

The Knights Templar School

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

Dear Parent or Carer

I was delighted to attend the Interact AGM yesterday afternoon. Interact is the student branch of the Rotary Club (Baldock) and is run by students of the school. The students organise events for the community of Baldock. It was a pleasure to hear a summary of their achievements this year. The President of Interact will publish a brief report for next week's bulletin. Many thanks to Keith Britter from The Baldock Rotary Club for his support and encouragement of our students. This is yet another opportunity for student leadership in our school.

We will be featuring students and teams in our 'Student Honours Board' next week, but I would like to draw your attention to one of our students who is performing on the Radio on Friday evening. Ben Goldscheider is playing the French Horn in the finals of the BBC Radio 2 Young Brass Award 2015 and you can hear him play live on Friday 27th March. Ben will be playing music of his own choice and will be accompanied by the world famous Grimethorpe Colliery Band. Good luck to Ben. The link to the information is

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/2yLjdgZ0KFPhQ9jCKnPfwTm/young-brass-award-2015>

I would like to highlight two events that the school is supporting and are coming soon. The first is a joint concert to be held here in the school on Friday 24th April, starting at 19:00. The concert features our KTS student led ensemble, 'Counterpoint Chamber Choir' and the Welwyn Garden City Brass Band. This will be a fabulous evening of high quality music making. Tickets are priced at £8 and are available through the school reception or from the music office. The second is the local election hustings event, which is a Public Meeting and where you can meet your local candidates. This takes place on Friday 10th April 2015 at 8pm at St Mary's Church Hall. All are welcome.

I would like to thank all parents who attended the Year 10 Parents' Evening last night. With over 90% attendance, the focus of the evening was to discuss academic progress. I was delighted to see so many of our students attending and being part of that very important discussion. I would like to ask that students always attend these evenings in the future.

Many thanks,
Regards,

Tim Litchfield
Headteacher

Dates for your diary:

27/03/2015	Friday	Yr 13 Final Report Yr 7-10 Girls Rugby Festival, Hertford Rugby Club, 11.20am-5pm Yr 11 GCSE PE Moderation (including some Yr 10 & 12 students), all day
28/03/2015	Saturday	Bronze DofE Practice Expedition 2

29/03/2015	Sunday	Bronze DofE Practice Expedition 2
30/03/2015	Monday	Yr 12 AS Geography Norfolk Field Trip, 7am-5pm GCSE Geography Controlled Assessment High Level session 1, 3.30pm-6.30pm
31/03/2015	Tuesday	Yr 11 Art/Art Graphics GCSE Exam - all day
01/04/2015	Wednesday	Yr 11 Art/Art Graphics GCSE Exam - all day GCSE Geography Controlled Assessments High Level (session 2), 3.30pm-6.30pm Yr 12 & 13 Theatre Studies Practical Exam, 7pm - Drama Studio
02/04/2015	Thursday	Last Day of Spring Term
03/04/2015	Friday	Ski Trip to France
11/04/2015	Friday	Ski Trip to France Returns
17/04/2015	Friday	Gold DofE Practice Expedition, Brecon Beacons
12/04/2015	Sunday	Yr 10-11 Madrid Trip
18/04/2015	Saturday	Yr 10-11 Madrid Trip returns
20/4//2015	Monday	Summer term begins – NB: No INSET day this week!

Year 9 Parents' Evening – 23rd April 2015

Please be aware that the Year 9 Parents' Evening Online Booking system will open for bookings on Monday 30th March at 8am. Access to the booking system is available through the school website under the "Parents Tab". All Year 9 students will be given a letter regarding the procedure of booking appointments tomorrow but if you have any difficulty accessing the website then please don't hesitate in contacting the school. Access the [Parents Evening Booking System here](#)

Lateness to School

Please remind students that they should be in school in good time for registration at 8.35 each morning. We would recommend that students arrive in form rooms by 8.30am. If there is a reason for lateness on a particular day, parents/carers should please provide a note and we do understand if late arrival is due to a problem with school buses.

