

Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Friday 9th July 2021

WEEKLY LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

As we begin to draw to the end of this academic year, we reflect on what has been, what we shall be leaving behind and look forward to what there is to come.

This week we received the news and guidance of how schools will operate in September. The main headline is that students in schools will not be required to stay in bubbles, social distancing will end and the wearing of masks is not essential. At Kendrick we will take a prudent approach for the new term. We will certainly abandon the bubbles which have kept year groups apart, but we will continue to be thorough in our cleaning regimes, we will continue to operate one way systems and we are likely to have to do some form of Lateral Flow testing at the start of the term. We will communicate these new guidelines to you clearly before the start of the term in September. I know that we will all be very glad to leave behind some of the restrictions that have impacted on school life and begin to create a new and safe 'normal' for everyone.

There has been a lot of recruitment of new staff for September. Some staff have been appointed to replace people leaving and some staff are joining us in September due to the additional needs of an expanding school. I will introduce the new staff to you next term, but I am delighted to say that we are fully staffed with teachers for September. Staff leaving us this year and to whom we say good bye and thank you are: **Mme Pilia-Jones**, French Teacher; **Frau Hesse**, German Teacher; **Dr Bowker**, Chemistry Teacher; and **Mr Melhuish**, English Teacher. We thank them for all that they have done for Kendrick and wish them well for the future. We also say goodbye to **Mrs Munns and Mrs Davidson** who leave us for a few months to take their maternity leave. We wish them well and feel excited for them for the future! We say good bye to **Mr Marsh**, our Senior Technician who has been with us for almost 20 years and who after such a long service to the school has decided to retire. With his wife, Mrs Marsh, an Exam Invigilator, they have been most dedicated members of staff and will be missed. We thank Mr Marsh for his many years of service and wish him and his family well. Finally, we shall be saying goodbye to two members of staff who have become established and hugely admired and respected teachers of the school. Firstly **Ms Musgrave** who has been with us for five years and taught English and also Sociology A Level and **Miss Swaine** who has been with us for nine years, first joining as a PE Teacher and later becoming a Head of Year and now Head of a Key Stage Leader. Both Ms Musgrave and Miss Swaine have had a great impact on the lives of students at Kendrick and I know they will be greatly missed, but remembered with fondness and affection. We wish them well in their future careers and plans.

We have had our last of the Kendrick Parents' Society and Full Governing Body meetings for the year, occasions which mark the end of the year, but also look forward to the next. At the **Kendrick Parents' Society** meeting on Wednesday evening, we all agreed that KPS has had a great year managing to be inventive and creative in organising events for the school and raising money. We were all pleased by the response to the raffle and happy that my request last week for more funds to reach the target of £7k resulted in one parent making a £300! A few more gestures like that (large or small) would really help us get over the line and buy the lights for the Hall. We are still short of £700. Bank details for KPS are here if anyone would like to make a last minute donation: **Lloyds Bank A/C # 04713564 S/C 30-96-96**

At the **Full Governing Body** meeting last night, the Chairs of our three committees, **Learning and Teaching, Resources and Performance and Review**, reported on the developments that have taken place over the year and went through the numerous challenges the school (like most schools) has had to face. There was a sincere

recognition and appreciation of all the hard work done by the staff and students of Kendrick over the year. As required of a meeting of the governing body, we also looked forward to how the vision and aims of the school reflect the current situation we are in and whether we need to refresh and reset some of our ideas given our recent experiences. We reminded ourselves of our larger strategic objectives which continue to be the expansion and the future sustainability of the school. We also considered how the last year might have impacted on how and what we deliver in our curriculum and how as a school we will need to address the requirements of an Ofsted Inspection which is likely to happen in the next year or so as Ofsted resumes its work in schools from September.

Finally, a review of the year must include how our students have fared; they are of course the reason for why the school exists and why we are here. We know that life for young people, our students and all students across the country, has been a challenge and that they, more than most, have had least control or a voice in the strangeness of this last year. It is our young people who need the greatest praise and recognition. Of all of us they have been the strongest, the most resilient, the most obliging; at Kendrick they have responded to everything we have asked them to do, continued to learn and study hard, despite being confined in one room for a lot of their school day, and they have done this with positivity and grace. I cannot be more proud of all our students who are the true stars in the story of the last year. They continue to plan and think positively and inspire us every single day. One particular area where they have impressed me is in the **student panels** we have set up as part of our recruitment procedures. The students who are asked to take on this task take it very seriously, they are also bold and confident in testing potential employees with difficult questions to see whether they will fit into our school community and then they politely provide us with detailed feedback to help make the final decision. When their assessment and ours align, we know that we have the right person for the job! It is also our students that continue to energise and keep us going right up to the end; their continued excellent attendance, their energy and new ideas, both from **School Council** and the **Kendrick Student Leaders**, is an inspiration to us all. There are still some lovely initiatives for us to look forward to next week.

With best wishes for the weekend.

