

Kendrick School

Weekly Update

Friday 10th July 2020

WEEKLY LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

I will start as I did last week by thanking everyone who responded to our last minute call to buy raffle tickets for the **KPS Spring raffle** which is being drawn at 2.00pm today. By the time you receive this message there will be a few happy people who have won some of the fabulous prizes on offer. The last update which I received yesterday suggests that the money raised has exceeded £6k which is brilliant! If you have missed buying your raffle tickets, you may still like to make a donation on the same website here: www.jumblelee.co.uk/KPS-donate. Once again **thank you to KPS** and in particular the organisers of the raffle, **Karen and Vic**.

As we approach the end of term, I have been reflecting on the events of the last few months and cannot believe the transformation we have undertaken since March. Again I would like to **thank the staff, students, parents and governors** for everyone's efforts to carry on despite a worldwide pandemic and lockdown and still deliver a first class education to our students. We could have abandoned so much of what takes place in our calendar, but **through determination and commitment, everyone has pulled together** to enable our school to carry on and continue to deliver an education for our students. I have tried to mention as much as I am aware of what has been going on remotely in these weekly updates to you and I hope that you have appreciated hearing of the work and activities that have taken place and have felt reassured that the students' learning has continued and so much more. This week has been as active as any other. Profiling, one to one conversations with students with their subject teachers and tutors, have been going on and these will inform reports which will be sent to parents and students. For Year 12, this week has been **Futures Week**, where the sixth form team have focused on giving information and guidance to students about their future plans. An online session took place last night where Ms Stacey and her team spoke to parents and students under the heading '**Life after Kendrick**' about university entrance and the process of UCAS, personal statements (an essential part of the UCAS application), as well as, a webinar on student finance. These sessions will help students begin their research into courses/university they wish to pursue post A Level studies and help them in their application process which begins in September when we return to school.

We received the **government guidance for the reopening of schools** at the end of last week and have been preparing our own school guidance which we will begin by sharing with staff and then communicating to parents and students next week. Whilst there is huge excitement about returning to school, I know there is also great anxiety amongst parents about their children returning to school after being in lockdown and protected for the last few months. I want to reassure parents, staff and students that we will adhere to the guidance in all matters and through careful planning, including cohorts being kept separated and in bubbles, enhanced hygiene and cleaning protocols and many other procedures, we will endeavour to keep the staff and students safe and well.

Year 10 and 12 students and parents may have been following the suggestions about how examinations will be managed next summer. **OFQUAL, The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation** has prepared a consultation document about proposals for next year's public examinations. There are a number of proposals of a general nature, as well as specific proposals for certain subjects. The proposals recognise that students' education and courses at GCSE and A Level have been disrupted by the COVID pandemic. The consultation document is [HERE](#) and the closing date for responses is 11.45pm on **Thursday 16th July**. If students and or parents wish to comment they may do so by completing the online response link found on page 5 of the document.

Many commentators and educationalist are suggesting that as we prepare for the reopening of schools we should review all our old routines and norms and take the **opportunity to rethink how we do things in the future**. I am completely in favour of this approach and will be suggesting to staff and students some new ways in which we can do things. For example how we conduct Information Evenings, Parent Consultation meetings, Governor Meetings etc. The emerging new normal will not be like things used to be and I hope that our forced response to working practices in lockdown has skilled us to be able to develop new effective and smarter approaches to our work.

I promised **Lily in Year 12** that I would mention the planning of an **online Air Ambulance concert**. Our annual concert to raise funds for Air Ambulance was cancelled because of the COVID pandemic and Lily and her counterpart at Reading School wish to organise a virtual concert and to raise money for the Thames Valley Air Ambulance, particularly as they were one of the first responders to the tragic events in **Forbury Gardens** a couple of weeks ago. I hope students will support this initiative for this very worthy cause. Finally, a couple of items on our website include an article by **Frau Mueller, Tutor of 7T**, who asked her Form to **reflect on the strength of our school community** following the events in Forbury Gardens and the death of three innocent people. She asked the students to draw a lion and decorate it as they wished. At a live Google meet session the students shared their lions. The article and an example drawn by **Koyenum in 7T** of a particularly fearsome lion standing on a plinth that has on it our Kendrick Pledge, is a super example of the work done. See [LINK](#) to website. The lion is wearing a sash on which it says '**Justice for All**', the last few words of our Kendrick Pledge. Another great article on our website is work done by **Year 8 and 9 students in PHCSE**, initiated by **Mrs Lace Head of PSHCE** and **Miss Swaine, TLC for Years 8 and 9**, following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis at the end of May. Students were asked to reflect on the Kendrick Pledge by creating an A5 poster, please see [LINK](#) to see some of the beautiful examples of students' work.

With such inspiring words and thoughts, I wish everyone a very 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.

[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 and 2

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>

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)