We will be running registration checks starting next week and detentions will be given to pupils who arrive late.

PA 200 Club

The PA 200 Club draw was today. This month's winners are: Peter Hawkesford (£20.00); Paul Clayton (£10.00) and Cherie Daniel (£5.00). Are you a member of the PA 200 Club? It's a school based lottery which pays out 3 cash prizes per month for the princely sum of £12.00 per year (paid by standing order). Join [here](#) and return the form to finance in an envelope addressed to: PA 200 Club.



A level Theatre Studies Practical Exam

The Drama Department's practical exam season continues next Wednesday in an exciting evening of theatre. Forget what you know about *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as Y12 students present more of a nightmare than dream. As an interlude, the BTEC Performing Arts company will present *A Talk in the Park* by Alan Ayckbourn. The evening will finish with the Y13 devised piece, *Revolt*, a creative adaptation of Roald Dahl's *The Revolting Rhymes*. Be warned, this story will strike fear into your hearts as they delve deep into the dark world of human insanity. Seriously not for young children!

Small print: this is an official exam. Reserve a seat by emailing DramaBoxOffice@ktemplar.herts.sch.uk - limited space! Arrive at DSA by 6.50pm. Mobile phones must be off during performances. Performance includes audience interaction and movement. Refreshments will be served.

2016 Ski Trip

There are just a few places for next year's ski trip. Please contact [Mr Clayton](#) if you are interested in a place and would like further details.

Peter Pan at Watford Palace Theatre

We wish Harry Pearce (Y10) all the best as he uses his comic performance skills to help bring to life the world of *Peter Pan* at the Watford Palace Theatre. Following in the footsteps of many past and present Knights Templar students, Harry will be making his debut as part of the Hertfordshire County Youth Theatre. JM Barrie's story has been adapted for the stage by Mike Kenny and will be performed on Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th April, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. What a great way to start the Easter holiday! Tickets are £8 (adults) and £5 (under 25 yrs). Box Office: 01923 225671 or watfordpalacetheatre.co.uk

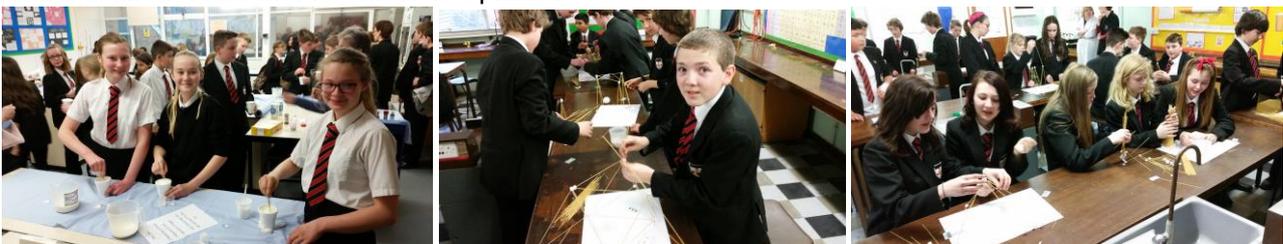


Science Week Celebrated at KTS

The Science department at KTS celebrated British Science week with many activities for both Students and Staff. We ran lunchtime activities for students including making ice cream with dry ice, bicarb bombs, fire writing, gunpowder and a look inside the body which gave students an insight into our organs and how they work. In total we had a minimum of 373 students attending these sessions.

On Wednesday in conjunction with the schools celebration of the schools 75th Birthday Science staff dressed up and taught lessons styled on technology and the science curriculum of 1939. We also ran activities for staff after school to allow them to relive memories of their own school science lessons. Thursday saw a very enthusiastic group of year 6 pupils from Hartsfield come into school and make glue from milk and fluorescent bouncy balls. We are looking forward to St Johns joining us on one day this week. Many students entered our poster competition to design an Invention and we will be choosing the prize winners shortly.