Ms Christine Kattirtzi, Headteacher

SAFEGUARDING/WELLBEING

WORRIED ABOUT A CHILD?

If you have a concern about a child at Kendrick School please email studentwelfare@kendrick.reading.sch.uk or telephone 0118 9015859.

If you're worried about a child or young person and you are contacting us out of hours (before 8am and after 5pm), you can contact the NSPCC helpline for support and advice for free - call us on **0808 800 5000** or **contact NSPCC online**.

Children can contact **Childline** any time to get support themselves.

In an emergency please call 999 or for a non-emergency call 101.

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.

SAFEGUARDING – PARENTS’ GUIDE TO SAFEGUARDING IN OUT OF SCHOOL SETTINGS

Many parents and carers will be looking for childcare providers and other out of school settings during the summer holidays. Last year the government published a voluntary code of practice for out of schools settings, and it might well be worth sharing the parents' leaflet about the code.

The parents' guide is also available in several community languages (links are at the top right of the web page)

Download the 'Guidance for parents and carers' here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-safeguarding-children-in-out-of-school-settings>

WELLBEING – COVID-19: VISIBLE DIFFERENCES AND ANXIETY ABOUT GETTING BACK TO NORMAL

It can be hard to adjust to loosening restrictions. Every Mind Matters has 11 tips to cope with anxiety about coming out of lockdown. Please see the link below.

<https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/coronavirus/tips-to-cope-with-anxiety-lockdown-lifting/>

NEWS AND EVENTS - WHOLE SCHOOL

[Shakespeare Birthday Celebration Competition Winners](#)

LATERAL FLOW TESTS (LFT)

We encourage all students and staff to take a Lateral Flow Test on a Wednesday and Sunday every week and report the results through Medical Tracker via this [link](#) and Gov.uk via this [link](#).

PARENTPAY REMINDERS

- Year 7 History theatre visit to Reading Abbey Ruins Thursday 1st July 2021
- Non-Uniform Day: EcoSpot event - Friday 25th June 2021
- Year 12 Geography Fieldtrips 29th and 30th June 2021
- Year 10 Geography GCSE Field Trip - 15th June and 17th June 2021
- YEAR 8 Bushcraft Residential 2021 24th May to 27th May 2021
- YEAR 7 and Year 9 Team Building Activities 2021
- Year 10 and Year 12 Work Experience 2021

VACANCIES

We have the following vacancies at Kendrick School. Please click on this [link](#) for more information and please pass to friends and family that you think would be interested.

Senior Technical Engineer/Technician for September 2021

Full time (deadline extended for applications)

CALENDAR

Monday 12th July Sports Day for Years 7 and 8
Friday 16th July End of Term 6, 1.10pm

KENDRICK PARENTS' SOCIETY (KPS)

Please click [here](#) for the latest KPS newsletter.

Kendrick's Summer Raffle Updates

Kendrick's Summer Raffle raised a total of £6300, which is still £700 short of our target which is £7K. Can you help us achieve this gap amount of £700? If every parent contributes just £1 we can achieve this. Please email kpstreasurer@kendrick.reading.sch.uk to get the bank details if you are feeling generous :-)!

If you work for Vodafone, Visa, ThamesWater, Microsoft or any of those companies that offer matched funding please contact us so we can help you get some funding from your company with no extra effort from your side.. Organisations keep some amount for community services that can be utilised by schools and this is what we want you to explore. If you want to know mor , reach out to any of the KPS members or email kpschair@kendrick.reading.sch.uk.

KPS wishes to thank all the parents and carers, teachers, support staff, canteen services, deputy head teacher, headteacher and our dear students who have helped us with the Summer raffle. All the winners have been contacted informing them of their win and also everyone should have received their prizes too.

We will send you a detailed letter sharing more details **on Monday 12th July**.

KPS team

KPS SHOPPING LINKS

AmazonSmile donations

We encourage you to continue your purchases at smile.amazon.co.uk, (not www.amazon.co.uk or the mobile app) These are helping us generate AmazonSmile donations for our school. Amazon donates 0.5% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT, returns and shipping fees) of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases.

Easy Fundraising Charity

KPS has also signed up to other easy ways of raising funds for the school especially when you are shopping online - **easyfundraising charity site** : <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/kendrickschoolreading/> . Please continue to use these links and let's all together contribute to something that our daughters can benefit from.

TheGivingMachine

Another opportunity for you to raise more donations and funds for the School when you shop online. Go to this site and give for free: Here is the link: <https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/>

GAYL

Give As You Live (GAYL) is one way with which you can help KPS receive additional funds with no cost to you! Please use this link <https://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/kendrick> and help us raise additional funds.

NEWS, ARTICLES AND EVENTS – STUDENTS

BODY IMAGE

Body image is how we think and feel about ourselves physically. Sometimes, we worry about how we look or what our friends think about our body. If you're struggling with body image, here's some advice from Young Minds that can help you. Please click on the link below.

<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/feelings-and-symptoms/body-image/>