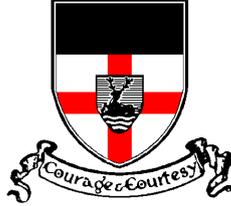


The Knights Templar School

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 – 13th November 2014 (also available on our website)

Dear Parents and Carers

The whole school came together at 11.00am on the 11th day of the 11th month for two minutes silence to remember those who have lost their lives in conflicts. This was a very moving ceremony. The students were impeccable in their attitude and their presentation and their respect for the occasion was absolutely appropriate. I was very proud of the whole school. Readings and prayers were offered by our Head Girl and Head Boy as well as a near perfect rendition of the Last Post by Barnaby Taylor (Year 12).



We have four nominations for Parent Governors and I would like to encourage you to take a moment to read the profiles of each of the candidates and to return your voting form. The closing date for your voting form is 18th November at 9.00am. The documents have been given to your son or daughter as hard copies and they have also been sent out via Parentmail. These roles are very important and have influence over the strategic direction of the school. I look forward to your return.

Traffic congestion around school!

Can parents/carers please be reminded that students should not be dropped off or picked up anywhere along the Park Street and Weston Way boundary with the school. Not only is this a traffic offence given the double yellow lines in place, but traffic congestion at the start and end of the school day is a health and safety risk to students and other road users. Please also note that the Sports Centre car park is for staff and members only and should not be used for dropping off or picking up students.

If it is absolutely necessary to drive your child to school or pick them up by car, please do so some distance from the school boundary. The only school facility that we can offer is the use of the coach park on Weston Way which is available after 3.30pm each day, once the coaches have departed. Thank you for your cooperation.



I must also make mention of Mr. John Glover who was made an MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire) by Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace on 11th November 2014. Congratulations to Mr Glover. This award was made recognising his contribution to the Duke of Edinburgh programme at the school. We think that Mr Glover has taken around 2,000 students through the programme since he started it here at The Knights Templar School. Long may it continue!

Finally, I have had the greatest pleasure watching many class lessons this week. The students are working hard and I was delighted to see lots of challenging questions being asked from the students. Can I please ask Parents and Carers to ensure that any homework that needs to be done is completed to the very best quality. This will help increase the rate of progress of each child. I am hoping that all year 11 students are well into their revision plan as the mock GCSE exams approach. Each Year 11 student has been given a GCSE advice booklet which contains some excellent tips to ensure success in the exams.

Thank you for your continued support

Regards,
Tim Litchfield
Headteacher

Entry from the Log Book of Frank Hancock, MBE; first Head-teacher of The Knights Templar School, 10th May 1940

"Today the Germans invaded Holland, Belgium and Luxembourg. This afternoon I received orders by phone that teachers are to "stand by" during the holiday. I have given instructions that gas masks are to be brought to school. Weekly air raid practices are held in the school.

I have passed to Mr. Ring orders that evacuated children and teachers are to attend school as usual during the coming week."

Dates for your diary:

| | | |
|------------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 14/11/2014 | Friday | Yr 12 Progress Review Yr 13 Music Technology Conference Gold DofE Launch for Yr 12 Bronze DofE Launch for Yr 9 (Hall or Drama Studio) |
| 17/11/2014 | Monday | Yr 7-9 Library Activity Week all week in the Library Yr 7 FIFA Tournament in Hall Yr ICT 9 Trip to Bletchely Park (56 Students), all day Friends of KTS AGM in Drama Studio Annex - 7pm-8.30pm Governors' Meeting (T&L), 5.00pm-7.00pm |
| 18/11/2014 | Tuesday | Advent Music Concert Rehearsal, all day – Hall Yr 8 FIFA Tournament in Hall DofE Expedition Team AGM, 7pm - T16 Advent Music Concert, 7pm in the Hall Herts County Youth Theatre Audition in Drama Studio |
| 19/11/2014 | Wednesday | Yr 10-13 (GCSE/BTEC/A Level PE students) North Herts Badminton Leadership, 3.45pm-6pm, Sports Hall Yr 8T Art Trip to Duxford Bronze DofE New Yr 9 Parents, 7.30pm - Hall |
| 20/11/2014 | Thursday | Yr 8K Art Trip to Duxford Yr 7 FIFA Tournament in Hall Yr 11 into 12 6th Form Open Evening, 7pm-9pm - Hall, VI Form Block & Subject rooms |
| 21/11/2014 | Friday | Yr 8 FIFA Tournament in Hall Bronze DofE Launch – Yr 9 Yr 10&11 GCSE Dance Conference |
| 22/11/2014 | Saturday | Rugby Trip to Twickenham (3.45-11.30pm) |

Art Department

On Tuesday 11th November seven year 13 Art students took their art work and sketchbooks to Elmwood Court in Baldock to visit the residence of Mr Crellin, former Head of KTS. They were welcomed by Mr Crellin and the art class (whose teacher is 94 years old!) and one or 2 others and a lively discussion took place across the generations as our students showed their work. The residents were most welcoming and I think a lot was learned on both sides. We also got to see some of their paintings and drawings. The parting comment was "I have never seen such animated faces" as they thanked us for coming.

