

The Knights Templar School

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PARENTAL WEEKLY UPDATE – 26th February 2015 (also available on our website)

Dear Parent or Carer

This week marks another significant milestone in the history of the school with the 75th Gala Concert at the Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage on Friday evening. The students and staff have been working extremely hard to polish and refine what will be a real highlight of this year. The theatre is completely sold out, so I am afraid that if you do not have a ticket, then you will not be able to attend, but we will be publishing some photographs and reports on the school website as soon as we can. One of the many strengths of this school is to see so many students and staff performing together and Friday evening will be no exception - I can't wait!

Thank you to all parents who are now not parking in the Sports Centre car park after school. Our sports teams are now able to get to fixtures on time and visiting teams are able to access the Sports Centre and park in the designated spaces. It has also meant that Sports Centre members are able to park and access their facility.

- I have asked Mr Di Rubbo, the Sports Centre manager to close the gates just before 3.00pm and I appreciate all parents respecting this approach.
- Parents can use the coach turning circle to pick up your son or daughter from 3.35pm.

I would like to remind parents and carers that we are happy for students to have mobile phones and for them to be used at break and lunchtime. However, students should not be using them at any other time of the day, not even between changeover of lessons. There may be occasions where staff may ask them to use their devices in lesson as part of their learning and this is a great strength of technology. Students who choose not to follow the school rules can expect to have their phone confiscated for the rest of the day and will receive a behavioural referral point.

I would be grateful if all parents and carers could have a conversation with your child to ensure they fully understand the outcome of not following the school rules on mobile phones.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Regards,

Tim Litchfield
Headteacher

Dates for your diary:

26/02/2015	Thursday	Celebrate 75: Gala Performance for Primary Schools 2pm-3pm in the Hall Yr 7 District Girls Football Tournament, 2.20pm-6pm Yr 10 District Netball Tournament, 2.20pm-6pm
27/02/2015	Friday	Celebrate 75: Gala Performance, cast rehearsal, Period 1-6pm - Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage Celebrate 75: Gala Performance - Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage - 7pm
01/03/2015	Sunday	Bronze DofE Practice Expedition 1
02/03/2015	Monday	Yr 9 District Netball Tournament, 2.20pm-6pm Year 11 Drama Practical Rehearsals Yr 11, 12 & 13 Senior District Girls Football Tournament, 2.20pm-6pm

03/03/2015	Tuesday	Year 10 DTP and Meningitis C Vaccine during the day Yr 7 & 8 Girls Cricket Competition Yr 8 Parents Evening, 4.00-7.30pm
04/03/2015	Wednesday	Yr 7 District Hockey Tournament, 2.20pm-6pm Bronze DofE Practice Expedition Planning Meeting 2, 7pm-9pm - T16
05/03/2015	Thursday	World Book Day - Library Yr 9 Engineering Day, all day Yr 9 & 10 Girls Cricket Competition
06/03/2015	Friday	Yr 7-11 District Trampolining competition (TBC), 1.20pm-3.20pm Yr 8/9 G&T Students (30 students) Road Safety Play in a Day Drama workshop, followed by performance to Year 7

KTS Presents... 75 Years

What a wonderful week of rehearsals for our gala performance, 'KTS Presents... 75 Years', which will be performed on Friday 27th February at the Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage. The students have been asked to be inspired by this special anniversary performance, which sees about 200 staff and students coming together to produce a spectacular show. It really has been inspiring to watch our students work with such commitment, determination and skills. For those of you with tickets for Friday's performance, prepare yourself for a treat!

Follow the Drama and Music Departments on twitter: @drama_kts and @music_kts

Opening Soon – 2016 Ski Trip

Easter 2016 sees the school ski trip going back to Lake Tahoe, California and includes a stopover with the opportunity to visit the Golden Gate Bridge and Alcatraz.

Places will be limited, letters with full details can be collected from Mr Clayton's office on Friday 27th February.



Art Trips for Year 7

Art trips to the National Gallery in London are coming up for Year 7 students, K (including S) band on Thursday 12th March and T band on Friday 13th March. If you haven't yet received a letter about it from your child, please ask them to collect one for you from their Art teacher or the Art office.

Permission slips and payment should be returned as soon as possible, thank you.

Tips.....how to keep your children's phone secure (Source: *The Sunday Times*)

- When you buy your child their first phone, tell the network that it's for a minor – that way, they will be legally obliged to filter any adult content that's downloaded over 3G and 4G.
- You can also block unsuitable sites by downloading the free Norton Family app. It's easy to add pages to the blacklist – and if you want, the app will also keep you abreast of your child's online activities.
- Smartphones generally require you to sign in with an account – a Google account, for instance, or an Apple ID. It's best to set one up for your child; if you use your own, their contacts and apps could be automatically synchronised to your phone.
- But if you're buying an Android phone, bear in mind that you have to be at least 13 to have your own Google account. If you're concerned about your child buying too many apps, withhold the account password: Android phones can be set to require it for every app purchase.

Overdue Book Amnesty

The Library will have an overdue book amnesty which will run from the 9th-13th March. Please assist us by asking your children to hunt through school bags and bedrooms to find any overdue library books. From the 16th March library staff will be issuing any remaining overdue reminders via pupils form tutors.

EST trip to the Biogen installation on the A505

A group of staff and pupils visited the installation after school on the Thursday before half term. We are the first school visit and were made to feel very welcome by the staff. It was a fascinating tour and we were certainly impressed with the facility and its sustainable credentials.

Biogen's website says "The Environmental and Sustainability team at Knights Templar school visited Bygrave to see how food waste is turned into renewable energy and a nutrient rich biofertiliser. Chris Gough "Green" Governor said 'Thank you for organising a great visit. The older pupils and staff especially found it most interesting. Best school trip ever was a quote!! Many of our Governors expressed an interest in a visit too. We were all very impressed.'" If you want to read more about Biogen, please see their website: <http://www.biogen.co.uk/News/blog-article/Local-school-visits-Bygrave>



Reminder Year 8 Parents' Evening – 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.

