

Kendrick School

Weekly Update

Friday 5th June 2020

WEEKLY LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

Welcome back to everyone and welcome to Term 6 of this academic year. I hope everyone had a good half term and that the lovely weather helped make the restrictions of lockdown more bearable.

I want to begin this week by noting the tragic events that took place ten days ago in Minneapolis where Mr George Floyd, an African American was killed by the police in full view of the world. Understandably and quite rightly there has been outrage and disgust at this event, which happening alongside the COVID pandemic, has led many to say that there is a pandemic of racism that exists and is still deeply ingrained in institutions of America and elsewhere. The slogan **Black Lives Matter** is a rallying cry for all people of colour to say enough is enough and things must change. In our Kendrick community, where we are proud and continually emphasise our diversity and multi-cultural nature, there has been a display and outpouring of passion and indignation at what happened ten days ago in Minneapolis. Led by our **Kendrick Student Leadership Team (KSLT)**, the feelings of them, and I believe our whole school community, were expressed in a post they sent to students and to me. The post is [here](#) and I hope that you read it and like me feel the power and strength of their feelings. As privileged young people, they are determined to stand up and fight against this racism with a determination and commitment so that no black life is destroyed again with such callousness and disregard. Deploying the words of our **Kendrick Pledge**, they have strongly challenged us all not to stand by and let such an atrocity happen again, but to stand up and do something about this blatant racism. I know that elsewhere in our school similar conversations are going on amongst students and staff and I am sure in people's homes too. Although we are not together at school, I truly feel that the bond that there is in our Kendrick community is united in the sympathy we all feel for the family of Mr Floyd and the feeling of outrage we all have at what happened to him. I feel so very proud of our Student Leadership team and our community and I thank them for being bold and brave in expressing their voices at this time.

As I said in my last Weekly Update on 22nd May, we are planning for the return of small groups of students in Years 10 and 12 from 15th June. To be clear, this will take place as follows:

- Group conversations are taking place between tutors and students this week and next. Based on these conversations staff will be assessing if certain students would benefit from coming into school for academic or pastoral support. If it is deemed that the needs of the students can be met in virtual group meetings, then teachers will continue to support students in virtual meetings as has been taking place since 20th March
- No more than 50 students will be in school at any one time
- Students will be invited into school for two hours a day: 9.00am-11.00am and 12.00pm – 2.00pm. Added to that there will be an entry time so that students are received into school safely
- Students will sit in the larger classrooms in the school where appropriate social distancing is in place. Staff will come to them rather than students moving round the school. Rooms used in the morning will not be used in the afternoon and thorough cleaning will take place of all rooms at the end of each day
- We are saying at the moment that students should avoid using public transport to come to school and should either walk, if this is possible, or be dropped off by parents
- Up to 20 staff will be in school at any time one that students are in school to support with entry into school, reception, first aid, safeguarding, supervision, teaching
- Social distancing measures will be in place across the parts of the school where students will have access

- Permission from parents will be sought for students to return to school and parents have a responsibility to make sure that they only send their child into school if they are well. If a student becomes unwell whilst in school, parents will be contacted immediately to come to school to collect them.
- For students in Year 7, 8 and 9 and those who do not come to school in Years 10 and 12, there will be smaller group virtual sessions taking place. So that these smaller group sessions take place safely and with safeguarding in mind, we have drawn up some very careful **safeguarding guidance**. Please read the guidelines [here](#) carefully as we require everyone to adhere to them.
- Remote learning will continue for everyone for the rest of this term

As before, we will remain vigilant and responsive to the current situation and will adapt and change any of the above according to the instructions and guidance we receive from government. No student will be made to come to school.

Term 6 is always a very busy term. Although exams are not taking place, there are a number of key events that occur to prepare us for the next academic year. Within the constraints of lockdown we are planning our **transition programme for our new Year 7 and Year 12 students**. Although still in lockdown we are looking and planning to run as many of these events as we can through virtual meetings or by inviting small groups of people into school at any one time.

Other activities that engage our school community are being planned, including an **Anthology project** launched by Mr Nemeth, details of which were sent to students earlier in the week. **Music and creative activities** that Mrs Cooper has communicated to you about are also being planned. An important annual event at this time of the year that we still want to mark and celebrate despite being in lockdown is **Pride Month** which takes place in June, which is an opportunity for all of us to celebrate and understand the diversity in our society and to show that we are an inclusive school community. Students in Year 12 and members of the Pride Society have prepared the presentation for our school community. Click [here](#) for a link.

As always, at the end of an academic year there are a few staff changes. I don't usually mention these until later in the term, however, I would like to mention one member of staff who will be leaving us at the end of this academic year. This is Ms Stacey, who this morning sent a message to all sixth form students to tell them about her plans for the future. Her presentation to them can be found [here](#). Our new Head of Sixth Form from September 2020 will be Mrs Hearn and we congratulate her on her appointment. Mrs Hearn has worked in the sixth form team for the last four years and is well known to all students throughout the school. Between now and the end of term Mrs Hearn and Ms Stacey will be working closely together to make the transition as seamless as possible. Later in the term I will return to Ms Stacey's leaving and to other staff who will also be leaving this year to thank and acknowledge their individual and unique contribution to our school.

To finish this week, I would like to quote a part of the last paragraph of the KSLT post which reminds us all of our Kendrick Pledge:

Kendrick prides itself on its intolerance of prejudice, ignorance and injustice in all its forms and students strive to promote the values of equality, tolerance and justice for all. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary for us to act. It is essential that we educate ourselves on current world` issues, and raise our voices against said issues. Speak up when you hear or see something that is unjust and morally incorrect.

Wishing everyone 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

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

MUSIC@KENDRICK

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)