

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 March 2015 (also available on our website)

Dear Parent or Carer

What a week so far at KTS! Our Senior Basketball team won the **District U19 final** on Monday (on the heels of the Year 7 District Girls' Hockey last week; James Hill (Candidate on the **BBC1 Apprentice** this year) was in school talking to our business students about entrepreneurship; North Herts Year 3 – 6 **Brass day** on Tuesday (100 brass players in school!); **Whole school photograph** yesterday; GCSE Drama performances; Outstanding teaching and learning – just another week at KTS!

May I please remind you that there are daily **revision lessons** for our year 11 students – the programme is on the [school website](#). All examination students should be working with their exam revision schedule now. This would include between 1 – 2 hours of revision per night, dependent on the amount of homework given.

Parents of Year 10 French students – I passed a letter to your son or daughter on Tuesday offering the chance to become involved in a French Exchange programme through the Baldock Town Twinning association. If any parents or carers are interested please do get in touch with me by Friday 13th March by emailing head@ktemplar.herts.sch.uk.

May I thank all Parents and Carers who support our school through their attendance at the wide range of evening events. Most parents attend our Parent Consultation Evenings, but the support for our concerts, theatre productions, sports events and other evening events is greatly appreciated. The students benefit greatly from having full audiences. Please do take a look at the school website and in particular the Calendar page to see what is coming up.

Many thanks,
Regards,

Tim Litchfield
Headteacher

Dates for your diary:

13/03/2015	Friday	7T Art Trip to the National Gallery
14/03/2015	Saturday	Yr 10 Geography Field Trip Three Peaks
15/03/2015	Sunday	Yr 10 Geography Field Trip Three Peaks
16/03/2015	Monday	Yr 10 Geography Field Trip Three Peaks Science Week - All Week - Lunchtime activities Yr 12-13 Musical Evening of AS Level Solo Performances 6pm in the Hall
17/03/2015	Tuesday	Gold Practice Expedition Gear Check
18/03/2015	Wednesday	Yr 7 District Netball Tournament, 2.20pm-6pm Yr 12 Engaging Minds Speaker - Peter Tatchell
19/03/2015	Thursday	Yr 12-13 Musical Evening of A Level Solo Performances in the Hall, 6pm GCSE Drama Practical Exams
20/03/2015	Friday	Yr 12 Progress Reviews North Herts G&T Masterclass (12 students), Yr7-10, 1pm-3pm

COMIC RELIEF

Don't forget for Comic Relief tomorrow (Friday) there will be a non-uniform day for all pupils in aid of Comic Relief. The theme is 'Wear it red'. Pupils should wear either a red top or red bottoms and make a £1 donation. If they don't wear red, then a £2 donation will be payable.

KTS Staff Comic Relief Bake-off (#GREATKTSBAKEOFF)

Our staff bakers have been busy in the Food Tech rooms and are raising funds amongst staff in aid of Comic Relief with a Silent Auction for "The Head" cake.



Students and staff can buy tickets from the dining hall at break time tomorrow to come and watch our KTS bake-off at 1.30pm in the Drama Studio (£1 each) See [here](#) for a taste of what's in store!

'100 YEARS' RECYCLED FASHION SHOW and EXHIBITION

On Saturday 28th February, St Christopher School hosted their annual Recycled Fashion Show in aid of Lister Hospital's 'The Magic of Play' appeal. This year's theme was '100 Years', to commemorate the establishment of St Christopher School in 1915.

Nine KTS Year 10 students' designs, expertly modelled, graced the catwalk show and of these 5 made it to the semi-finals.

The associated exhibition is on at Letchworth Arts Centre until 12th March. It features an array of the original and inventive costumes made from recycled materials, including 5 of our students' designs.