World Book Day 2015

To celebrate the event, the library welcomes David's Bookshop, who will be selling a selection of popular teenage fiction on Wednesday 4th March. Pupils can exchange their complimentary World Book Day book token, presented by their form tutor at the start of the week, for a £1 discount on these popular titles. Prices start from £1, allowing them to purchase a book for free!! World Book Day publication titles include Geek Girl and the Dork Diaries. More expensive books will be priced around £8.

Pupils will be able to attend throughout the day, supported by staff from the English Departments. Parents, family and friends are also welcome to visit us, after school, from 3.20pm-4.30pm.

Girls' football success

Congratulations to the 18 girls that competed in the North Herts District 5 a-side football tournament this week. The year 8 team were the standout performers of the day, winning the tournament and qualifying to represent North Herts at the County Games in Welwyn Garden City- what makes this an even more impressive achievement is that the year 8s were competing in the year 9 category tournament! The year 7s battled brilliantly to finish 2nd in their tournament and it was a similar story for the year 10 team who also took the runners up position. Pictures to follow in next week's article!

Year 7 Player of the Tournament- Maisie Tomlinson

Year 8 Player of the Tournament- Charlotte Phillips

Year 10 Player of the Tournament- Rachel Middleton

Trip to Rugby's HQ

Listen to Bill Bowkett's report from the KTS trip to watch England play Italy on the 14th February at Twickenham.

<https://soundcloud.com/newsknight/england-vs-italy-6-nations>

(NewsKnight)

Publishing Pupil Photographs

With the increased use of digital photography, we are easily able to enhance publications in school, on our website and for circulation in documents such as this Parental Bulletin.

If any parent has an objection to the use of pictures of their child in this way, please let us know by either discussing with the Year Leader or by emailing admin@kemplar.herts.sch.uk

Bronze 2015

The first Practice Expedition takes place this coming weekend and while it looks like a 'bit of damp' on the Saturday evening, we hope it will be a great success and all will work well and the participants have a really good time. Don't forget – meeting in the playground about 8.30 with participants wearing the gear they will walk in and with rucksacks ready packed!!

Hired gear needs to be returned clean AND ABOVE ALL, DRY, to the Gear Cellar on Tuesday at the very start of lunchtime. There is genuinely no other time it can come back as the DofE Volunteers do not work in school, so please do not forget!!

Yr10 Bronze and Yr11 Silver

We are now getting very close to the point where all activities should be complete and all record books handed into school for verification. Lists will appear on the DofE website showing [progress](#) and who still needs to get their books in, as well as those who have [achieved their Awards!](#)

Sixth form news:

Sixth form History trip to Berlin

Year 12 History students spent their half term in Berlin, touring the various historical exhibits and landmarks to gain fresh insight and perspective of their academic studies. As always, the trip was a remarkable success and this was largely down to the fantastic manner in which the students approached the new experiences and represented the school. These were just a handful of the positive comments made by students about the trip:

'It was very interesting to explore the historical landmarks with such a different perspective, given by our tour guide, Gabe. This is one thing that will probably stay with me the most, especially at the Sachsenhausen concentration camp.'- Lauren Marshall.

'The Berlin trip is both brilliant and powerful. We were confronted by the reality of life in East Berlin, which could not be fully understood until you heard and saw the mass poverty and impact of political issues on the citizens at the time.'- Lena Harding.

'The history trip to Berlin was fantastic. Seeing things we learnt about in class, in person, was amazing. As it was only a small group who went, we managed to spend a lot of time with our friends and this helped to make things feel more personal.'- Janvi Bhalla.

'The year 12 history trip to Berlin was a brilliant experience. It focused on the Cold War topic of the AS course and was relevant in truly understanding how the Berlin Wall changed the lives of Berlin people. In depth personal accounts from the information around Berlin and also from our tour guide made the effects of the Cold War clearly evident'- Anonymous.

Berlin trip- in photos



Student finance presentation for parents of year 13 students

On Wednesday 11th March, the school will be hosting an information evening delivered by a Student Finance England representative. This event is designed to provide parents of year 13 students (who plan to enter higher education) with up to date information regarding the financial considerations of university life. The presentation will run from 7-8pm and will provide a very detailed insight into the financial implications of higher education, as well as guidance on how to access funding. This presentation has proven to be very useful and informative in previous years and we would like to encourage as many parents as possible to attend.

Mock exam results

Students will have received many of their mock exam results this week and we would like to encourage parents to discuss these results with the students and help to design action plans to improve opportunities for study and revision at home. Form tutors and teachers will be working very closely with students to identify action plans for improvement and we would like to encourage parents to discuss and contribute to these plans with students in the build up to the all-important summer exam period.

Finals beckon for gifted musician

Our very own musical phenomenon, Ben Goldscheider, has qualified for a place in the BBC Radio 2 Young Brass Award Finals. The finals will be broadcast live on BBC Radio 2 from 8pm on Friday 27th March and Ben's sublime performance in the semi- finals is still available online via this link:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02jrw9z> We would like to

congratulate Ben on another incredible achievement and wish him the best of luck in the final!



Sixth form involvement with the gala performance

With the 'KTS Presents 75 Years Gala Performance' due to light up the stage at the Gordon Craig theatre tomorrow, last minute rehearsals and preparations have been keeping the participants in this fantastic event very busy. It is inspiring to see such a huge number of sixth formers leading the way in this impressive spectacle of song, dance and drama. We look forward to what should be a marvellous night of celebration and entertainment.