Year 8 Art trips to the Imperial War Museum at Duxford, T band on Wednesday 19th and K band on Thursday 20th November. As we'll be walking quite long distances outside, between hangars, it's important that students bring coats with them.

Music News

On Monday, 3rd November, 20 Year 8 & 9 students took part in a music workshop led by Mrs Johnson. Students created fanfares for the Royal Albert Hall which will be submitted for a competition next year.

Reminder that our Winter Concert takes place in the school hall next Tuesday at 7pm. Admission is free and we hope you will come along and enjoy an evening of music.

Gold DofE

We have had a very successful term so far with the Gold Level of the Award, where 21 of our current Yr13 students completed their Gold Assessment Expedition over half term. Conditions in Snowdonia were not great but genuinely superb levels of training from our Gold Team ensured that all went safely and smoothly. These participants are now on track to achieve their Awards and maybe by this time next year, they can emulate last year's cohort, some of whom received their Awards at St. James' Palace last month. Prince Edward was on form as 13 ex-pupils received their certificates. Others from the same cohort had been to a previous event and some are still to attend, but yet again, we had the largest contingent from a single unit at the SE Area's part of the ceremony. Wonderful stuff!

Going on from that, all pupils in Yr12 are invited to join the scheme. There will be a meeting next Friday at break in T16 for any who are interested and there will be a stall at the Prospective 6th Form Evening next Thursday. All those who wish to enrol can count any activities they have been doing from the start of this term. Anyone can join, although if you haven't completed the Silver Level of the Award, you will have more to do to get the Gold. This is very worthwhile however, as it is still at the top of the list for prospective employers and Universities, extra to a relevant degree or educational qualification, as an indicator of the type of person they want to associate with. It sets you apart from the 'rest' and it really is worth its weight in well gold!!

Bronze DofE

All pupils in Yr10 should now be at the point of completing their activities for their Bronze Awards and next week, we are having rolling sessions at lunchtimes from Monday until Thursday where all participants need to come along and update their eDofE Accounts. Details will come home in a letter tomorrow as there is a meeting for all Yr10 Bronzies at break.

Bronze DofE Launch for Yr9 Pupils

Apologies, but we have had to change the dates for this event as advertised in last Friday's edition of this newsletter. The Yr9 Pupils will now have their launch meeting in school on Friday 21st November and the Parent's meeting to which all parents of prospective participants in Yr9 and their Yr9 son's/daughters will now take place on Monday 1st December at 7.30 pm. Full details are on the school's DofE website.

DofE in general

You will be aware that Mr Glover is no longer teaching at KTS but is still running the Award here. To help with the organisation of this, we have opened a Twitter account - @KTSDoFE - which we would like all participants in the Award at any level and their Parents, to follow. The same account will also be used for Information about other Outdoor Trips such as the foreign expedition to Morocco, the Three Peaks trip in the Spring Term etc. Please follow us - promise there will be no inane banter but just useful information which will be directed at groups or all from time to time! Parents and pupils can still email if they need a more personal response.

Year 8 boys' football success

The year 8 boys' football team have had another strong week of fixtures. On Saturday, the boys were up bright and early for a morning kick off against Hoddesdon based school, John Warner. It was a very well matched affair resulting in a 3-3 draw - an excellent result for the KTS boys who made the journey to Hoddesdon with a much depleted squad. Tonight though, it was back to winning ways with a convincing 5-1 win in the 3rd round of the County Cup against private school, Aldenham. Well done to all of the boys involved with these 2 fixtures.

Year 9 Rugby

This week saw the team beat Freman College 25-12. Fantastic performance from all boys involved particularly Josh Parkhouse and Taran Sura. KTS were trailing 12-5 at half time but a performance that summed up the school motto of courage and courtesy ensured a superb come back was realised. Tries from Josh Parkhouse, Finlay Harrigan, Alex Sedgewick and Marcus Crowther.

Girls' Rugby

33 Girls played in the Rugby tournament this week held at Hertford Rugby Club. The U13s captained by Eloise Fox and Nicole Kingham, smashed their way through their heats into the semi final where they beat Nobel by one try. They narrowly missed out in the final as they faced the fastest and strongest team in the competition. Scoring a total of 15

tries throughout the day the girls drew the attention of the head girls coach at Hitchin rugby Club where they have all been invited to attend. Nicole Kingham was awarded player of day for outstanding tackles and strong attacking play.

The U15's won their first game and continued with true Knights Templar Courage to play their next 4 games, where they were unfortunately beaten by the organised opposition. Eva Dennis and Hannah Smith (year 8) played a few games for the older age group creating an impact on the pitch and setting up nice plays. Ella Shawley demonstrated her experience on the pitch with some huge tackles and great leadership and was awarded Player of the day for the U15.

Cross Country

46 students across all age groups, competed in the District Cross country championships at Fairlands Valley in Stevenage against 14 other schools. Congratulations to Charlie Duke in Year 10 who came 2nd and Marcus Crowther in year 9 who also finished in 2nd place.