Well done and congratulations to everyone involved:

RECYCLED FASHION SHOW 2015:			
Designer	Model	Semi-finalist	Letchworth Arts Centre
Ashling Galley-Coulthard	Isabel Bruning	✓	✓
Amber Milward	Gurleena Lidder		✓
Lia Groves	Lucy Owen	✓	
Asia Anderson	Daisy James		
Maddison Jevon	Victoria Hughes		
Jasmine Charlton	Ylana Schafer Thomson		✓
Jessica Porter	Louise Sheldrick	✓	
Emily Birch	Emma Cole	✓	✓
Millie Atkinson	Freya Stump	✓	✓



Parents Association Meeting

There will be a Parents Association meeting on Monday 16th of March in the Staff Room at 7pm. Among other items, we will be discussing the Family Film Night, which is scheduled for Saturday May 9th during the Baldock Festival. Please come along if you feel you can help us stage this event.

Twitter

Twitter usage is flourishing throughout the school with many areas accepting my recent challenge set it up. It is a fantastic way for us to communicate with home and celebrate your children's success. This week we welcomed [@KTSStudentVoice](#), [@KTSMFL](#) and [@KTS_ART](#) to Twitter. There are already quite a few Twitter accounts associated with the school. The main school account is [@KT_school](#), but there are also: [@KTSHeadteacher](#); [@HGHBKTS](#); [@KTSNewscast](#); [@KTSDofE](#); [@drama_kts](#); [@music_kts](#); [@KTSHistory](#); [@KTSGeog](#); [@KTSMedia1](#) and [@KTS_RE](#). So, are you following us yet? What are you waiting for? Follow us today!

Music News

Knights Templar hosted the North Herts Brass Day on Tuesday this week. 92 students from years 3 to 8 took part in a day of music making. Students spent the morning working in groups before coming together in the afternoon to perform a short concert to family and friends.

AS and A2 Music Students are preparing for their exam recitals next week. Monday, 16th March will see the AS Students perform, followed by the A2 students on Thursday 19th March.

Science Week is coming to KTS

National Science week this year runs from the 13th to the 22nd of March and in our usual tradition the Science department will be celebrating this from Monday 16th to Friday 20th March. We will be running lots of fun Science activities for students at lunch time which include making Ice cream with dry ice and tasty sherbet fizz. We will also be running a Poster competition and would like students to design a poster 'Be an Inventor'. This will be due in for judging on the Friday. Students should look on the Science week Notice board in the Science Corridor for more details.

On Wednesday 18th in conjunction the school's 75th Anniversary celebrations the Department will also be dressing up in 1930's costumes and teaching lessons in a 1930's style. We have also invited in some of our feeder primary schools in to participate in some after school activities. The following week but also part of this celebration we have Jerry Stone author of the book 'One Small Step' who will be talking to some of our Year 11-13 students about Horizon probe visit to Pluto and the status of it as a Planet. It would be great if students could be encouraged to attend some of these activities. A timetable is now up on our notice boards and we will be advertising activities on the daily bulletin. So students need to keep a look out so they don't miss out

Whole School Photo

Wednesday saw all students and staff coming out onto the field for a whole school photo – a tradition that is well established at KTS. It was very well organised by Mr Clayton and the team from Tempest School Photography. Please see the photos below to get a sense of how it went. Students were excellent and there was a fantastic community feel to the process.



National Apprenticeship Week (9th-13th March)

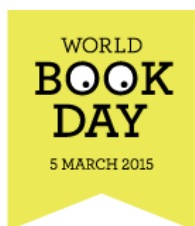
To give some year 11 business classes an insight into apprenticeships, Tesco's careers team will be coming into KTS to talk to the students about the opportunities available to them and to run a some interactive session so that the students can get a feel for what the apprenticeship schemes are about.

Year 9's Tackle Road Safety with 'A Play in a Day'

On Friday 6th March, thirty Year 9 students volunteered to work with the Theatre in Education Company, Konflux Theatre. Their task was to create a play within a day using the theme of 'Road Safety'. With the inspirational encouragement from Konflux Director, Liz Stevenson, the group created three short scenes (safety when crossing the road, safety when cycling on the road and safety when driving on the road). The group performed to all of Year 7 at the end of the day, allowing the audience to question decisions certain characters were making during the performance. The Director highlighted that it was one of the most creative, thoughtful and talented groups she has worked alongside. The group's professionalism and performance throughout the day was a credit to themselves, and they represented the school and their year group admirably!



