

The Knights Templar School

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PARENTAL WEEKLY UPDATE – 4th February 2016 (available on our website)

Dear Parents and Carers

We really are heading into the start of the exam period now with Year 12 and 13 mock exams scheduled for the next two school weeks. Year 11 parents will be receiving, via email, some weekly information relating to GCSE revision programmes, Controlled Assessment deadlines and practical tips for revision – the first of these will come out tomorrow. This document will be referred to as the 'Year 11 Revision Bulletin'. Please do read these and talk to your child about what they are attending and their own deadlines. There is a huge amount of guidance for all parents on the school website, but these links will be included in the weekly 'Year 11 Revision Bulletin'.

We are fast approaching half term and please may I remind you that this is a great opportunity for our students taking exams this year to study! Revision timetables should be drawn up for the week, which allows plenty of study and a balance of relaxation – a real chance to get some good work scheduled!

It is nearly a week since our final performance of 'Fiddler on the roof'. What a week it was - four incredible performances involving over 100 students! Congratulations to all the students involved and my grateful thanks to all my colleagues who put in so many hours to ensure a West End theatre experience. I can't wait until next year!

Please may I remind parents and carers of year 9 students that the parents' evening next Thursday 11th February is a crucial evening to start to finalise those options as well as discuss progress and areas for improvement. Hopefully, you will feel well equipped to advise and discuss all available options with your child. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any further questions.

I have been incredibly impressed with the attitude of our students this week. I have spent as much time as possible popping into lessons and observing the learning. They are demonstrating inquisitive minds, sharing and discussing complex subjects and there is a real sense of joy and purpose as they learn. The students are a credit to you and themselves.

Kind Regards,
Tim Litchfield
Headteacher

Dates for your diary:

Friday	5.2.16	Bronze DofE Expedition Training 19.30
Saturday	6.2.16	Bronze DofE Expedition Training 10.00-15.30 Yr 7-13 Cross Country Championships, St Albans, 9.00-16.00
Sunday	7.2.16	Bronze DofE Expedition Training, Barton Fells 10.00-15.30
Monday	8.2.16	Year 12 Mock Exam Week – 6 th Form Common Room
Tuesday	9.2.16	Yr 10 Science Mock Exams Shrove Tuesday Pancake Races at Lunchtime Yr 7 and 8 Sports Hall Athletics Championships, Highfield School, 14.20-18.00

Wednesday	10.2.16	Yr 11 GCSE English Literature Mock Exam – Poetry
Thursday	11.2.16	Yr 9 Parents Evening, 16.00-19.30 Yr 7-11 District Swimming Gala, Hitchin, 18.00-21.30
Friday	12.2.16	Darwin Day Yr 6 Primary Music Festival (Hall), 14.00-15.00 School ends at 3.20 for Half Term, returning Monday, 22 nd February
NOTE : Change of future date for Year 7 Parents' Evening from the 27th to the 26th April 2016		

*****CANCELLED due to insufficient numbers*****

KTS Club 7 Parents Quiz – Friday February 5th

Apologies to those who were planning to come along but hopefully an alternative event will be planned in the near future.

Sainsbury's Active Kids 2016

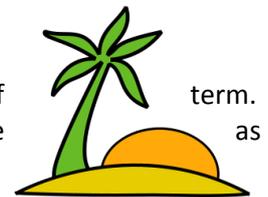
Sainsbury's Active Kids 2016 is back and we'd like you to collect as many vouchers as you can and send them in to school for the PE department. Collecting vouchers couldn't be easier.

This year, you will earn Active Kids vouchers on your shopping, one voucher for every £10 spent either in stores or online and in Locals, one voucher for every £5 spent. You can follow the link here <https://activekids.sainsburys.co.uk/parents-community/find-a-school-or-club> to see our wish list and support us online.

Our collection box is situated on the School Reception desk and Sainsbury's will be issuing Active Kids Vouchers until 3rd May so no time to lose!

Holiday Research Project for Year 7 Pupils

The Librarians will be running research skills sessions for all Year 7 pupils after half term. Pupils will be working in small groups undertaking a holiday project of their choice as part of their English lesson. This project will enable pupils to develop his/her literacy skills (reading, writing, listening and speaking), whilst at the same time they will learn how to find, handle and present information. It is also an enriching experience offering an element of creativity and helping to develop social skills.



Mrs Evans, Ms Rogers, Mrs Martin and Mrs Boddy

PE News:

Year 8 county cup hockey

The year 8 team maintained their unbeaten run with a fantastic performance against Dame Alice Owen School. There were chances for both teams in a very close first half. However, KTS really dominated the second half but despite numerous chances, couldn't quite manage to score. Excellent defending by Millie Haywood, Mia Luk and Mollie Wright in goal also helped secure the final score: 0-0.