We also look forward this week to welcoming in Space expert Jerry Stone to talk to a group of our Older students about Pluto and its status as a planet.



Music News

- The exam season has well and truly started in the Music Department with the Year 11 GCSE Music students taking their performance exam on Monday and Tuesday of this week. Well done to all students.
- Music students have also been out and about this week. The 6th form enrichment hour music group performed to a packed hall at St. John's RC Primary school yesterday. The students performed a mixed programme which was enjoyed by all. Well done 6th formers for organising this event which was run extremely professionally.
- We currently have places available for singing, violin and electric guitar instrumental lessons. Please contact the Music Department if you would like further details or an application form.
- Good luck to Ben Goldscheider who is performing in Radio 2's Brass Player of the Year competition tomorrow night.

ABRSM Grade 5 Theory Tuition

The music department is looking into the possibility of providing a Grade 5 Theory Class as part of the school's instrumental teaching offering. In the first instance, we need to establish whether there would be sufficient interest in such a course.

Our aim would be to run a 45 minute theory class after school in blocks of 10 lessons. Each block of 10 lessons would cost £50.00, plus the exam entry fee which is currently £32.00. The Grade 5 Theory exams are held 3 times per year in November, March and June.

If you would like to register your interest in Grade 5 Theory tuition, please email our Music Secretary, Sarah Fraser, on sfraser@ktemplar.herts.sch.uk.

Year 11 Revision

A timetable of revision sessions planned for the Easter holiday period has been compiled and will be updated as any changes arise. Please check the Year 11 area of our website [here](#) to see the timetable. Any other revision news will be posted as it becomes available.

Year 8 District Hockey Tournament.

We took an A and a B team to the tournament at Letchworth Hockey Club yesterday. The girls did incredibly well finishing 3rd in their tournaments. They were both so close to finishing second only 1 goal difference separated 2nd and 3rd in both tournaments. Excellent performances from Niamh Wase and Maisie Sullivan. Well done to all!

LIBRARY - Easter Crafts

With Easter fast approaching, pupils are invited to visit the library and join in with our Easter activities, which will include making their own Easter Cards, colour activity sheets and try a variety of crafts.

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Runners-up medals for year 8 boys' football

Despite a gritty performance from the year 8 boys' football team, they were unable to clinch the district football title after losing 5-3 to a very strong John Henry Newman team. Fantastic goals from Ollie Leach (2) and Dominic Chambers weren't quite enough to overcome the Stevenage school but the boys should be incredibly proud of their immense efforts.

Three Peaks (of Yorkshire) Challenge:

A couple of weeks ago, 28 of our students took part in what has become a regular fixture in the KTS calendar, the Three Peaks of Yorkshire Challenge. Three mountains each over 2000 feet (Ingleborough, Whernside and Pen-y-Ghent) linked by 24 miles of remote mountain landscape is for anyone a tough challenge to complete within 12 hours, but two of our Year 10 students did just that. Getting up at just after 4.00am and then walking by 6.00am, the two groups completed the route, one in an anticlockwise direction and the other, a clockwise walk. The weather was good, but very windy and cold on the tops. This did not hamper one group or Year 10s in particular who completed the stroll with virtually no break to speak of in 5 minutes under 10 hours which is a record for the school – a fantastic achievement. A group of sixth-formers who are going on the expedition to the Atlas Mountains of Morocco this coming July, completed a similar version, climbing the summits of Ingleborough, Whernside and Gragareth, again in a good time and in the process got to know one another better (essential as we will be living in each other's pockets for 15 days in Africa) in addition, proving their fitness. Finishing off with a well-deserved visit to the [local curry house in Settle](#) where yet again a group from KTS disproved the common myth that all teenagers and school kids are noisy, impolite and ill disciplined, getting some fantastic comments from the staff and a couple of the others eating there alongside us (if you follow the link, we are not from Shropshire!). A fantastic weekend, a real challenge, met superbly by all who went. A massive thanks must go out to our

wonderful DofE Expedition Team who made the event possible. Many thanks also to the parents who took the time to write in thanking our Team for their efforts – we always really appreciate this!



