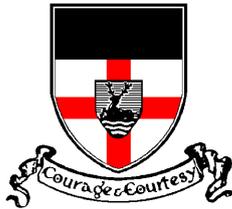


The Knights Templar School

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PARENTAL WEEKLY UPDATE – 11th December 2014 (also available on our website)

Dear Parents and Carers

On Monday 15th December we will be holding our annual **Nine Lessons and Carols** service at St Mary's Church. I understand that the Church will be very full, so if you do intend to join us, please do arrive early – the service starts at 7.30pm. The school website has more information about the arrangements for next week in school (www.ktemplar.herts.sch.uk)

School Christmas Card

I am delighted to announce that the school has its own Christmas Card! It was designed by Amy Swain (Year 11) and was the winner of an Art department competition (46 entries). It is a wonderful design, incorporating various aspects of the school crest and of course Christmas. Congratulations to Amy on a stunning piece of work. If you would like to purchase any of the cards, they are 70p each or 5 for £3. The words inside the card read 'Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year'. The image below is not as good quality 350g white board. Please contact Reception or Mrs Roper (froper@ktemplar.herts.sch.uk) if you would like to purchase any. We only have a few, so please contact us as soon as possible.



I was honoured to be present in the **Elgar Room at the Albert Hall** on Sunday morning where I attended a French Horn recital by Ben Goldscheider (Year 12). The 25 minute recital was part of the Royal Albert Hall's Classical Coffee Morning series in association with the Royal College of Music Junior Department. Ben's performance was astonishing! He had memorised all four pieces and played with technical maturity as well as a musicality that is well beyond his years. It was a pleasure to be there. The link below will take you to one of the pieces he performed. Congratulations Ben! <http://youtu.be/T0si-0LA0lw>

World Class Guitar Recital – Craig Ogden

I am delighted to give you prior notice of a concert that will be taking place in the school hall on Monday 9th February. Craig is one of **the leading Classical Guitarists in the world**, is the featured Guitarist for Classic FM at the moment and will be giving a concert Knights Templar School! At this moment I am unsure of the price of the tickets, but if you would like tickets please contact Mrs Fraser (sfraser@ktemplar.herts.sch.uk). I expect these tickets to sell out very fast as it is a public concert, so please do contact us as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. More details will be published through the website after Christmas.

Snow and School Closure

Please can I draw your attention to the school website where you will find details of the procedure if we need to close the school for snow over the winter period.

Please can I ask all parents visiting the school to make sure they come through the school reception. We have had a few times recently where parents have come onto the school site and we have not aware. This also includes the Sports Centre. If parents have kit to drop off then it should be brought to the main school reception where it will be sent out into our internal school system.

If parents wish to make an appointment to see a member of staff they should book this through the school reception or by emailing the member of staff directly. Please do not walk on the school site and expect to see a member of staff immediately. Thank you for your support on this.

Mobile phones.

We are fully aware that students need to carry mobile phones and are very happy for them to do so. Students should, however, not be using these during lessons. Occasionally the teacher might ask the students to use their device in

lesson as part of the learning experience, for example to do some research or take photographs of the board as a record. The school will contact you if we need to speak to, or inform you about anything. May I please ask that if you receive a phone call from your child at break or lunchtime which informs you of something they are unhappy about, please ask them to speak to their year leader or form tutor, rather than you contacting the school immediately. For example, we have had many cases recently where students have contacted home about being poorly and parents have come to school to pick them up and the school is unaware. We remind the students regularly regarding what they should do if they feel unwell. The school will contact you if we are concerned.

Next week, we will be publishing our half termly 'Student Honours Board' as part of our last Parental Bulletin of the term. If you know of anyone who wishes to receive the parental bulletin, please do ask them to contact the school so we can add them to the distribution list.

Thank you for our continued support.

Regards,
Tim Litchfield
Headteacher

Entry from the Log Book of Frank Hancock, MBE; first Head-teacher of The Knights Templar School, 16th October, 1942:

This week an experiment in self-government in the school has been initiated. Each class is to form itself into a Council and elect representatives to a School Council. It is hoped that the experiment may give the children greater interest and a sense of responsibility.