Practice continues on Mondays 3.30-4.30pm, all welcome.

Year 8 district hockey league update

Well done to all of the girls involved in an intense fixture this week against local rivals St Francis School. The KTS girls performed exceptionally well to secure an important 1-1 draw. Well done to all involved.

Congratulations too to the Year 8 Hockey girls on their 3-0 victory over Highfield in the District League.

Year 8 Hockey

The team played Highfield last night, they gained a well deserved 3-0 win. Excellent open attacking play in the first half led to us going into the break 2-0 up with 2 goals from Anna Wallace. The second half saw us having to defend a little more and Molly Wright having to make a few saves. A third goal from Rachel Goward in the second half sealed the win.

A very well done to all the team: Molly Wright (GK), Anna Wallace, Mia Luk, Zara Northern, Millie Haywood, Rachel Goward, Felicity Massie.

Year 7 boys' rugby update

Congratulations to the year 7 boys' rugby team who beat Barnwell School 55-0 earlier this week!

Year 10 boys' rugby update

Congratulations to the year 10 rugby boys' who beat John Henry Newman 57-10!



Indoor Hockey for Year 10

The year 10 Indoor Hockey team coached by Mr Pilgrim fought their way to a silver medal in their tournament. Special mention to Ella Shawley an amazing goal keeper letting in only 2 goals in the whole tournament. Player of the tournament goes to Eve Wenham who played outstandingly in both attack and defence in all matches.

Time for Textiles

Year 10 Textiles have recently handed in their baby clothing project, and what fantastic results! Here are a selection of dresses and dungarees that have been made.



Head Lice are still with us!

Please continue to check your child's hair and in particular this evening, so that these little critters are all caught at the same time. Some pupils have been treated and are having to be treated again, so do check hair tonight so that we can sort out this issue.

Thank you, *Mrs Mance, School Medical Officer*

9th February Internet Safety Day

- The internet an inspiring and positive place

This year's theme for Safer Internet Day is 'Play your part for a better internet'. It is important that parents are also engaged and informed to ensure their children can get the most out of the internet.

The internet is an amazing resource which enables children and young people to connect, communicate and be creative in a number of different ways, on a range of devices. However, the internet is always changing, and being able to keep up to date with your children's use of technology can be a challenge. You may sometimes feel that your children have better technical skills than you do, however children and young people still need advice and protection when it comes to managing their lives online and using the internet positively and safely.

We have put together lots of information and guidance [on our website](#) that we hope will help you. If you have any worries or concerns over your child and being safe online you can email me asomerville@ktemplar.herts.sch.uk or any year leader or member of SLT.

Mr A Somerville – Computing HOD

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Year 9 Bronze Expedition Training:

Expedition Training starts with a bang this weekend with all of our participants attending an intensive weekend's activities starting Friday evening. All our pupils need to be in the school playground from about 6.45pm on Friday armed with a pen. We will open the blue door entrance to 'K' Block by the library at 7.00 and pupils need to go straight to their allocated rooms where they will be met by their trainers for the weekend. The groups they are in are only for the weekend only and will not be the same groups they will be in on either of their expeditions later in the year. Information about the weekend and [groups and rooming](#) are on the school's website (password protected: [email Mr Glover](#) with the name and form of your child if you have forgotten this!).

Saturday's session will start at 10.00am and will continue until about 4.00pm and will again be in school. Details about what to bring were given in a [letter handed out a few weeks ago](#) but a copy can be found on the website. They will also be told in detail what to bring for the weekend at Friday's session. On Sunday, pupils will need to be brought to Pirton, west of Hitchin, either at 10.00 or 11.00 and pick up will be from the same place again at either 2.30 or 3.30 depending on their group. Bring a packed lunch for Saturday (they will not be allowed out of school) and don't forget, they will be cooking their lunch on Sunday so will need to bring suitable food for this – details given out on Friday.

The weather is looking wet for Saturday so indoor shoes will be needed so as not bring unnecessary mud into school when doing classroom sessions. Sunday is looking nice!!

Record Books should now be delivered in the middle of next week so all Welcome Packs, Record Books and the eDofE log-on sessions will now occur for all in the week immediately after half term.

Year 10 Bronze and Year 11 Silver:

Record books now need to be completed and handed in as soon as possible. Details on how to do this and the process involved are both on the website but also in their Record Books. To date, the Yr10 'bronzies' have responded really well but the Yr11 Silvers have a significant amount to do, particularly on the expedition pages on their eDofE accounts! A participant's [progress can be followed](#) on the school's DofE website which will be updated regularly as pupils hand their books in.

We are looking at a Presentation Evening in late April or early May and when we have firm details we will let you know. However, we need our pupils to be proactive now in order to get their books sorted and their Awards confirmed in time for this event – we don't want all their hard work and their parent's hard earned money to go to waste at the final hurdle!

