

The Knights Templar School

Headteacher:
Mr T. Litchfield, G.G.S.M.

Park Street
Baldock
Herts
SG7 6DZ

Email: admin@ktemplar.herts.sch.uk
www.ktemplar.herts.sch.uk



Tel: 01462 620700
Fax: 01462 620701

PARENTAL WEEKLY UPDATE – 12th February 2015 (also available on our website)

Dear Parents and Carers

It was a real pleasure to be able to attend the Classical Guitar concert, given by Craig Ogden on Monday night this week. The programme was varied and contained music from Bach to The Beatles. Craig introduced each piece and shared anecdotes about being a Guitarist – including how he has to look after his nails (using wet and dry sand paper!). This really was a World Class evening! Many thanks to all who supported the event and I hope evenings like this will become a regular feature on the KTS Calendar.

On Tuesday night we held our year 7 Parents' Evening. Parental attendance on the evening was incredibly high and highlights that the 'triangle' of student, home and school is vital to ensure continued success. It was lovely to meet so many parents again and I thank you for your kind comments about the school.

May I congratulate the Year 12 and 13 students for what seems to have been a very successful Mock Exam Week. I recognise that these are very stressful times for students (and parents) and hope that the outcomes, in terms of grades, are as expected - I always say that the grades will reflect the amount of work put in! We will of course be analysing the exams and if needed, staff will be putting appropriate intervention strategies in place.

Year 8 Parents' Evening – Tuesday 3rd March 2015

Please be aware that the Year 8 [Parents' Evening Online Booking system](#) is now open for bookings. Access to the booking system is available through the school website. All Year 8 students have been given a letter regarding the procedure of booking appointments but if you have any difficulty accessing the website then please don't hesitate in contacting the school.

May I remind Year 11 Students that half term is not a holiday, but an excellent opportunity to revise and start getting well prepared for the Summer Exams (44 school days from today!). Most of the Year 11 students are well under way with revision and attendance at revision classes that are running after school or at lunchtime is very high. For parents, there is some very useful information on the school website, under the Parents tab, regarding exams and preparation. <http://www.ktemplar.herts.sch.uk/How-can-I-help-my-child-1/>

Please do take a look at the **Student Honours Board** at the bottom of this Parental Bulletin. This really does reflect all the very best of KTS!

May I thank all parents and carers for their support this term and please be reminded that we are on half term break next week, but return on Monday 23rd February.

Regards,

Tim Litchfield
Headteacher

Dates for your diary:

13/02/2015	Friday	3:2 Split today, Yr 13 Mock Exams, 6th Form Common Room Yr 6 Primary School Music Festival, 2.20pm-3.20pm - Hall/K3
17/02/2015	Tuesday	Yr 12 Berlin History Trip (return 20th)
20/02/2015	Friday	Yr 12 Berlin History Trip returns
23/02/2015	Monday	Celebrate 75: Gala Performance, rehearsals
24/02/2015	Tuesday	Yr 9 District Hockey Tournament, 2.20pm-6pm Gold DofE training 2, 7pm-9pm - T16
25/02/2015	Wednesday	Celebrate 75: Gala Performance, final rehearsals Bronze Practice Expedition Planning Meeting 1, 7pm-9pm - T16
26/02/2015	Thursday	3:2 Split today, Celebrate 75: Gala Performance for Primary Schools 2pm-3pm Yr 7 District Girls Football Tournament, 2.20pm-6pm Yr 10 District Netball Tournament, 2.20pm-6pm
27/02/2015	Friday	Celebrate 75: cast rehearsal Celebrate 75 Gala Performance - Gordon Theatre, Stevenage - 7pm

IMPORTANT - Cashless Catering after half-term – no more small change in the cash loader!

We are delighted to report that the biometric cashless catering system that was introduced last summer is working well. This has improved the efficiency of our catering facility and has reduced queuing times for students at break and lunchtime. To further improve the new system and ease congestion in the dining hall, we will no longer allow small change to be loaded onto student accounts via the cash loader machine.

After February half-term, the cash loader will only accept bank notes and £1 and £2 coins. Better still, we would strongly advise that parents/carers load student accounts via the school's [WisePay system](#) which is available on the school website. By crediting your child's account via the internet, it ensures that no cash needs to be brought into school. It also gives parents/carers access to their child's account and shows details of what food items have been purchased.

Many thanks for your continued cooperation in improving the school's catering services.