Dates for your diary:

15/12/2014	Monday	Rehearsal at St Mary's for the Carol Service St Mary's Carol Concert, 7.30pm
16/12/2014	Tuesday	Yr 12 Media Conference
17/12/2014	Wednesday	Christmas Dinners today
18/12/2014	Thursday	Christmas Concerts for all years throughout the day
19/12/2014	Friday	End of Term
15/12/2014	Monday	Rehearsal at St Mary's for the Carol Service
16/12/2014	Tuesday	Yr 12 Media Conference
05/01/2015	Monday	Inset Day
06/01/2015	Tuesday	Spring Term Starts
09/01/2015	Friday	Commemoration Evening, 6.45pm-9.00pm

CHRISTMAS DINNER DAY

Wednesday 17th December 12.20pm to 14.20pm

Choice of;

Traditional turkey dinner served with trimmings

Vegetarian parcels

Wide selection of festive puddings to choose from.

Main and pudding £3.50

Main only £2.90

Pudding only £1.00



Once again this will be a whole school event on the day so we look forward to seeing you all. There will only be a few sandwiches and salads available on the day as everything else will be hot lunch. For any students who receive Free School Meals, their choice of Christmas dinner will be available to them.

'KTS Presents... 75 Years' at the Gordon Craig Theatre

All participants should now be aware of the role they have in this performance – for music, dance, gym and acting. Acting parts have just been announced and are posted on the Drama Board. All participants should have collected a letter with a reply slip to confirm availability. These reply slips need to be return by the end of term at the latest.

Tickets have been selling very well, so please make sure you buy your ticket from the Gordon Craig Theatre before it is too late!

Music Department

15 members of our senior choir, along with the woodwind quintet, performed to the Inner Wheel Christmas Lunch on Wednesday. Their performance was well received and the students came away with chocolate treats.

The brass ensemble added a festive atmosphere to this week's Christmas Fete with a selection of Carols.

PA Christmas Raffle

Students have had their Christmas raffle tickets for approximately 3 weeks. With only 5 days to go before the draw, can we please remind families that we need a final push to sell raffle tickets to raise money for the school PA! There are three prizes of £100.00. Each and every student who sells £10.00 worth of tickets can come and get some free Christmas chocolate at the Chocolate Bonanza table in the Dining Hall. All tickets need to be returned by next Wednesday's draw. Please help us support the work of the PA in school by selling your raffle tickets!

Note for Parents of Year 10 students

About half of the consent forms for the DTP and MenC vaccines, which are due to be given in the New Year, have been returned. This means therefore that there are about 100 missing! More forms are available from Mrs Mance or your child's form tutor so please ensure that one is obtained and returned as soon as possible. We do need a form from everyone, so even if your child isn't going to have the vaccine, please return the form back indicating this intention.

The Big Cold Sleep

Five KTS students braved sub-zero temperatures as they slept over-night on the streets to raise awareness of homelessness. Hannah Mitchell, Ria Innerarity, Kiera Rumbold, Owen Anderson and Bradley Pitman all took part in the Sleepout 2014 in St Albans.

"It was the coldest night of the winter so far, at minus four!" remembers Y10 Ria. "I didn't get to sleep at all but Owen was snoring – I don't know how. Hannah and Bradley couldn't even lie down and they stood almost all the night."

While the group raised over £200 for charity, Ria feels she also gained great insight. "Now I know how the homeless feel," she said. "I'll never be able to just walk by and ignore them."

(A NewsKnight report)



Mystery Guest at Netball Club

Netball club has been running every week since September. Attendance to practice has been fantastic, with the students really committed to improve their skills and game play.

We finished the term with a Christmas Tournament - award for best outfits went to Amelia Spinks and Alice Winzer. There was even a mystery guest appearance from Father Christmas....



Well done everyone for a brilliant term of netball! Practice restarts on Wednesday 7th January. New members are always welcome, so why not make it your New Year's Resolution to be more involved in extra-curricular activities, and come and join the fun!

Miss Olden, Mrs Curtis, Mrs Edwards & Miss Henderson

e-safety

As the Christmas holidays approach, there will be more time for pupils to use electronic devices to access the internet, social media and the like. Much of this cyber-activity can be positive but there are of course hidden dangers we should all be aware of. Our website has a page dedicated to keeping parents abreast of e-safety issues. It can be accessed here: <http://www.ktemplar.herts.sch.uk/esafety/e-safety/> and it offers a wealth of advice, including links to recent articles of interest. Please keep coming back to this page as this section is constantly updated.

Ski 2015

There are still places available on the 2015 ski trip to France. We are going to the resort of Les Menuires on Friday 3rd April – Saturday 11th April 2015. We will be staying at the Clubhotel Piolet situated in the Belleville Valley. The cost of the trip is £970.00. If your son or daughter is interested in a place then please let me know as soon as possible.
Mrs Curtis

DYNO-SAURS visit KTS!