J. Glover

World Book Day 2016

The Library will be supporting World Book Day on the 3rd March.

World Book Day is a celebration of authors, illustrators, books and (most importantly) it's a celebration of reading. In fact, it's the biggest celebration of its kind, designated by UNESCO, and marked in over 100 countries all over the *world*.



Activities will include pupils at Knights Templar School being presented with a £1 gift voucher which can be used to purchase one of the selected £1 books published each year in conjunction with the event, basically they will receive a free book!!! Or in part payment of a book of their choice at any participating bookshop.

We are delighted to announce that David's Bookshop will be here in the library on Wednesday 2nd March, allowing pupils an opportunity to exchange their token right here in the school. Finally we will be devising some fun games, quizzes and prizes to put us all in the mood for what promises to be a fantastic celebration of reading, writing and illustration.

Year 9 Parents' Evening

Thank you to all those who have made appointments for the Year 9 Parents' Evening being held on Thursday 11th February.

There are still a number of Parents/Guardians who haven't yet booked appointments. Please be aware that the [online booking system](#) closes on Tuesday 9th February @ 11pm.

All students are expected to attend and wearing full school uniform.

If you have any problems with making appointments, please don't hesitate in contacting me.

Miss L Ward, Year 9 Leader

Art News

Coming up soon, Year 7 visits to the National Gallery in London.

Letters will be issued to students over the next week or so; a copy is also available in '[Letters Home](#)' on the KTS website.

Cashless Catering

Please be reminded that during break and lunchtimes **cash will not be accepted at the tills** in the dining hall for payment of food and drinks. The school operates a cashless payment system and parents are strongly encouraged to top-up student accounts through the [WisePay facility linked to the school website](#). Any cash brought into school to top-up student accounts needs to go into the cash loader in the dining hall.

If your child does not have a cashless catering account, can they please speak to a member of Herts Catering staff on duty in the dining hall who will arrange set up.

Thank you for your co-operation.

FREE 1 day taster course this Saturday at Emil Dale Academy, Hitchin

Gain an insight into their full time training with a whole day of free classes, the session is for ages 15+ both BOYS and GIRLS.

LOCATION : Emil Dale Studio Complex, 60 Wilbury Way, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG4 0TA.

DATE: SATURDAY 6th February 2016

PARKING: There is plenty of free parking around the building.

TIME: Arrive at 10:30am to register, **READY TO START @ 11:00am - 5:00pm**

YOUR DAY: You will take part in a variety of technique classes including: MUSICAL THEATRE with a cast member from a WEST END SHOW. DANCE class with top West End dancer who has countless West End credits. ACTING class with cast member from War Horse at the National Theatre. SINGING class with West End MD.

You will take 4 sessions in all three disciplines, SINGING / ACTING / DANCING classes might include: West End Jazz / Professional West End vocal workshop / Acting workshop / Puppetry class with Gareth Aled from Warhorse/ Commercial with Gareth walker (choreographed the closing ceremony of the Olympics and the Take That International tour) and many more.

BREAKS: There will be a break. We do have a refreshment counter where you can get food and drink from throughout the session.

WHAT TO WEAR: Please wear suitable clothing and footwear to dance in. Please bring plenty of food and water. We are expecting large numbers.

BOOK YOUR PLACE: 01462 677 808 / 01462 454 586 - emildale.co.uk



Results from the 1st round of Head Boy and Head Girl applications

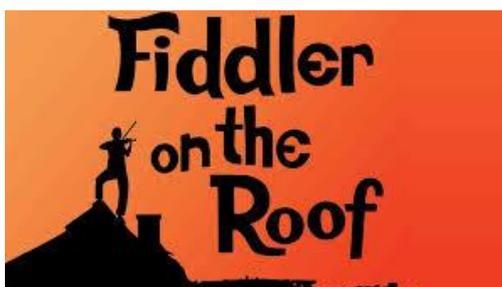
During last week's year 12 tutorial period, students were asked to read the letters of application from over 20 aspiring Head Boy and Head Girl candidates. Having completed this task, the students voted on who they thought was worthy of progressing to the next round of the application process. The voting was very evenly spread, resulting in 4 boys and 4 girls progressing to the next round of the competition- those students are; *George Acquah, Ellen King, Ewan Morris, Mila Vasey, Jake Fletcher, Alice Neale, Reno Edwards and Helen Harrison.*



We would like to congratulate these students on performing so well in the first round and clearly impressing their peers when making their case to secure the coveted Head Boy and Head Girl roles. We would also like to offer our commiserations to those applicants that did not progress to the next round and congratulate them on their superb efforts in this initial stage.

