

Final speech :(

Good morning everyone! It feels a bit strange to be standing here speaking to all of you; this is actually our first ever speech in the hall, but ironically our last ever as the Student Leaders. Despite the circumstances, we believe that the KSLT has had an amazing year and we are so proud of the things we have accomplished during this time.

When we were first elected, we chose to focus on the term Inclusion. Our general objective was to “strive towards empowerment through inclusion and inspiration” and we were committed to achieving this despite the obstacles of two national lockdowns and a restrictive support bubble system. One action we took almost immediately was changing our name from Head Girl Team to the Kendrick Student Leadership Team to encompass a wider range of gender identities and make sure each student feels represented.

In spite of physical limitations, we made use of our leading roles to bring across important messages about what was going on in the world and how we should respond. Understanding the reasons for the Black Lives Matter movement, and how to contribute, was something we emphasised last year, where we posted a written piece on Instagram. We hope we made it clear that each individual person can make a difference by being actively anti-racist and by supporting marginalised groups in society.

Liaison with the other committees and societies at Kendrick really helped make our year as impactful as possible; we are so thankful for their contributions, as we couldn't have done it without them. Mental Health Awareness Week centred around kindness, its power and potential. We worked with the members of the Pride Society to help educate students on important LGBT History, such as the Stonewall Riots, as well as promote ways we can be allies to the different members of the community. We helped Pippa in Year 13 with her inspiring efforts to raise awareness about the difficulties of global homelessness, especially during COVID, by producing a video to promote Launchpad's Big Sleep Out. We hope that these endeavours helped to inform, support and provide solidarity for those who need and deserve it. As time progresses, we young people are becoming more vocal about these topics and we encourage you to continue with the mindset of advocating for a fair and equal world.

October marked Black History Month and we led an Enrichment session to the Sixth Form, encouraging them to recognise and appreciate the outstanding contributions people of African and Caribbean descent have made in our society. Lockdown was a culture shock to us all we're sure, with 'isolation' changing from a word that causes concern, to one which implies protection of oneself and others. In trying to add something different and fun to everyone's schedule during this period, we set up challenges such as making Dalgona coffee, alphabet workouts and art challenges through the Kendrick Arts Instagram account. We milked social media so much over this period to get you all involved, which was a new but fun experience- the last step was just for us to get TikTok famous...

As we come to the end of our term, we would like to thank every single member of our team for the hard work and perseverance throughout the entire year, despite the many restrictions placed on our plans. We would like to thank Ms. Kattirtzi and Ms. Emberson for supporting us in our actions and decisions. And lastly, we would like to thank the students and staff at Kendrick School. Sometimes we tend to forget to give ourselves credit for our achievements but you all have coped extremely well during this tough year. You should all be very proud of yourselves and the contributions you have made to this school in these unprecedented times. The Kendrick community has not wavered and bounced back from lockdown almost like it never even happened! This resilience could not be possible without your enthusiasm and compassion and we are so proud of the strength you have shown this year.

(Angelica) I can attest for the rest of the Year 13's that these seven years have flown by so quickly. To the younger years, we encourage you to cherish the small moments. Honestly, I would pay a good amount of money just to be a Year 8 again, burning onions in Food Tech one last time. As cheesy as it sounds, you don't miss it until it's gone and we urge you to make the most of it. Both of us have been at Kendrick since Year 7 and have definitely learnt so much about ourselves and grown as individuals. As a final farewell from KSLT, and as students of this school, we will be releasing a podcast series later today, reflecting on our time at Kendrick and what we have learnt. We discuss friendship, stress, the future and have episodes consisting of interviews with teachers, where you will be provided with a perspective on teachers you may not have considered previously and so many valuable pieces of life advice. An email will be sent to you all with a link to these podcasts- we hope these make you sit back and reflect on what is truly important.

Whether you are in Year 7 or Year 13, we hope Kendrick is a place where you can be yourself and grow into who you want to be without worrying about how you might be perceived. We are honoured to have had the privilege of leading such an amazing school and we wish the new Kendrick Student Leadership the very best of luck. Thank you for an amazing year and we hope you have a lovely holiday.