

Kirkbie Kendal School

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Headteacher: Mark Harris BA
Deputy Headteachers: Carla Barker BA
Mike Bousfield BA

Business Manager: Amanda Eastwood BA
Assistant Headteachers: Helen Ronan MSci
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MHs/BPe

15 March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

It is great to see so many students representing our school in such a range of activities this term.

BAE Systems Rotary Technology Competition

Well done to the students who took part in the BAE Systems Rotary Technology competition on Friday. This is a fantastic event putting teams under pressure to come up with engineering solutions to real life problems. We entered three teams who all performed superbly in an excellent competition.

County Cup

An excellent achievement for our Year 9 football team in the County Cup. They played a fantastic and exciting semi-final where the lead changed throughout the match, finally losing the game in extra time.

Non Uniform Day - Thursday 17 March

I am very pleased to say that our students have requested a non-uniform day to support those affected by the invasion of Ukraine. On Thursday 17 March we will have a 'wear blue and yellow' non uniform day in aid of the Disasters Emergency Committee Ukraine Appeal. Suggested contributions are £1+. (Please don't worry if your son/daughter has nothing blue or yellow - non uniform and a willingness to show your solidarity with those affected is fine.)

INSET Day Friday - 18 March

A gentle reminder that this Friday is a Teacher Training Day and school will be closed to students.

Examination Season

It is now only seven school weeks until the main examinations start. The approach of our Year 11 and Year 13 students to their mock exams earlier this year was excellent and I know students are working hard in school and at home in preparation for the summer. Supporting and cajoling your son/daughter to learn, providing a quiet space and some structure to their time out of school will really help to make the exam season run smoothly for them. An early start to the process always helps. There is a link to the study guidance on our website here <http://www.kirkbiekendal.cumbria.sch.uk/study-guidance/167.html>

Board of Governor Vacancies

The Board of Governors is looking for people with professional skills that could make a difference to the future of our students. We are looking for professionals to contribute to the work of the governing body in shaping the strategic direction of the school. Skills in the areas of Health and Safety, Building Management, Finance and Risk Management would be hugely beneficial to the work of the Governors, who are a welcoming and friendly bunch with the best interests of the school and our students at heart. Whilst these are voluntary positions they are vitally important to the future of our school. Having children at the school is not a requirement of the role. For further details about the posts available please get in touch with the school via headspa@kksa.co.uk.

Retirement of Head of PE Mr Barker

It is with regret that I pass on the news that Mr Barker, our Head of PE, has taken early ill health retirement. Many of you will be aware that Mr Barker has now had two kidney transplants, the most recent in 2019, and the demands of teaching PE and leading a department were not compatible with managing the long term health implications of his kidney condition. Mr Barker has served the school for nearly 30 years, inspiring many young people with his love of sport and in particular rugby. It is not the way he would have wanted his career to end and we wish him all the best for the future.

Support for Families with Debt

We have been asked to share details of a new local centre helping families with problems with debt. If this service can be useful to you then please see the link below:

<https://www.kendaldebitcentre.org/>

Uniform

A reminder of our uniform guidelines can be found on our website: <http://www.kirkbiekendal.cumbria.sch.uk/uniform3/170.html>. Please make sure that when you are buying replacement uniform that it follows these guidelines. Please also note that it is no longer required that school trousers have the KKS logo. The guidelines now say 'Black School Trousers: Full length plain black 'regular fit' trousers (not black jeans or skinny trousers of any style)'.

Pre-loved Uniform

A cost effective and environmentally friendly source of uniform is purchasing from our Pre-loved Uniform shop. We welcome donated items of school uniform or PE Kit in good condition for our Pre-loved Uniform shop at any time throughout the year. Please drop items off at the school office. The KKS will continue to sell Pre-loved Uniform on Kendal 'Sell and Seek', as well as having a stall at our car boot sales, or you may visit the school office. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact parent and KKS member, Tracy Simpson, on 07762 150577 or Mrs Pinder in the school office via hpinder@kksa.co.uk.

Every Life Matters Online Training

Please find information below about some FREE online training for parents and carers provided and delivered by Every Life Matters and run through Eventbrite. The online courses cover the following topics:

- Mental Health Awareness
- Safety Planning
- Self-harm Alertness
- Suicide Alertness
- Suicide Awareness
- Suicide First Aid
- Supporting Children's Mental Health
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For more details on the above courses and how to book a place, please click this link [Parental Mental Health Free online training](#) .

Links to social media

As ever the best way to keep in touch with the many events and activities taking place in school is via our social media. I have included the links below:

<https://www.facebook.com/kirkbiekendal>

<https://twitter.com/kirkbiekendal>

<https://www.instagram.com/kirkbiekendal>

Yours faithfully

Mr M Harris
Headteacher