Presents – Online Performer Series 1 and 2

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to record themselves and send in their performances for this Online Performer Series. We have been overwhelmed by the initial response to our call for videos for our first ever online concert and will therefore be putting our other entries into a series of future online concerts for you all to enjoy.

With everything that has been happening in recent months, we understand that people have been expressing themselves in different ways and finding solace in things like art, dance, poetry and drama. We are therefore expanding out these concerts and asking for further entries, not just of musical performances, but any art work you'd like to share, dance routines you've been working on, poetry you've written or short dramatic works.

If you'd like to be involved in the next Online Performer Series concert then please send your creative and artistic entries to Mrs Cooper by Wednesday 24th June.

Each video is less than 30 minutes.

Online Performer Series 1 <https://youtu.be/Hlr5wroVABY>

Online Performer Series 2 <https://youtu.be/DKmByXr0oC4>

Phoenix Choir

The Phoenix Choir has launched their annual competition for the second time in January this year and the deadline for entries is 30 June 2020. This time the competition is for young composers aged between 16 and 24. The theme of

'New Horizons', chosen to reflect the choir's excitement about looking to the future after celebrating our 50th season, seems particularly appropriate in the current times of change and uncertainty, and we can't wait to hear the competition entries later in the year. If you are interested in entering please visit the competition website: <http://walterhussey.com>.

Hampshire County Youth Orchestras – Auditions for Places for September 2020

Please click [here](#) for information on auditions for the HCYO.

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)