

Kendrick School

Weekly Update

Friday 17th July 2020

WEEKLY LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

At last we are at the end of term and at the end of a **most extraordinary year**. I would like to say once again how proud I am of our school community in the last few months as we have transformed ourselves into a **remote learning community**. Thank you to you all for your perseverance and forbearance in these very difficult times. Thank you also for your trust and understanding, as well the appreciation expressed in emails I have received recently about how well Kendrick School has served its community. Such support and encouragement helps us all and is greatly appreciated.

Yesterday I sent you a **letter** and a document called **Executive Summary** outlining how we intend to **return to school in September**. All this information is on the website [HERE](#) and more will be added as we draw up more detailed guidance for the whole school community. As I said in my letter, there are many people who are very anxious about the return to school in September, but I want to assure everyone that we are doing all that we can to make everyone safe. September will be a change for everyone and I know that some families have not ventured out from their homes for these last few months, fearful of the outside world and threat of the virus, especially groups in the BAME community or those in high risk categories. This is understandable, but I would like to suggest that if people feel like this, perhaps they could try to take small steps outside their homes to begin to familiarise themselves with routines they will need to follow in September. Many of our students do not live close to our school and have not done the journey for several months, perhaps trying the journey during the summer holiday might be helpful.

I am also aware that in some families there are people who have had the virus and also families where they may have lost a loved one. If this is the case and you feel we need to know more about your individual circumstances, please let us know so that we can support you where we can. Our twice weekly email contact from the TLC to students and parents and the gentle conversations, including sessions with tutors last week during profiling, some information about how families have fared has come through to us. If anyone feels they need to **share more information in confidence**, please do so if you feel it will help us to help you, as we prepare for the return to school in September.

There is still some lovely news to share with you this week. Firstly thank you to everyone for buying raffle tickets which enabled **KPS to raise over £7k** from the Spring Raffle, we are delighted with this result! There are many new articles on the website this week which I suggest you look at: [Statue Challenge Entries](#), [Online performer Series 3](#), 40 minutes of inspiration provided by our students and staff. Also the KSLT requested photos of the **Pebbles Pride Project** and there are some super examples of these [here](#). **Sports Day** took place on Monday and the feedback I have received is that it went well. I enjoyed watching the staff do their **fitness session** on the front lawn from my office window, which looked exhausting! Thank you to **Ms Watkins and the PE Department**. Also on the website is a news item about our school being named as [best state funded school in Reading and Berkshire](#). Thank you to everyone for enabling us to have such an accolade which we do not take for granted.

We have some staff leaving this year: **Ms Stacey, Head of 6th Form, Frau Alderson, Subject Leader for German, Mr Hiner – PD Lead Teacher, Ms Fallows English Teacher and Second in the Department, Mrs Haldane Maths Teacher, Mr Smith Physics Teacher**. All of these people have made a significant contribution and will be hugely missed by us all. We wish them well and every success in the new pursuits and careers that they each plan to do.

Today is the last day of term and by the time you receive this weekly update, we will have had a **whole school assembly**. The assembly took place in the **School Hall**, I was behind the lectern and a lot of staff sat in front of me. Absent in person was the student body who were invited to join us remotely and I do hope they all attended, including **Year 11 and Year 13 students**. It may be that parents joined us to hear our end of term messages and reflections on this extraordinary year.

The link to the recording of the assembly is [here](#). The password is BzPbUXR4. I ask that this is only viewed by the Kendrick School community please. (The assembly starts at 2minutes and 55 seconds).

For the next few weeks, the weekly update will stop, but I will write again to parents on Friday 14th August, after the A Level results, 21st August after the GCSE results and then on Friday 4th September before all students return to school on **Monday 7th September**. I would like to urge students and staff to take a **proper break this summer**, rest, recuperate, find new pursuits and challenges and leave thoughts of school behind you for a while.

I wish everyone, students, staff, parents, governors, a happy and restful holiday and thank you all again for your support and encouragement this year.

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.

TikTok - Some children have innocently used TikTok from home but have in the process gained followers that they do not know, which poses obvious risks to their online safety.

In order to keep your child safe, please read the following online safety information from Vodafone <https://www.vodafone.co.uk/mobile/digital-parenting/tiktok-controls> which will help put safety controls in place to protect your child. Please continue to keep an interest in whatever your child is accessing online in order to ensure your child's safety. TikTok is recommended for children 13+.

[School Nursing Newsletter July 2020](#)

[Reading Incident](#) – Support and advice for parents/carers and student from Brighter Future for Children

[Supporting young people as we transition out of lockdown](#) advice from YoungMinds

[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

BLM

In light of the recent events following the Black Lives Matter movement, some students in the Sixth Form have created a magazine with articles/ poetry/ infographics. The link to the magazine is below:

<http://statusissue.online/>

Reflections on the Kendrick Pledge

After the tragic death of George Floyd, students in Years 8 and 9 were asked to reflect on the Kendrick Pledge by creating an A5 poster to be stuck in the front of their PSHCE books as a constant reminder of our pledge.

As you can imagine some beautiful work was handed in. A few have been chosen for you to see and reflect on. Please click on this [link](#).

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.

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, 2 and 3

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>

Online Performer Series 3 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lvvHHkuMGbc>

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)