

# The Knights Templar School

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## PARENTAL WEEKLY UPDATE –31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 (available on our website)

Dear Parents and Carers

It was a privilege to attend the Dance showcase last Thursday evening and to see a wide range of talented dancers. The technology exhibition last night was simply amazing! It was a timely reminder that we really are in the final stages of the coursework and moderation work for examination students and I commend all our students for juggling so much at the moment.

When we return after the two week Spring Break we have six weeks before the May bank holiday half term week and four weeks before the year 11 and 12 student groups step onto their public exam schedule. These few weeks are crucial for everyone. Once again, can I remind you of the importance of attendance and punctuality please!

All of our exam students should be well into their revision programme and must make the absolute best use of the two week break. There are lots of helpful hints regarding revision for both students and parents on the [school website](#).

You will be aware that we have introduced work experience back into year 10. Nearly 50% of the students have found private placements and we are working with the other students to find suitable placements. Please can parents of year 10 meet the published deadlines for work experience. Mrs Sidey has a huge task trying to organise 210 students and ensure all the appropriate checks are in place. We are in the process of publishing our Careers, Information, Advice and Guidance programme, which I believe equips the students to be ready for life after KTS!

May I congratulate all our students on a very successful Spring term. There is so much happening at KTS that we are not always able to capture in our weekly bulletin, but our student achievements really are outstanding.

I wish you all a very happy Spring Break and look forward to the Summer Term with great excitement. We return to school on Monday 18th April on a week B timetable.

Kind Regards,

**Tim Litchfield**  
Headteacher

### Dates for your diary:

Friday	1.4.16	Yr 11 Dance Exam Part 2 <b>Last day of term, finishing at normal school time – 3.20pm</b>
Saturday	2.4.16	Ski Trip to Lake Tahoe and San Fransisco (returns the 10 <sup>th</sup> April)
Monday	18.4.16	<b>Return to School for Summer Term – normal time (Week B)</b>



### **Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers**

The voucher collection is coming along nicely, but there is still plenty of room left in our collection box. All the vouchers we collect between now and May will be used to buy Sports and Cooking equipment for the school. So please keep sending in as many vouchers as you can gather together and drop them in the collection box at Main Reception. Thank you.

### **Sport at KTS- the success story so far**

We have always been very successful in terms of our extra-curricular sport but this year has proven to be particularly impressive with numerous district title wins and even a county final appearance! Please see the table below for an overview of our sporting success so far!

Year 8 Girls' Hockey District Tournament Champions (2nd year running)  
Year 8 Girls' Hockey District League Champions (2nd year running)  
Year 8 Girls Hockey County Finalists  
Year 7 Boys' Rugby District League Champions  
Year 7 Boys' Rugby County Tournament Finalists  
Year 8 Boys' Rugby District League Champions  
Year 8 Boys' Rugby County Tournament Finalists  
Year 10 Boys' Rugby District League Champions  
Year 10 Boys' Rugby County Cup Semi-Finalists  
Senior Boys' Rugby District League Champions  
Year 7 Boys' 5 a-side Football District Champions  
Senior Boys' 5 a-side Football District Champions  
Senior Boys' Football District League Champions  
Year 7/8 Girls' Rugby 3rd Place in County Shield  
Year 9/10 Girls' Rugby 3rd Place in County Shield  
Senior Boys' Basketball District League Runners-Up  
Year 7 Boys' Football 3rd Place in District League  
Year 9 Boys' Football 3rd Place in District League  
Year 7 Girls' Football 2nd Place in District Tournament  
Year 7 Girls' Hockey 3rd Place in District Tournament  
Year 9/10 Girls' Football 2nd in District Tournament  
Year 9 Boys' 5 a-side Football 3rd Place in District Tournament  
Year 7 Boys' Basketball 2nd Place in District League (2)  
Girls' Cricket 4th Place in County Tournament

With the summer term approaching, the PE department and pupils are looking forward to even more success in Athletics, Cricket, Rounders and Tennis!

### **Year 7 Parents' Evening Online Booking System**

The online booking system for this parents' evening is now open for bookings. Letters went home with students on Wednesday and an "In Touch" message was also sent out. The date of the Parents' Evening is Tuesday 26th April, 4 -7.30pm.

If you don't have access to use the online booking system then please let me know so that your appointments can be booked through the school.

Mrs K Curtis  
Year 7 Leader

### **Summer Examination Timetable**

Please note that the Summer Examination Timetable is now available to view on the [school website](#). Printed copies will be sent to all students sitting public exams after Easter.

### **News from the Music Department:**

Congratulations to Laura Gregory for passing her Grade 8 Piano exam with distinction, and to James Cook for reaching the Finals of the Peter Lambourne Music Bursary Competition.

The students at Sandon Primary School were entertained by our 6th Form Music Enrichment Group last week, who visited the school to perform a short concert.