Yr9 Bronze DofE

Well done to all those who attended and completed the Expedition Training last weekend. The Leaders were impressed by the enthusiasm and willingness of the group to learn!

The first Practice Expedition is taking place to Norfolk at the very end of this month. Letters were distributed to participants at a meeting on Thursday but if anyone missed this, then copies can be downloaded from the Downloads page of the school's [DofE website](#).

The Planning Meeting for this trip is on Wednesday 25th February at 6.45pm in the Geography rooms in T Block. Parents are not required to attend but can drop off and pick up again at 9.00pm from the school playground. Boots (unless they are going to be hired from Countryside) and waterproof clothing (unless they have already been checked over the Training Weekend) need to be brought to allow us to check that they are of the required standard and participants are also asked to bring £8.50 in change to pay for their equipment hire, £8.50 being the maximum they could pay but in many cases it will be less than this!

A lot of pupils have not yet completed the on-line form to allow me to verify their activities. Please complete the form using the following [link!](#)

PE Fixtures

Don't forget to check for weekly PE fixtures. We are always pleased to see friends and family supporting our teams! Details are always updated on the [PE area](#) of the website.

Craig Ogden Recital

The internationally renowned guitarist, Craig Ogden visited the school this week and gave us a performance to remember! He inspired the 11 students who attended the guitar workshop and gave them some fantastic tips on how to progress in their playing. The evening performance was extremely memorable and he kept the audience entertained throughout the evening with his beautiful playing and humorous anecdotes. A special evening indeed.

Music Conference

Mrs Guinane and Mrs Johnson accompanied our AS and A2 students to a Music Conference at the Institute of Education in London last week. The Conference is directed at students taking Music AS or A Level and is designed to develop exam awareness and technique, enhance listening skills, and increase understanding of the assessment criteria for the performing and composing units, through a variety of interactive sessions and presentations. With the exam season now fast approaching, this was a very worthwhile experience.

Cambridge Chemistry Challenge International Success

Students from Knights Templar have had recent success in the internationally prestigious Cambridge Chemistry Challenge. The challenge is devised by academics at the University of Cambridge to stretch and challenge the most able chemistry students from across the world. Currently Knights Templar has five students competing in the top 1000 internationally – there are over 2500 students taking part across the globe. The students that have taken part in the first four of the eight challenges are:

Thomas Luck	Current Rank: 151
Lewis Lochhead	Current Rank: 161
Charlie Langshaw	Current Rank: 172
Amelia Ellis	Current Rank: 215
Helen Inman	Current Rank: 790

Recycled Fashion Show

Once again KTS Art students will be participating in the annual Recycled Fashion Show at St Christopher school on Saturday 28th February. This year's theme is '100 Years' to mark St Christopher's centenary and they are fundraising for 'The Magic of Play' appeal.

About a dozen of Mrs Welch's Year 10 GCSE Art students' designs will be in the catwalk show, competing against other local schools for prizes and to be included in the following exhibition at Letchworth Arts Centre. Tickets for the show are £6, available now from St Christopher School.



To parents/carers of Year 10 students: If you would like to take advantage of Amber Health's Free health screening, please return your forms as soon as possible please. Spare questionnaires are on the school web site on the medical matters page.

KTS Drama Department: Practical Exam Season

Every year, the Drama Department opens its doors to parents, friends, students and staff who would like to watch the performances that GCSE Drama, A level Theatre Studies and BTEC Performing Arts students are preparing for performance exams and assessments. All performances are free, but we ask that you reserve your seats. Reservations can be made by emailing DramaBoxOffice@ktemplar.herts.sch.uk or return of the information letter reply slip.

We are pleased to announce the following dates:

- **Wednesday 11th March, 4pm**, Drama Studio – Y11 GCSE Drama Open Performances
- **Wednesday 1st April, 7pm**, Drama Studio – Y12 and Y13 A Level Theatre Studies Practical Exam (Extract from A Midsummer Night's Dream and a devised piece based on Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes)
- **Monday 11th and Tuesday 12th May, 7pm**, Drama Studio – Y13 BTEC Performing Arts production of Confusions by Alan Ayckbourn

KTS Presents... 75 Years

Simply dropping into rehearsals will show you how special this gala performance will be. All parents of children involved should have seen a letter about the final arrangements. A copy of this letter is on the '[KTS Presents... 75 Years' webpage](#) on the school's website.

