

Kendrick School

Weekly Update

Friday 12th June 2020

WEEKLY LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

I would like to begin again by **thanking everyone** for their efforts and hard work managing the new normal for our school and the ways that we are now conducting our learning and teaching and other school functions. **Thank you to students and staff** for adapting and responding to a situation that none of us really want but know we have to conform to for the better good of us all. Although we have seen some slight easing of the lockdown this week with people living alone now able to join one other household, the developments for schools is that the planned return of more primary students to school by the end of this term, has been reversed with some people feeling relieved and others outraged. I think we all need to understand the pressures there are to make decisions of such magnitude which are based on practicalities, as well as a high level of risk and anxiety. At Kendrick, we are having discussions every day about what we would like to do but are limited in doing and, of course, there is more we want to do than can. The qualities of patience, empathy and understanding have never been needed more than now.

As I mentioned last week we have prepared the site for the return to school of some students. A very small group of sixth formers were in school this week and a few more will be in school next week. In addition, smaller online group sessions are taking place and in some cases one to one sessions will occur in response to the needs of individual students as identified by their teachers and tutors. In my discussions with staff this week, I am still getting the overall impression that remote learning is going well and that students continue to respond very positively. Both teachers and students are working very hard to make these lessons the best they can be. The workload for many in this period of lockdown has reached enormous heights and it seems we feel it more because we are all isolated from each other. The opportunity for casual conversations that both students and staff might have had at break time, before and after school and even in lessons, no longer exist, we only speak to each other when we plan to and for the rest of the time we may be alone or with members of our family which can also have its stresses. Perhaps we should try to arrange more 'chat' time with each other to stay connected.

One of my highlights this term has become the weekly on line **Staff Briefings** I am having with staff and the weekly meeting I am having with the **Student Leadership Team**. Both are on Wednesday and it is great to see their faces and smiles which lift the spirits enormously. Maintaining a check on our mental health is something I urge everyone to do and not to just assume everyone is alright. The twice weekly '**keeping in touch**' emails to students from their Year Heads is to do just that and I hope they give a lift to the students when they receive them. There is a lot of conversation about the mental health needs of our students and how as schools we will respond to this when we do gradually ease ourselves from lockdown and return to school. I have been speaking with Miss Swaine and Mrs Lace about our PSHCE programme for next year and they are already planning their lessons to reflect a response to this intense period of isolation and how we will begin to help students get back to normal. This is a thread that runs through our school development planning for next year which will entail a recovery and transition plan to reintegrate the whole school community as lockdown restrictions ease.

Whilst we are trying to adapt events scheduled on the calendar in other ways and through virtual means, there are some events that cannot take place. One of these is **work experience**. In normal times, this week our Year 12 students would have been on a week of work experience and our Year 10 students would have been preparing for their work experience in a couple of weeks' time. Unfortunately these events are not taking place this year,

however, we are talking with our providers, 'Learning to Work' about what we may be able to offer our students later in the year or next year. Parents of Year 10 and 12 students will be contacted with more information about work experience over the next few weeks.

Last week I mentioned some of the activities that are being planned and a super event that has been organised and put together by Mrs Cooper, Subject Leader for Music and Drama, is the first **Online Performer Series** which brings together musicians from across the school, including staff, giving a short music recital; well done and thank you to all those who have taken part ([LINK HERE](#)). One of the big highlights of the year, which I can now confirm is going ahead is **Sports Day!** Obviously we will not be going to Palmer Park and students and staff will not be sitting on the terraces in their yellow, blue and green T shirts and Mr Hodge will not be leading his band of percussionists in lively music, but some exciting plans are being prepared by Ms Watkins and the PE Department for us all. The date may change but the spirit and practice of Sports Day will go ahead. It also means that lessons will be suspended for that day.

To finish, the issues and discussions raised last week around the **Black Lives Matter** campaign continue. For all of us it is a time to reflect and review and certainly in school we are beginning to talk about how diverse and inclusive our school is and what more we can do to address such issues. A number of subject leaders have been speaking to me to say what they would like to do to promote this agenda. Mr Curran and Mr Duncan, subject leaders of History and Classics respectively, are preparing some thought provoking activities and research around the significance of historical monuments. I have been speaking with the Student Leadership Team and how they wish to engage the student body in conversations, whilst Ms Stacey has been having some conversations with Year 13 students about their experiences at school. Below is a response from one of our sixth formers to a question about race. I am not sure if the views expressed are widespread and I will continue to have conversations with the Student Leadership Team to hear their views, but I was very heartened by what this individual said about her experiences at Kendrick. Although she paints a positive picture about her experiences, we must not feel complacent or think there is nothing for us to do at Kendrick on this agenda, however, it is encouraging if some of our students feel this way. Please read the extract below and I thank the student who agreed that I could share her thoughts with you.

"In response to your question about my experiences at Kendrick regarding race, I would just say that I'm very blessed. I know a lot of my peers would agree with me when I say the racial diversity at Kendrick is outstanding. I think it is so important to be surrounded by people of all different ethnicities and religions and so in that sense, Kendrick is a marvellous place because it's an environment where I have never felt out of place due to my race. It's evident that schools such as Kendrick, produce students who have tolerance and acceptance for everyone and that is so important because when you enter into the adult world, you're going to be faced with so many different types of people. One thing I love about Kendrick, is not only do they tolerate and respect different cultures and ethnicities, but they try their best to educate people on them as well."

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

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>

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)