A reminder that rehearsals for this summer's Music Tour are now underway, and that all students who are going on Tour must attend. Please note that the Music Tour Choir has a revised rehearsal time of 3.40 – 5.00 pm on Mondays. Please also note that full payment for this trip must be received by 1st May 2016.

This year's instrumental lesson consultation evening takes place on Tuesday 26th April. As outlined in the letter given to all students, appointments need to be made directly with the instrumental teacher, and cannot be made online. If you have any queries, please contact the Music Office.

### **LIBRARY NEWS**

**North Herts Book and Author Event 2016** – 17 pupils from Years 7, 10 and 13 represented the school at this year's event held at the Girls School in Hitchin which involved the majority of secondary schools in North Hertfordshire, including the Independent schools. [See Georgia Piggott's report in the 6th form section of Parental Bulletin. Georgia, a Year 13 student, has been undertaking her Duke of Edinburgh Gold Skills Award (Reading and Literacy) in the Library at Knights Templar]

All KTS pupils were a credit to our school and we thank them all for their enthusiasm and commitment. Participants were challenged to read book titles outside of their preferred genres and all benefitted greatly from this enriching experience. All the shortlisted titles are available in the school library and can be found using our online catalogue, Autolib, using the search term "North Herts Book Event 2016".



Our next reading initiative is the nationally acclaimed CILIP Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Award 2016 which will begin early in the Summer term. The CILIP Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Medals are the UK's oldest and most prestigious young people's book awards. Often described by authors and illustrators as 'the one they want to win', they are the gold standard in children's literature.

Students from every year group are invited to take part and will have the chance to review some of the 16 shortlisted titles – 8 Carnegie and 8 Kate Greenaway titles. Information will be available from the Librarians at the start of the Summer term. In the meantime, if you would like to know more, including the shortlisted titles, here's the link to the Carnegie/Kate Greenaway website :

<http://www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/>

We wish our pupils and their families a very happy holiday.  
Mrs Evans, Miss Rogers, Mrs Martin and Mrs Boddy

### Science term award

To recognise achievement in Science lessons in Years 7-10, an award is given on the basis of work in Science, reflected in report grades for classwork, homework and behaviour, achievement points earned in lessons and performance against school targets in tests and exams

Year 7 prize winner:

Laura Truett

Year 7 runners up:

Parmis Baljtoaro-Nejad

Jessica Smith

Year 8 prize winner:

Robbie Clarke

Year 8 runners up:

Szonja Kenderesi

Harrison Kemp

Year 9 prize winner:

Katie Hanrahan

Year 9 runners up:

Emma Shoobert

Amreen Sidhu

Year 10 prize winner:

Harvey Major

Year 10 runners up:

Ajanae Samuel

Enfys Neale

Whole School award:

Ethan Consul

Congratulations to all prize winners and runners up on an excellent effort in Science lessons during the Spring term. Full listings are available for the top 50 students in each year group outside S9.

Mr Chantrell

### Governor Profile:

- Graham Kingsley
- Chair of Governors

I have lived at Radwell, near Baldock, for over 30 years, and both my children – now grown up – went to school locally (at Ashwell Primary, and then KTS). I moved here from London when I became Head Teacher at The Meridian School in Royston; I have been in teaching all my working life, initially as a chemistry teacher.



My first involvement as a school governor was at Ashwell, where I was elected as a parent governor soon after I retired. Later I was co-opted as a Governor at KTS, eventually being elected Chair of Governors. It's an interesting post, and I have had the privilege of being involved in the appointment of both Mr Litchfield and his predecessor, Mr Pickering. Over the years the importance and responsibilities of governors have increased. The work is rewarding, and in a high-achieving school like KTS there is a lot to enjoy, as well as duties to worry about.

My wife is a professional cellist, teaching and playing concerts (including lending a hand occasionally at KTS concerts). We enjoy travel abroad, and in the UK we go canal-boating quite often.

### **Governor Profile:**

- Mrs Chris Gough
- Green Governor

Having been a Teacher Governor during my career, since retirement I have become a Community Governor at KTS. I sit on the Premises Health and Safety sub committee and have the nominal role of Green Governor. Through this, I work with the pupil and teacher group called the Environmental Sustainability Team. We meet each week on a Tuesday lunch time and have a speaker, either externally or from within the group, on an environmental topic.



The team also works hard on raising sustainability awareness and organising and collecting the recycling of paper, cardboard, cans and plastic, waste food and batteries on the school site. We have new initiatives to collect used mobile phones and printer cartridges. One of our year 12 students oversees a lot of this work, with progression management in place as some of the younger pupils take on more responsibility. Of course one of the well known successes of the team is the keeping of chickens and selling eggs to the staff, ably managed by one of our year 11 students.

