

Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Friday 2nd July 2021

WEEKLY LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

I will begin again with the **Kendrick Society Summer Raffle** which I am delighted to say raised £6148 of which £4942 were ticket sales and the rest were donations. Although this is £900 short of the target, I am sure everyone is pleased that we can almost buy the new lighting for the Hall, which is around £7K. Thank you to everyone who bought a ticket or donated and special thanks to **9PB** for selling the most tickets and thereby winning for themselves the treat of a pizza lunch and the privilege of an Own Clothes Day. If by chance anyone missed the raffle, you can still donate to KPS so that we can make up the £900 shortfall and comfortably buy the lighting. Please email kpschair@kendrick.reading.sch.uk for information on how to do this.

In our plans for the next academic year we are of course hoping that we can begin to get back to a new normal where students and staff can move around the school freely and not be confined to bubbles. We are waiting for guidance from the government which is rather slow in coming. This week I wrote to our local MPs, Mr Sharma and Mr Rodda, as well as Reading's Councillor for Education, Mr Pearce, to ask them to put pressure at local and national level for this guidance to be agreed and sent to schools. I also asked that the provision for free school meals for pupil premium children should be continued for the summer holidays, as in previous holidays. I have had an immediate response from Mr Pearce who has said that he is doing all he can on both these fronts. Until we know what the guidance for schools is for September, we will have in place two plans, one for a continuation of how we are working now and another for the more relaxed measures. Our hope is that students will be allowed to go to specialist rooms to be taught, to be able to move around the school freely, to be able to go to the Library, to gather with other year groups in breaks and in clubs and extracurricular activities instead of being confined in their form rooms sometimes for a whole day.

An excellent initiative that the government has offered all secondary schools this summer is a Summer School provision to support Year 6 children in their transition to secondary school. This programme will be funded by the government and therefore free for the children and their families. We have grasped the opportunity this initiative offers and will be running a **Kendrick Summer School** for our prospective Year 7 cohort in the second week of the holiday. Using staff and students of Kendrick, a super week of activities is being organised on a central theme of Space bringing together links across many subjects like History, Geography, Science, Maths etc. It will also be a great opportunity for the students to get to know each other, their new school and some of the staff and students they will see in September. We are all looking forward to the week! The Summer School, we hope, will make up for the fact that these students have not been able to visit Kendrick at an Open Day event or at a live information evening. Once again this year we have had to communicate with them remotely so it will be a delight to meet them in person!

I had another opportunity to observe a lesson this week, this time with a Year 9 English class. They were studying the poem *Nettles* by Vernon Scannell. The responses to the meaning and analysis of the poem were intelligent and sophisticated and impressed me. At one point in the lesson, having read the poem a couple of times and picked out words and phrases for discussion, the teacher asked, so what is this poem about? One student, Maria, responded and said it is about the inevitability of life's hardships. The poem is below, please take your time to read it and see if you agree with Maria.

Nettles

My son aged three fell in the nettle bed.

'Bed' seemed a curious name for those green spears,
That regiment of spite behind the shed:
It was no place for rest. With sobs and tears
The boy came seeking comfort and I saw
White blisters beaded on his tender skin.
We soothed him till his pain was not so raw.
At last he offered us a watery grin,
And then I took my billhook, honed the blade
And went outside and slashed in fury with it
Till not a nettle in that fierce parade
Stood upright any more. And then I lit
A funeral pyre to burn the fallen dead,
But in two weeks the busy sun and rain
Had called up tall recruits behind the shed:
My son would often feel sharp wounds again.

Vernon Scannell

Wishing everyone a good 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 **0800 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 – VIRAL SCARES ONLINE

Reports of online scares or challenges encouraging harmful or suicidal behaviours can be alarming and confusing.

Stories and warnings often circulate online about online scares or suicide challenges which are alleged to have encouraged children to engage in harmful activities. Most have been found to be hoaxes, fake news or wildly exaggerated stories.

Seeing or hearing about this content can be distressing for both children and parent. The link below gives advice on how you can speak to your child about scares and challenges, and how to respond if they have seen one.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/theres-a-viral-scare-online-what-should-i-do/>

SAFEGUARDING/WELLBEING – YOUR CHILD’S MENTAL HEALTH (NHS)

There are times when we all feel the strain. As parents and carers, there are ways we can support children and young people to give them the best chance to stay mentally healthy.

Some children and young people have enjoyed being off school, while others will have really struggled – with the coronavirus outbreak keeping them at home and away from friends. Others may be coming to terms with family problems, loss or changes to their living situation.

With nationwide and local restrictions being regularly reviewed, they may also have to deal with self-isolating because of an outbreak in school or another period of school closure, or have worries about getting or passing on the virus. It's still uncertain what further changes we all may face.

Feelings like these will gradually ease for most, but there are always steps you can take to support them emotionally and help them cope with problems they face.

There is support available if you feel you or they need it. Please click on the link below for more resources and advice.

<https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/supporting-others/childrens-mental-health/>

NEWS AND EVENTS - WHOLE SCHOOL

[Duke of Edinburgh Award Volunteers](#)

PROFILING DAY – WEDNESDAY 7TH JULY

Summer profiling will take place on **Wednesday 7th July**. All students will be at home that day apart from Year 12 who have been advised of the activities they are involved in school.

BERKSHIRE MAESTROS



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
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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 for September 2021

Full time (deadline extended for applications)

CALENDAR

Monday 5 th July	Year 12 Futures Week
Wednesday 7 th July	Profiling Day (remote)
Thursday 8 th July	'Life After Kendrick' Year 12 Event
Monday 12 th July	Sports Day for Years 7 and 8
Friday 16 th July	End of Term 6, 1.10pm

KENDRICK PARENTS' SOCIETY (KPS)

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

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

SUMMER SHOWCASE!

As we draw towards the end of another monumental year, we're looking to celebrate all that we've achieved and reflect on the things that have changed. To that end, we're putting together a virtual 'Summer Showcase' which encompasses the creativity of students and staff.

We are looking to receive recordings of musical, dramatic and dance performances, poetry, photos or pictures of Art and Textiles work and other things too. You may wish to send things you've created in lessons or items that you've put together in your own time – it's up to you. If sending a recording, please keep it to a maximum of four minutes or less so that we can fit in as many as possible.