If you ordered a hoody for your child, they will be available for collection on Friday 13th February at break time. When we come back after half-term, there will be some long, yet vital, rehearsal days. With over 200 students involved, it is important that they have read and understood the rehearsal schedule and information given to them.



Here are the gymnasts... ready to present!

Biology Enrichment Event

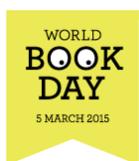
Last Thursday 4 Year 11 students attended a Biology Enrichment event at UCL in London. We were entertained by four speakers. Firstly Nick Amiss who was a research worker providing other cell cultures for other researchers to work with. This talk involved some quite challenging biology and he also talked about the ethics of pure cell cultures and do researcher always use appropriate cell samples to work with.

Professor Tim Spector spoke next. He has been researching identical twins for 25 years and has found that our genes are not fixed as previously thought but can change and evolve through exposure to our environment.

The afternoon session started with TV presenter Simon Watt promoting ugly animals. His message was that many of our important threatened species are not cute mammals like Pandas and Tigers but all together much uglier creatures like the Blob fish and Axolotls.

The speaker was Professor Steve Jones who has worked for many years in the field of genetics. Overall this was a very enjoyable day and a great opportunity to see how biology fits into our everyday lives.

LIBRARY NEWS



WORLD BOOK DAY IS COMING !!.... In celebration of reading and its importance to everyone, there are several events taking place in March...

We are excited that David's Bookshop from Letchworth is here with a Book Fair in the Library on Wednesday 4th March 2015, all day. All pupils (and parents after school) are invited to come and browse the Book Fair at break, lunchtime and after school on this day. We will have David's bookshop staff here to advise and enthuse about new titles. All pupils will receive a £1 book voucher in advance to spend either at the Fair or at a local bookshop. There will be a limited number of £1 books available to purchase too. On the official World Book Day, Thursday 5th March, there will be book related activities taking place in the Library – more details to follow after half term.

Mrs Evans/Ms Rogers (Librarians)

Bletchley Park

On Monday 9th of February, 31 year 9 students had the opportunity to visit Bletchley Park, just outside Milton Keynes.

Described as 'The Home of the Codebreakers', the visit allowed the students to get an insight into the world of computers and help them get an overview of GCSE computing as an option for next year.

The visit was excellent showing WW2 Codebreaking through to hands on activities with many original gaming consoles and computers using original BBC programming from the 1970s. It was amazing to see the huge size of computers in the 1950s and how they have changed to be so much more powerful today and yet so much smaller in size.

The guides that showed us round were really helpful and interesting and really tried to get the students to think about what changes may be ahead of us in the world of computers and what they, themselves could be part of. Overall an excellent day !!

Mrs M Clarke

Year 13 London Docklands trip

On Wednesday 4th February a group of Year 13 Geography students travelled to London to see aspects of urban regeneration. We travelled by the DLR to 1 Canada Square. This gave us the opportunity to observe contrasts between the London Docklands area south of Poplar and the vast towers of Canary Wharf, which house major offices of global banking corporations such as HSBC, Reuters, Citibank and Barclays. We briefly visited the teeming underground shopping centre, where shops such as Tiffany's are characteristic of the prosperity of this region. Our next stop was Pudding Mill Lane to walk by the lower Lea valley, Fish Island, Hackney Wick and the former Olympic site. Here there is a mixture of decline and redevelopment, with the Olympics site seemingly surrounded by cranes and ongoing works for the Crossrail project. We closed the day with a visit to Stratford Westfield to see features of retail regeneration, and where we appreciated being back in a warm environment on this very cold day.



Media Study Day in London

The year 11 Media classes went to a study day in London and Bill Bowkett was a star. Asking questions to the guest speaker, Krishnan Guru-Murthy and then going to the front to share his ideas for a new TV news show for teens (was a task) in front of about 10 different schools.



Sixth Form News:

Senior Netballers triumphant

The senior netball team travelled to Highfield School for a district tournament with relatively low expectations due to their slightly diminished squad. However, these pessimistic views were misplaced as the girls performed with ferocious intensity and competitive spirit to win all of their games! Superb defensive performances from Rosanna Moynihan, Mila Vasey and Dami Bolsinwa coupled with the attacking prowess of Amy Clarke, Eleanor Wase and Emily Arnold saw the KTS girls cruise to victory over our local rivals. Georgina Crowther was also inspirational as team captain and centre in leading the team to victory. Well done to all of the girls involved!