It is worth reminding parents and students that anyone who is unsuccessful in their application to become Head Boy/ Girl can still apply for the hugely important roles of Deputy Head Boy/ Girl and/ or Senior Prefect.

Good luck to the students throughout the remainder of this application process.



Superb sixth form representation in the school production

As ever, this year's school production was a huge success and we are particularly proud of the sixth form students involved with this year's production (*Fiddler on the Roof*). The sixth form students took on some of the most challenging leading roles, sacrificing their free time to learn lines, rehearse and perform, while balancing these responsibilities with their A Level studies.

Stand-out performances from the male lead roles, Joe Nelson/ Barney Taylor as *Tevye* and lead female actors Rachael Robinson/ Alice Neale as *Golde*, were truly amazing. The supporting roles played by; Ewan Morris, James Scripps, Nathan Allen, Emily De Fraine, Helen Harrison, Julia Ten-Hove, Nathan Gilbert and Nick Chambers also provided great entertainment for the audiences throughout the week. The acting and singing talent on display throughout this production really was something special.



Rehearsals

We should also recognise and congratulate Matthew Dyne (year 13) and Dan Barnicott (year 12) for their immense efforts organising props, lighting and staging behind the scenes, during rehearsals and the production week itself. The musical performance from the orchestra was an obvious highlight of the performances and it was great to see such fantastic sixth form representation in the form of; Thomas Brazier, Jeremy Beard, Ellen King, Max Piner, Abbie Foggo, Lucy Brewer and James Cook.

Well done to all of the students involved with this fantastic event!

Senior rugby update

Congratulations to the senior rugby team who continued their fine form in the district league with an emphatic 32-0 win over local rivals, John Henry Newman School. The boys played brilliantly, proving to be too skilful in open play and too physical at the breakdown for their Stevenage opponents. Two tries each from Matthew Cockburn and Captain Alex Bowles, alongside tries from Rob Brierley and Michael Shawley ensured that the KTS boys cruised to a comfortable win. Well done to all of the students involved in this impressive victory!



Students learn the 'ins and outs' of marketing on London trip

On Friday 29th Jan, the Year 13 Applied Business class travelled to London to visit 'Initials integrated marketing communications agency' who are responsible for Walkers crisps promotions among many other well-known brands. The students also visited Paul Crockford, former manager for music group Dire Straits and currently managing Mark Knopfler and Paul Simon among others. The students found the day really interesting and learnt a great deal about marketing and what it takes to succeed in such a high pressure business environment. Several members of the group said they would be interested in a career in marketing and were truly engaged by the advice they received regarding this interesting and diverse industry. It was a great day out and we look forward to doing it again next year!

Ms Brando Business Studies Department

Sixth form students integral to school literacy initiative

The students listed below have received a 'commendation' from the library team in recognition of their fantastic contributions to the on-going literacy initiative within school. These students have worked incredibly hard, volunteering their time to work with younger pupils as a 'reader leader', in an attempt to raise pupils' literacy standards. This is just one example of the way our sixth form students give back to the school community in such a positive way- we are very proud of their contributions so far this year.

Year 12	Year 13
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alicia Gunnell• Josline Shasha• Mimi Hurst• Neil Angus• Rebecca Wray• Shakira Hurst• Shani Casey• Sukhpreet Rayatt	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alexandra Mitchell• Bethany Chapman• Emily Fisher• Georgia Piggott• Jessica Farey• Joanna Staines• Juliet Oliver• Meghan Porter• Milly Green• Polly Pritchard• Sophie Weston



Mock exams- handling the pressure!

With the mock exam period fast approaching, it is important that students are using their time wisely to; work hard, revise and prepare for the exams as if they were the 'real thing'. The mock exams provide students with an invaluable opportunity to apply their knowledge and understanding to a formal assessment environment. It also gives teachers an insight to the progress that students are making. However, it is also important to remember that in order for revision to be effective, there must be a good balance with other activities and valuable rest time. This can be a very stressful time for students and I would like to urge parents to ensure students are not only working hard but taking some time away from their studies to remain relaxed, happy and healthy. Good luck to all!



More music success for Ben Goldscheider

Ben Goldscheider has added yet another accolade to his impressive CV, having qualified for the final of the *Royal Over-seas League Annual Music Competition*. Not only did Ben qualify for the final of this competition, he was also awarded the *Phillip Jones Memorial award for Most Outstanding Brass Player*. This competition is open to musicians who are 30 years old and younger, from across the entire Commonwealth. This is an incredible accomplishment for any young musician but it is truly remarkable for Ben to have achieved such an accolade at the tender age of 18! Well done Ben.

Sixth form application deadline day

We would like to remind parents of year 11 students that the deadline for handing in the KTS Sixth Form application is this Friday 5th February!