There is also a Senior EST of staff and some pupils, which meet with me twice a term to look at more strategic sustainability planning. I also endeavour to keep a critical eye on our utility usage, with the aim to make it as sustainable as possible and thus also saving money for the school, hence, the large PV scheme for electricity generation that we have had installed.

Last year the school was awarded the Ecoschools Green flag, thanks to the hard work of the pupils and staff.

If there are any parents or friends of the school who would like to help practically or come and speak to the group about some environmental topic, then we would be most pleased to hear from you.

Governors can be contacted via [admin@ktemplar.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ktemplar.herts.sch.uk).

More information about KTS' Governing Body and its Committees can be found at <http://www.ktemplar.herts.sch.uk/About-Us/Governors/>.



### **Former KTS student returns to deliver inspirational assembly**

On Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March, former KTS student Sarah Horscroft revisited the school to talk to students about the International Citizen Service...as well as selling a few treats!

The 23 year old worker and volunteer spoke to sixth formers about her time at KTS and her role at her organisation. She also raised money for charity, by selling delicious cakes in the sixth form corridor and discussing the scheme further with students.

Sarah works for the International Citizen Service (ICS), an overseas volunteering programme for 18-25 year olds, funded by the UK Government's Department for International Development. It gives people the chance to work side-by-side with local volunteers in over 20 developing countries, making a meaningful contribution to fighting poverty and gaining valuable skills along the way.



Sarah left the school in 2010, completing her A-Levels and receiving an 'A\*' in English Literature and 'A' grades in History and Media Studies. She was then accepted to study History at the University of York. Not knowing what to do after University, Sarah took a gap year and explored the outdoors which she said she had a "deep appreciation" for. As well as taking part previously in the school's D of E programme, Sarah has climbed Mount Kilimanjaro; backpacked across South-East Asia and lived with a non-governmental organization in Bolivia for 3 months, leading to her new career at ICS.

Sarah feels that being at Knights Templar has really given her the skills to achieve.

"I really feel that my time at KTS equipped me with the knowledge, skills and experience I needed to allow me to pave my way in life and take on new challenges."

Thank you to Sarah for coming in and speaking to our year 12 students. For more information on the scheme that Sarah works for, visit <http://www.volunteerics.org/>

*Written by Bill Bowkett (year 12)*



### The Big Sixth Form Quiz!

Last Thursday, 'The Big Sixth Form Quiz' was once again a huge success with over 70 students in attendance!

English teacher and all-round genius Dr Hadley proved to be a very entertaining 'Quiz Master', although the staff team could have probably done with his expertise as they limped to a very disappointing joint-last place finish....the music round proved to be particularly problematic!

A good time was had by all and as ever, thank you very much to the students involved with the organisation of this event which raised an impressive £241.72!

### Sixth form scientists pass on their expertise

A couple of weeks ago, the Science department brought you details of all the weird and wonderful things that they had going on in their laboratories during lunch times and after school, to celebrate Science Week! In addition to the fantastic events and experiments provided by the staff, our very own sixth form students took a leading role in organising and delivering a range of opportunities for pupils in younger years.

Many of our sixth form scientists helped out with experiments and delivered lunch time lectures on topics in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.



We are hugely grateful to the following students who played such a pivotal and inspirational role throughout the week.

<b>Biology Lecture</b>	<b>Chemistry Lecture</b>	<b>Physics Lecture</b>	<b>Science Club</b>
Kate Bennett Charlie Langshaw Tanishia Gearing Beth Jones Lucy Merrell Adam Dixon	Alex Bowles Tom Luck	Lewis Lochhead Stuart Dougal Nathan Gilbert	Adam Dixon Joe Ready

### A Level Dance Showcase

Congratulations to the A Level dancers on a successful showcase and dance exam. Julia Deal, Ceara Murphy, Nia Barnes and Ami Buzza have put huge amounts of time, effort and rehearsal into their choreographed routines and executed them during the showcase with fantastic levels of skill, athleticism and emotion.

Thank you to Denver Tuck for giving up her free time to assist with this initiative- her support to the girls has been superb throughout!



The AS and A2 dancers have now completed 60% and 50% of their respective courses and we wish them luck in their theory exam.

### **BTEC Drama Showcase wows the crowd**

Our BTEC Drama students; *Helen Harrison, Georgina Onslow, Nathan Allen and Dan Barnicott (all year 12)* put on 2 wonderful performances this week as part of their Drama showcase.

The students entertained the crowd with a promenade performance which required the actors to create a different world for the audience to explore. In this case, our talented students created a devised piece using scenes and characters from popular films such as; *Indiana Jones, Pirates of the Caribbean, Harry Potter and Star Wars!*

In the final scene, the main characters from each of these well-known films collide as our students creatively merged the different worlds that had been explored throughout the performance for the grand finale!

Congratulations to the BTEC Drama class on all their hard work and for an exceptional week of performances!