The record breaking group on Pen-y-Ghent (left) and Whernside (right)

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award:

Yr9 Bronze:

By the time you read this, the final Practice Expedition will be a day away and the time has come for all our participants to select their Assessment Expedition. There are four of these during the summer term and as we are still over-subscribed by four people, we will have every seat on each of the trips taken up. This means some participants will have to adapt and maybe not go on their first choice trip. These wonderful expeditions visit three different national parks in northern England providing a variety of scenery and camping experiences with the first two in the Lake District involving the purest form of back-packing; wild camps by a remote lake. Parents and pupils can access the letter and the on-line form to claim their place on the trip of their choice by going to the [school's DofE website](#).

Yr10 Bronze and Yr11 Silver:

We are still needing many participants to complete their Record Books and get them to the school to allow them to obtain their Awards. Time is very quickly running out and I would hate to prevent anyone who has worked extremely hard and whose parents have paid a lot of money, from getting their badge and certificate. However, completion was due last January and here we are at the end of March . . . ! The current status of every participant can be seen on the [school's DofE Website](#).

Yr10 Silver:

Next week, we are launching the next level of the Award to our participants who have completed their Bronze Award in Yr10. Watch out for the announcements on Twitter and the Daily Bulletin and browsing the website will also help to keep you informed!

Yr12 Gold:

Good luck to all of the Yr12 Goldies who are preparing for the Practice Expedition to the Brecon Beacons in South Wales at the end of the Easter holidays.

Sixth Form News

Head Boy and Girl selections

Congratulations to Barney Taylor and Lucy Merrell who have been appointed to their respective Head Boy and Head Girl roles. All of the candidates performed extremely well in their written letters, speeches and interviews but Barney and Lucy performed exceedingly well to beat the competition in achieving these coveted roles. The selection process for Senior Prefects is now underway and once again, we expect the field of candidates to be particularly strong.

Senior football final tomorrow

Tomorrow, the senior boys' football team aim to make it 3 district titles in a row as they match-up with John Henry Newman School in the North Herts Cup Final. The game will be played at Fearnhill School, kicking off at 4pm- any and all supporters are welcome!

Follow the sixth form on Twitter

Keep up to date with sixth form events and news by following the Head Girl and Head Boy Twitter account [@HGHBKTS](https://twitter.com/HGHBKTS). This account is regularly updated to provide you with all the information you need to know about our thriving sixth form community.



KTS Graduate Profile- Emma Hart

KTS graduate Emma Hart provided us with an extract describing her own views on the KTS Sixth Form. Emma achieved 'straight A grades' in Maths, Textiles, IT and Art & Design but she found that sixth form life offered much more than just academic support.

'I believe that sixth form is the crucial bridge that brings a school together because sixth form students are older and mature enough to understand the teachers but young enough to help the lower years, using their own previous experiences. I was a mentor in year 12 which encouraged me to help younger students develop their skills. This helped to develop my own self- esteem and provide the confidence needed to work through my A Levels. Mentoring also gave me a great sense of achievement because I saw my mentee (a year 7 boy) improve over the year as a result of the help I gave him. In year 13, I was a prefect which allowed me to develop a range of skills. However, even if you're not a prefect or mentor, it doesn't matter because Knights Templar has something for everyone. For example, I was also the chair of the Dinner Dance Committee- we organised acrylic awards, lovely food, fabulous place settings and a photographer. The evening was a success because our team worked so well together! I will always remember the Knights Templar Sixth Form in that way- a happy family where everyone contributes. We all got along!'

A Level Dance Showcase

On Tuesday 31st March at 4pm in the dance studio, our immensely talented A Level dance students will be presenting their 'Dance Showcase' as a dress rehearsal for their externally moderated practical exam. This event promises to be a shining example of our student's creative flair and athletic talent and is an event not to be missed- we would like to invite family and friends of the students involved to attend this event.