Library News This Week....



The KTS Big Book Hunt Challenge was a great success on World Book Day... all 65 books hidden around school were found. From the moment the Challenge was read out by Form Tutors, students were "on the case"! Well done to the finders and a big thank you to those who generously shared their finds with others.

David's Bookshop Book Fair on Wednesday - More than £250 of books were sold.

Thank you to parents, pupils and staff who supported us. Update to follow next week 😊

Overdue Library Book Amnesty

The Amnesty has been extended to Monday 16th – overdue reminders will go out from Tuesday 17th March via Tutor Groups.

Medical Matters - It's that time of year!

Hay fever season is starting. If your child suffers from this then do please give them the medication that they need before school. If your child only has medication when needed and you would like for your child to have access to some during the school day, then you can provide me with a supply and I can store it for them. I will need a completed [Med 1 form](#) which can be obtained from Reception or the school web site.

Sickness and diarrhoea

There have been several pupils needing to be at home due to this. If your child does suffer the symptoms, then please do not return them to school until 48 hours has passed from the last time they had either sickness or diarrhoea. If they return to school too soon, they are likely to pass it on to others.

Year 10 Parents.....

Amber Health will be coming into school next Tuesday (17th) and Wednesday (18th) for the screening of pupils who had requested it. If you and your child have requested the screening, then your child needs to check what time they should be seen with their Form Tutor or Mrs Mance.



Year 8 Netball Tournament

Year 8 Netball squad attended the District tournament on Tuesday, winning several games in their pool with a large margin of points but unfortunately lost two putting them third in their pool. They competed against Barclay in the plate semi Final and after full time remained at 2 all. The girls played a hearty game in extra time with neither team able to score. With darkness creeping in, they had to go to a nerve tingling shoot out and unfortunately had to settle for 5th Place as Barclay moved into the final. Player of the tournament was Maisey Sullivan who demonstrated determination and courage throughout the tournament making the most improvement within the team.

Visiting GCSElive – 30 January 2015

Year 11 students attended a most amazing day at the Dominion Theatre in London. We were privileged to see and hear five brilliant scientists, who we normally only see on the TV. They were all really interesting to listen to and all incredibly enthusiastic about their work. It was all very inspiring.

Professor Lord Robert Winston told us about his work in human fertility, mostly IVF, and showed us some incredible videos about how to recognise the healthy sperm and how the egg moves along the fallopian tubes.

Professor Jim Al-Khalili's talk was about the possibility of time travel. He talked about how theories had led scientists to put together the Big Bang theory. Moving clocks tick slowly and space-time can be warped by very strong gravitational fields. However, he still wasn't convinced by the film Gravity!

Professor Steve Jones talked to us about how the gene-environment interaction cannot be split. We are products of both. We learned an amazing fact about Siamese Cats and their characteristic black nose, ears and tail – it is dependent on genes and temperature! The cat's black patches are because they are cold areas so if you put a Siamese cat in the cold ... it turns black.

Professor Andrea Sella started his talk about striped vegetables and how you can't have a conversation without it linking to Chemistry within a couple of sentences. He used analogies between striped vegetables, oscillating reactions (using a bobbing child's toy moving down a ramp) and predator/prey relationships to explain how the zebra got its stripes – incredible, chemistry reactions explained some biology.

Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock is the most amazing lady. Her talk was so entertaining. She had us smiling all the way through her talk; she is so energetic and really loves astronomy. She gave us a 'tour of the Universe' and told us how she would like to emigrate to Mars. She is crazy, but so wonderful.

We had a thoroughly enjoyable day.
Students from 11XT.