As part of the year 10 business students learning on the different types of business ownership, they recently had a presentation from Graeme Hall, a franchise director from DYNO. Graeme gave an informative presentation on how to become a franchise owner including the benefits and risks associated with it. After the presentation Graeme commented "It was obvious they had researched a great deal about the brands and asked some challenging

questions". The students were then asked to design a suitable character to represent DYNO heating along with justification for their design. Over the last week a number of entries were received and after heated discussions by the judges on their individual merits, 3 winners were selected. The lucky students that received the DYNO-SAURS were Caitlin Grant, Joss King and Ryan Murphy. Caitlin said "I really enjoyed the presentation as I got an idea of what it is like to run a business and was really pleased to be successful in the competition."

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

The current Yr10 and 11 participants are nearing the end of their activities and we are aiming to get all Record Books signed, sorted and uploaded just after Christmas. The Yr10s have all been seen bar a few who did not make the meeting or hand in the Record Books for the Expedition Section to be signed. If any are lurking, they need to get these to school ASAP.

The Silver Yr11s are having their eDofE session on Monday and there have been reminders in the daily bulletin and on the school's DofE Website. We will also give out information about those doing Silver who are hoping to count this as one of their modules for their GCSE PE. Hope to see all of them there!!

There will be a meeting for all the Yr9's again on Monday, this time at break, regarding the groups and expedition work. They should all bring a letter home for Parents to read that evening.

Morocco Expedition 2015

Parents and participants involved in this exciting expedition to the Atlas Mountains next July need to know that there will be a short meeting towards the end of break on Monday, for pupils, to get an update about the trip. This will be in the Hall just after the Yr9 Bronze DofE meeting.

GCSE Field Trip to Chamonix 2015

Yr10 Geographers will be invited to take part in this brilliant trip which will take place in September next year. Letters and a meeting will take place just after the new term starts in January.

Three Peaks of Yorkshire trip

This annual event where members of our school take part in the Three Peaks slog over Wharfedale, Pen-y-Ghent and Ingleborough will take place in March and will be open initially to GCSE Geographers in Yr10 and then to the rest of Yr10 if there are any spaces left. 24 miles and several thousand feet of ascent. This is a fantastic challenge and a real adventure. Again, watch out for the info, meeting and letter in the new term.

Sixth Form News

Sixth form revue has the crowd in stitches

The Sixth form revue had the crowds in stitches on Monday and Tuesday night this week as a group of year 12 and 13 students performed a series of hilarious sketches, portraying members of staff and the Knights Templar School in their own unique, comical way. It was great to see support from so many pupils and parents from outside of the sixth form, as well as the expected large numbers of sixth form students in the audience. This all contributed to a fantastic night and a really great atmosphere at each performance.

We would like to particularly thank Alex Kither for masterminding such a superb script, as well as Molly Ashley and Jess O' Shea for all of their hard work behind the scenes. Well done to all of the cast and crew for putting on such a memorable performance.

Sixth form revue- in pictures



Izzie Rodgers, Helen Inman and Tanishia Gearing (yr12) play the role of giggly KTS pupils



Alex Underwood (yr13) as Mr Clayton...the stance!



Tanishia Gearing receiving a Mr Clayton telling off



'Is that a batman tattoo?!'- Connor Smith (yr12) as Allman gets humiliated by Miss Harrison, played by Lauren Marshall (yr12)



The fantastic Nick Wooten (yr13) as Head of Mr Sixth Form and proud Scot, Mrs Hopkins



Barney Taylor (yr12) stealing the spotlight as Head of Drama, Mr Sills



Cast and crew of the sixth form revue- the finale!
(Photos by Hannah Phillips in year 13)

Festive fun at the winter dinner dance

There were 114 people in attendance at this year's sixth form 'winter dinner dance', contributing to a fantastically festive and enjoyable evening. The beautiful Spirella Ballroom played host for the evening as KTS sixth form students arrived looking glamorous and ready for an evening of fun, good food and plenty of dancing. The students settled down for their 3 course meal at 12 festively named and decorated tables, before dancing the night away to music played by student band 'The Flints' and DJ, Charlie Knighton. The students thoroughly enjoyed the occasion although did have to suffer through watching certain members of staff also strutting their stuff on the dance floor!

A big thank you to the 'dinner dance student committee' who played a huge role in the organisation of this event, in particular; Ms Sidey, Georgina Crowther, Imogen Hornby and Syra Basra for all of their hard work and decoration of the Spirella Ballroom- the event would not have been such a success without their contributions!

Photos from the night will be published in next week's parental bulletin.