

Kendrick School

Weekly Update

Friday 19th June 2020

WEEKLY LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

More groups of students have attended school in Years 12 and 10 this week and we expect a few more to be coming in over the next few weeks of this term. Similarly more staff are in school supervising students and providing vital support. Thank you to all who are doing this work and of course, thank you to all the students and staff who continue to work very hard at home. As I have said before these students are being invited by their teachers for specific reasons which we feel will help them and their progress. Guidance from the government is expected on a few initiatives to relieve the effects of the pandemic and lockdown, including the long awaited **catch-up package** that has just been announced today. At the moment the headlines say that there is **£1bn** dedicated to this catch-up initiative which will comprise a **national tutoring programme** intended to help students whose education has been severely affected by the shutdown of schools. All students have had their learning affected by the pandemic and we will have to wait and see how this funding and initiative will help Kendrick students. News today suggests that schools will have to put in up to 25% of additional support which again will challenge schools enormously. I am not sure how this will apply to Kendrick, but like all schools we will welcome any support that is offered to us. Also keenly awaited is the possible change to **social distancing** without which schools are stuck with only being able to bring back a small proportion of their students to school. As I have said before, we are planning what September will look like and the phrase **'scenario planning'** is what we are being advised to do. The point being to plan for various scenarios depending on the level of lockdown in September. Again we will be guided by the advice and guidance we receive and I will continue to communicate our plans to you.

There is understandably a growing anxiety felt by all about how the 'catch up' will happen and how will courses ever finish in time for the next round of exams. None of us really know the answers to these questions, but we do know that within the DfE, Ofqual, professional associations and unions a lot of discussions are taking place about next year's GCSEs and A Levels. We do know that they are unlikely to run exactly as they have done before the pandemic, but specific details are understandably unknown yet. The phrase being used here is a 'blended approach' to assessment which may include a combination of exams and centre assessed grades, but it is far too early for us to have any definitive answers in this area. However, I would like to reassure students and parents that we will do our very best to support and guide our students so that their qualifications and their life chances are not compromised by the difficulties of this pandemic. There will be much more information coming through in the weeks and months ahead which we will share with you.

In the immediate future, next week, Year 12 students will be having assessments across all their subjects on Year 12 work and as we have said before, Year 10 assessments will take place next term. This week I am also able to confirm that in place of the **Work Experience (WEX)** we had planned for our students in Years 10 and 12, we will now be able to offer an **online modular WEX programme**. Our WEX provider, **Learning to Work**, has put together a modular package of interesting and useful information for students in these year groups. Of course, the package cannot replicate a WEX placement but I am confident that what will be offered to the students will be useful and helpful in their future studies and careers planning. **Mrs Rock, our Work Related Coordinator** will be communicating with parents and students of Years 10 and 12 next week. We expect to be running the WEX programme at the start of July.

Kendrick Parents' Society will be relaunching the **Spring Raffle**, now possibly renamed the summer raffle, in order to complete the event of the raffle that was put on hold when we went into lockdown. I hope parents and students support KPS in their sincere attempts to help the school at these difficult times. The needs we identified before lockdown remain and the money we hoped to raise from the raffle to purchase new IT equipment for the Hall is still desperately needed. The letter relaunching the raffle will be sent to you on Monday morning. Please support them.

I would like to encourage all students to take part in the competition that the **History and Classics Departments** have put together regarding the discussions that have arisen from the **Black Lives Matter** movement on **historical monuments**. The link to the details and competition is [HERE](#). Also Sixth Form Students have prepared some activities to mark **Pride Month** with a project called **Pebbles for Pride** which asks everyone to decorate a pebble with the theme of Pride in mind, and then place the pebble somewhere out in the wilderness! They ask *'whether you are a member of the LGBTQ+ community or not, this is a good way to show our support for those who are!'* They also ask that you photograph your pebble and send it to them. The details of the project can be found [HERE](#).

I am delighted announce some great news about a student in **Year 11 Abi**, who has been selected as a winner in the national poetry competition, **The Simon Powell Poetry Prize**. Abi will recite her poem at the next Poetry Live! event, which Y11 students will hopefully attend next year. Well done to Abi! More details including Abi's poem can be found [HERE](#). I hope you enjoyed the **Online Performer Series 1** concert that was sent to you last week. Mrs Cooper has already got material for Series 2 and possibly a Series 3 which will be sent to you over the coming weeks. Again I thank students and staff for their enthusiasm and participation in this initiative.

Finally, this week in my meeting with the **Kendrick Students Leadership Team (KSLT)**, we were joined by **Mr Simmonds, Deputy Head**, to discuss the **Kendrick School Development Plan (KSDP)**, an annual strategic document that we prepare and agree with governors about the plans for the school for the coming year and beyond. I will talk about this in later updates. This week we wanted to engage our students so that they could make a contribution to it. The Student Leadership Team were asked to identify what they wish and hope to achieve during their time as the KSLT and I know that they will be able to draw up some aims for the school and its students that we will be able to work towards and make the school community better place. In our discussions, Mr Simmonds, talked about some research and reading he had done in his work on the KSDP and he shared with us a brilliant quotation which demonstrates how valuable young people, our students, are to what we all do in our thinking and planning in schools. Although the quotation uses the term *'teenager'*, I would like to suggest that you read the passage with all students of Kendrick in mind. The quotation is from an article written by **Dr Dean Burnett, a neuroscientist and author of 'What's going on in the teenage brain?'** The article was in an issue of New Scientist in 2019.

"Teenagers are how they are because it was evolutionarily useful. Long term, sticking to the safe and familiar can lead to stagnation and extinction. Having individuals strike out on their own can refresh the gene pool and uncover useful information. Hence, teens reject authority, crave independence, take risks and so on. Far from being a constant annoyance, teenagers may be the reason humanity is as smart and successful as it is."

Wishing everyone a good weekend, stay well and safe.

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

Our Year 11 students are invited to a **Year 12 Virtual Induction Session** which will take place on **Thursday 25th June 2020 at 10.00am**. **To join this event students should use the link sent to them in an email today**. We are expecting it to last around one hour.

PLEASE NOTE: Students will **not** be able to access the induction session with any other email address other than their Kendrick one and the session is for students joining Kendrick School Sixth Form only.

We look forward to 'seeing' you on Thursday 25th June at 10am.

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 14pgehlot@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

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 would like to send something in (even if you already have), then please send a video, audio recording or picture of what you've done to Mrs Cooper by Wednesday 17th June. This is open to all students and staff, and we would like to have as many people from different year groups/staff areas as possible, so please do get involved if you can.

This video is less than 30 minutes and can be enjoyed at a lunch time, in the evening, or whenever you'd like.

<https://youtu.be/Hlr5wroVABY>

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)