Sixth form students organise year 7 disco

While the year 7 pupils are getting ready for their school disco tonight, the sixth form students have been working hard behind the scenes to make the evening a success. Despite their busy mock exam schedule, the sixth form team led by Head Girl Megan Winzer has been working tirelessly to organise the biggest and most enjoyable party a year 7 group has ever had! We would like to thank the sixth formers for their efforts in 'giving back' to the school as a whole.

KTS- this week's graduate profile

Former Head Boy Tom Gearing will have a busy 2015 due to his new role as Musical Director of the UK and International Tour of 'The Bodyguard'. Tom graduated from the University of Manchester having studied music and went on to work as a professional musician before achieving his most recent role in 2015. He proved to be a very well-rounded student during his time at KTS, studying German, Music, Maths and Physics. Needless to say, Tom worked hard to successfully balance the academic rigours of school life with his extensive Head Boy responsibilities- a quality that we always try to instil in our students. We are very proud and pleased to see Tom achieving well after working so hard in the KTS sixth form.

Honours even against local rivals

The senior boys' football team were unlucky to only secure a 2-2 draw against local rivals Fearnhill. Despite dominating possession and pinning Fearnhill back in their own half, the Letchworth school took the lead after a fortunate counter-attacking goal. However, the KTS boys battled superbly, well-led by determined efforts from Matty Reynolds, Lewis Copsey and Matt Wilson in particular. The pressure eventually paid off as KTS scored two quick goals in the second half to take the lead. The KTS domination continued throughout the second half, forcing the Fearnhill goalkeeper into superb saves and rattling the cross bar on 3 separate occasions. Unfortunately, Fearnhill were able to equalise with the last kick of the game after their only attack of any note in the second half. Well done to all of the boys involved, particularly Alfie Laughton for scoring the 'goal of the season'!

The Senior basketball team had tough back to back matches this week in the County League

KTS played host to St Mary's Basketball Academy on Thursday - a game that was always destined to be a struggle. By the end of the first quarter, Knights were only down by 4 points, so the match definitely wasn't out of our control. Then St Marys' greater experience started to show as they played great basketball throughout the game and got themselves the win, mainly thanks to an excellent standard of defence that made it tough to find the hoop. The final score read 39-61. Although a loss, KTS did well to compete against a school of their calibre- a team that in recent years have reached the final 4 in the National competition for schools.

Monday saw the visit of Parmiter's School from Watford in the same competition. In a very competitive match, KTS stretched out to an early lead of 11 points, before the opposition pegged the Seniors back, eventually pulling out a 7 point lead of their own. Driven by some strong shooting by Nick Allin the Seniors closed to within 1 point before some uncharacteristic defensive and offensive errors allowed Parmiters to pull away an ultimately game winning margin, although the game was still in the balance in the final seconds. Final Score 64-67.

These losses mean that KTS have unfortunately not progressed to the semi-finals in the County competition, although a chance for 'silverware' remains in the North Herts District Final after half term.



Honours Board, 12th February 2015



Science Honours

- Year 13:
Louise Baxter – Gold in biology Olympiad
Korede Odumade – Bronze in Biology Olympiad
Josie McLoughlin – Commended in Biology Olympiad
- Year 12 Completing the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge:
Tom Luck
Lewis Lockhead
Charlie Langshaw
Amelia Ellis
Sam Tomlinson – Great improvement in Physics
Kate Bennett – High achievement in Physics
- Year 11:
Lewis Allen, Alex Wright – Much improved in all 3 Sciences
Aldo Luggeri – Great improvement in Biology
Lucy Carter – Great improvement in Chemistry
- Year 10:
Rosie Muge – Excellent participation and achievement
Rosie Thompson – Excellent participation
Leah Groves – High achievement in Biology
- Year 9:
Connie Payne – Super improvement in Science
- Year 8:
Stan Sheekey – Great enthusiasm
Ross Canter – hard work and teamwork
- Year 7 for great enthusiasm and participation:
Amelie Martin, Revae Tilbury, Zoe Nicholson, Samiya Miah
- **Newscast Team:**
Congratulations to the team at KTS Newscast. With Editor **Janvi Bhalla**, deputy **Katie Bennett** (both Year 12) writing and presenting, the Spring Newscast is one of the best ever. Our excellent team of editors comprising **Johnny Warman, Sam Collins and Joe Royal**, have worked tirelessly to produce the most professional student news programme we have ever seen. Watch it on vimeo.com/channels/ktsnewscast
The Newscast team are thrilled to be able to visit the Houses of Parliament in March and look forward to interviewing local MP, Sir Oliver Heald, about enfranchisement of 16 year olds... watch this space!
- The Maths department would like to recognise Greg Boyhan in Y10 for the roll of honour board. Greg always works extremely hard in class, participates enthusiastically, he consistently hands in homework of an excellent standard and he achieved 100% in a recent test. A real role model. Congratulations Greg.
- Music Department would like to congratulate the following students were selected to take part in the Craig Ogden Guitar Workshop due to their excellent commitment to guitar lessons:

Emily Dixon
Sophie Fairburn
George Gearing
Nathan Gilbert
John Goward
Rishab Gupta

James Luk
Callum McCreath
Jake Northern
Joe Royal
Esme Wase

- Congratulations too to **Ben Goldscheider** (French Horn) for his continued success in national competitions – do listen to Ben this evening on Radio 2 as part of the BBC2 Young Brass Player of the year programme (BBC Radio 2 at 11.00pm)
- Well done to **Anand Mann** for consistently outstanding effort and for always going the extra mile in his homework. As a result, he is making great progress despite not always finding it easy. (German)
- **Nick Allin** – Outstanding commitment and involvement in the Senior Basketball Team, regularly contributing hugely to the team’s performance. A great ambassador for Basketball at Knights Templar School.
- **Jim Acquah** – Sixth form and recent County Basketball Selection representative.
- **Amy Clarke** – Senior Team representative.
- **Erin Davies** – U15 Wales Football selection.
- **Rosanna Moynihan** – County Rugby and National Development Squad.
- Year 11 students **Hazel Gudgin, Emily Plant** and **Charlie Littlewood** are to be congratulated for their exceptional contribution and involvement on the recent visit to Bushey Synagogue to listen to the Holocaust Survivor Sabina Miller.
- The library would like to recognise the contribution of a number of students in the 1 to 1 Reading Intervention Scheme. There are a number of (trained) Reader Leaders from Year 9 through to Year 12, who have been supporting Year 7s during registration with their literacy skills (reading, speaking, comprehension) for more than a year now. They are making a huge difference to pupils’ confidence which has direct relevance across all subjects and, of course, to their well being. Thank you to :

Year 12s :

Abby ORSMAN
Alexandra MITCHELL
Amelia ELLIS
Emily FISHER
Georgia PIGGOTT
Georgina CROWTHER
Jess FAREY
Juliet OLIVER
Lois COOK
Michael HARGREAVES
Milly GREEN
Polly PRITCHARD
Sophie WESTON

Year 11s :

Alice WOODHOUSE
Alicia GUNNELL
Amy SWAIN
Mimi HURST
Neil ANGUS
Shakira HURST

Year 10 :

Chelsea PENNY
Hannah PROCTER

Year 9 :

Abi PLANT
Amber CUMMINS
Charlotte WATSON

- Well done to **Monica Yianni and Morgan Sykes** both in Year 11 and who are standing in the UK Youth Parliament , competing for the North Herts’ seat



- **Victoria Mead** Year 11. Victoria has been offered and has accepted a place at college doing Level 3 childcare. In all of the years PLO has been offered there has never been an offer to go straight in to Level 3 of anything. A very big well done and congratulations to Victoria. We wish her the best of luck.
- Congratulations to **Charlotte Marsden**, Year 8 who has qualified for the National Schools Table Tennis Individual Competition.
- We are delighted to hear that **Amelia Spinks**, Year 8, has been invited to attend the Great Britain Talent Water Polo training camp this weekend in Cardiff. This is obviously a great opportunity for her and she is very excited, even with the prospect of 10 hours training!
- **Niamh Wase** of Year 8 is recognised as a Regional and County Swimmer. She has been doing this for 4 years now and swims competitively. Well done Niamh!
- **Millie Estcourt** is currently working on a show involving young people's hopes and dreams but in dance form. Millie enjoys Street/Ballet/Disco at Andrews Dance Centre in Baldock and is working towards a show on 26th April 2015.
- Congratulations to **7 Pembroke** who have raised £72.79 for Great Ormond Street charity through their Bake Sale on Tuesday this week!