Sixth Form News



The KTS Big Quiz

'The big quiz' returns; the ever popular sixth form quiz has been scheduled for Thursday 26th March and promises to be a fantastic social event. Last term's quiz was a tremendous success in raising money for the sixth form, as well as giving our year 12 and 13 students the opportunity to relax and have a bit of fun at a student run event. Tickets cost £4 and are available to purchase outside of the common room during lunch times and from the study rooms at break times. Ticket sales have started brilliantly so don't miss out!

This week's KTS Graduate Profile- Leah Melabianaki.

When selecting her A-Level subjects, Leah was uncertain about the career path she wanted to follow and therefore decided to select a range of subjects that she found interesting. While completing her A-Levels in Sociology (A), Religious Studies (B) and Psychology (C), Leah continued to research potential career and higher education options and eventually accepted a place at The University of Hertfordshire to study Radiotherapy and Oncology, achieving a First Class BSc Honours Degree. Leah has progressed very quickly within her chosen profession and is now a senior member of staff at Cambridge University Hospital. The KTS graduate attributes a lot of her success to the opportunities available to her in the sixth form; *'During my time in the sixth form, I was part of the sixth form council and was elected to be Deputy Head Girl. I believe that these opportunities, coupled with a strong support network provided me with the invaluable skills needed to succeed.'*



KTS representation in national tennis tournament

Congratulations to Julian Farthing (yr13) who recently represented Hertfordshire in a national tennis tournament held in Bath at the end of February. The sixth form tennis ace won two of his three singles matches as the standout performer for the Hertfordshire County team. Congratulations also to Sam Tomlinson (yr12) who was selected for this tournament but was thwarted by injury at the last minute, preventing him from competing.

Higher education opportunities at UCL this summer

We have recently received information from UCL regarding a range of activities for Year 12 students, including summer schools, taster days and the Summer Challenge. The events have been designed to give students a real glimpse into university life and the subjects that are on offer. From learning about the latest technology used by doctors to combat obesity on the Applied Medical Sciences Summer School, to finding out about medieval warriors in Norway in the Scandinavian Studies Summer Challenge, there is something to suit everyone's academic interest. These activities are all free to attend, although do please check the eligibility criteria before applying. More details can be found via the links shown below:

www.ucl.ac.uk/wp/post16/summerschools

www.ucl.ac.uk/summerchallenge

Student finance presentation

Thank you to all of the parents who attended last night's student finance presentation. As promised, the presentation from last night is now available to view via the link shown below:

http://www.knightstemplarsch.org.uk/docs/Sixth_Form/HE_Finance_presentation_2015.pdf



Basketball Success

After missing out by one point on qualification for the County Cup semi-finals, the Senior basketball team were keen to get their hands on some silverware when they took on John Henry Newman School in the North Herts District Final on Monday night.

KTS raced to an early lead and stretched the gap to 17 points by half time thanks to some well organised team basketball. The third quarter however saw an uncharacteristically flat KTS display, together with some spirited play by JHN, who managed to close the gap to a single point by the start of the 4th quarter. Composed play by Nick Allin, with some crucial scores by George Acquah & others rebuilt the lead and the Seniors were able to close out the game to become the North Herts District Champions!

Final Score KTS 57 JHN 47

Unfortunately the end of the competitive season means the end of basketball careers at KTS for several Year 13 players including captain Nick Allin. Nick has been a truly outstanding school performer and has played a key role in supporting school basketball through his often breathtakingly high standard of play and as a role model to the younger players on the team. Two district titles within 3 years and a highly successful foray into the County competition this year stand as testament to his contribution to the development of school basketball.

The coaches would like to thank him and our other regular Yr13 players Korede Odumade and Connor Hills for their efforts this season and over the course of their school basketball careers.

Regular Senior squad training continues with Mr White & Mr Chantrell on Wednesday lunchtimes and is now open to Year 9 & 10 players. New (or returning!) players that can supplement the squad ahead of potential County & District campaigns next season are always welcome.



Reported by Ibukunoluwa Odumade