Notable team performances:

Year 7 girls 3rd place
Year 7 boys 4th place
Year 8 girls 4th place
Year 10 girls 3rd place

Science goes Live

A letter went out this week to invite year 11 triple students to attend GCSE live to listen to a selection of eminent scientists in London on 30 January. The visit will give students an opportunity to listen to presentations by some top scientists in their field of expertise. The speakers will include Prof Robert Winston, Prof Andrea Sella, Prof Jim Al-Khalili, Prof Steve Jones, Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock and Examiner Stewart Chenery. Return of letters is needed by 15 November.

Year 10 Physics ISA

All students in year 10 will starting their Physics controlled assessment in the week commencing Monday 24th November. Students should make every effort to attend all Physics lessons during the following two weeks to make sure they stand every chance of success.



As you may be aware some teachers are growing moustaches for the month of Movember in support of prostate cancer. If any student donates 50p or above to Mr Vallier or to the receptionists, their name will be entered into a draw and one lucky student will receive a goody bag including a designer Movember wrist band, numerous stickers with moustaches on, posters and a £10 voucher of their choice. The draw will take place at 8am on Thursday 27th November.

If you would like to donate to this worthwhile cause please find the link below for Movember/Prostrate Cancer.

<http://uk.movember.com/mospace/7924681>

Thank you in advance
Mr Vallier

Newscast

Knights Templar's student news programme goes from strength to strength. The latest edition includes: an investigation into meat consumption and its effect on the environment; an interview with the new Head, Mr Litchfield; We meet a Year 8 pupil who's third in the UK at her discipline, plus 60 seconds news, the Macmillan Coffee Morning and the 75th Anniversary bulb planting.

Congratulations to the students who worked so hard and creatively, including Janvi Bhalla, Kate Bennett, Joe Royal, Johnny Warman, Sam Collins and Rosie Thompson.

Watch on <https://vimeo.com/111423706>

or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HoJBySQesog>

or YouTube and keep up with the latest news at @ktsnewscast

Sixth Form News:

KTS Sixth Form Open Evening

On Thursday 20th November, the school opens its doors for what will be an informative and impressive display of the KTS Sixth Form. The evening will run from 7-9pm, featuring presentations, subject specific talks and the chance to meet and chat with KTS Sixth Formers, both past and present. Come along and see the vast array of opportunities on offer, the new sixth form facilities and get a taste of how student life changes as our young people progress from year 11 into year 12. We look forward to seeing you there!

Mock Trial Competition

Twelve of our Year 12 students competed against St Christopher school on Tuesday evening this week in a Mock Trial "Competition" judged by The Honourable Mr Justice Singh (Sir Rabinder Singh), a High Court Judge. Although this event wasn't scored, he commented how impressed he was with their presentation and how professionally they conducted themselves. This was a unique and valuable experience which we look forward to repeating later in the year.

Sixth Form Dinner Dance

Don't forget, Dinner Dance tickets are still on sale for the price of £35. Students will be treated to a delicious 3 course meal and have the chance to get in the festive spirit with their friends and staff, as they enjoy the live band and DJ later on in the evening. This evening will be a huge success and a great way to celebrate the holiday period...don't miss out!

This week's KTS graduate profile- Sarah Horscroft:

'In 2010 I completed my A-Levels at The KTS, before going on to study History at the University of York. I really feel that my time at this school equipped me with the knowledge, skills and experience I needed to allow me to pave my way in life and take on new challenges. In particular Mr Robertson instilled an unquenchable love of History in me and Mr Glover a deep appreciation of the outdoors! Thanks to him I went on to climb Mt Kilimanjaro and spend months backpacking across South East Asia. My time there also provided me with the confidence I needed to live and work with an NGO in Bolivia for 3 months earlier this year, which has led to my new career at VSO.'

Challenge TC Day - 'wonderful success'

Assistant Head Teacher Sara Levesley described the Year 12 Challenge TC Day as a 'wonderful success', as she observed high levels of student engagement and hard work throughout the day. The students worked in teams to tackle some very challenging industry based tasks, with the overall goal of designing a Thermo Chromic Paint product and accompanying business model. The day was run as a competition with all of the groups aiming to emerge as the best product/ business and ultimately, go on to represent the school at the Regional BASE National Business Competition. Thank you to the students for their hard work and fantastic attitude throughout the day! Photos to come in next week's edition!

Bronze for Senior Netball Team

The Senior Netball Team played exceptionally well at the tournament despite atrocious weather conditions. Some excellent attacking play from Georgina Crowther, Eleanor Wase and Lucy Merrell secured three well deserved victories against Priory, St Chris and Fearnhill. However, despite some outstanding defending from Mila Vasey, Helen Inman & Rosanna Moynihan, they were unable to avoid a narrow defeat to Hitchin Girls School. This meant the team qualified for the semi-finals, where they were unlucky losers to St Francis College. Overall 3rd Place in the District – well done!