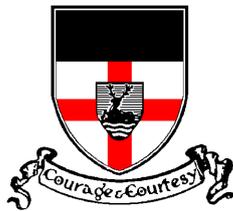


The Knights Templar School

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PARENTAL WEEKLY UPDATE – 6th November 2014 (also available on our website)

Dear Parents and Carers

As I reflect on the last half term, I am very proud of our achievements. There are too many things to mention individually, but I am very impressed with the positive attitudes of our students to their studies and to their involvement in the life of the school. There is a very wide range of enrichment activities available in the school and I have challenged all students to be involved in at least one activity per week. I am delighted to say that most of our students are involved in more than one activity per week!

As the nights are now drawing in, may I please remind parents that we have the library and other spaces where students can go to complete homework, read or do research. These facilities are staffed. As well as those listed below, most departments are running revision sessions as well.

Homework/afterschool work facilities

- Homework club – open to anyone – Pupil support room
Monday, Tuesday and Thursday - 3.20 – 4.20
Wed – 3.20 – 4.00
- Library – open to anyone
Mon – Thur - 3.20 – 4.20
- Year 11 homework club with Mrs Mole – K11 Mon and Weds 3.20 – 4.20
Would parents of Year 11 students please be aware of this one as the school is currently making a large number of referrals due to homework.

I would like to draw your attention to a slight change in the timings of the day on **Tuesday 11th November**. I will be bringing the whole school together for two minutes silence at 11.00 (weather permitting). We will therefore be starting period one at 8.40 and will mean we will miss only a few minutes of period three. I have asked students to consider wearing a poppy for this short service. Major Eales, from the Baldock Royal British Legion, has been speaking to the students in assemblies this week and has explained why the poppy is worn. Thank you for your support on this.

Look out for our school contribution to the Baldock Remembrance Sunday Service as shown in this picture. This has been made by Mrs Welch, Mr Micele and a group of students and I think you will agree with me that it is rather beautiful.



We have a number of **vacancies for parent – governors** at the moment. The closing date for this vacancy is today. As you are aware, the role of parent-governor is critical in terms of working with the school on its strategic direction. A ballot paper will be sent out the week beginning the 10th November by both hard copy (student post) and by parent mail. I would really appreciate all parents reading the profile of the candidates and to return your ballot papers by the closing date.

Finally, may I remind parents of year 11 students, that we have our 6th form Open Evening on Thursday 20th November. There will be two talks in the hall (20 mins each) at 7.05 and 8.00 and there will be opportunities to tour the departments, speak to students currently taking the courses and of course speak to staff. Mr Burrows (Deputy Headteacher) will also be making short presentations on the (National) changes to post 16 education – this will take place in the 6th form block. I look forward to welcoming all Year 11 students and parents on this evening. We will also welcome Year 11 students from other schools, who may be considering The Knights Templar School 6th form as their preferred option. The evening will close at 9.00pm.

Many thanks for your continued support

Regards,
Tim Litchfield
Headteacher

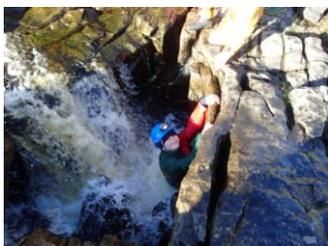
3rd May 1940

I have arranged that the whole school shall listen to the broadcasts "If you were French" given at 2.20 on Friday afternoons.

The work of the school as a whole is going on very well. There has been a marked increase of interest in Mr. Miller's science lessons now that the boys are beginning to get some knowledge and this afternoon he had a request from a number of boys that the time devoted to science might be extended. I have arranged for this to be done.

Dates for your diary:

06/11/2014		Year 13 Parents' Evening, 5-7.30pm, School Hall
07/11/2014	Friday	GCSE Linear Maths (resits), 6th Form Common Room, AM Yr 12/13 Drama trip to 'Antigone' Yr 10 Drama Design Study Day
11/11/2014	Tuesday	Yr 11, 12 & 13 Senior District Netball Tournament, 2.20pm-6pm Governors' Meeting (P&P), 5.00pm-7.00pm Yr 12 Mock Trial Competition, 6.00pm-9.00pm
12/11/2014	Wednesday	Staff Adrenalin Pen Training in CS1 - 1.20pm-2.20pm Yr 7-10 Girls Rugby Festival, Hertford Rugby Club, 11.20am-5pm Yr 12 Enterprise Day, all day - VI Form Common Room & Hall Yr 10 Art/Art Graphics Trip to The London Gallery - all day
13/11/2014	Thursday	Yr 10-13 (GCSE/BTEC/A Level PE students) North Herts Badminton Leadership, 3.45pm-6pm, Sports Hall Yr 10-13 Drama Trip 'The Pearl' Theatre Trip - Baldock Town Hall
14/11/2014	Friday	Yr 12 Progress Review Gold DofE Launch for Yr 12 Bronze DofE Launch for Yr 9 (Hall or Drama Studio)



Year 8 Caving Trip:

Pupils in Year 8 came back this week from the annual Caving Trip to the Yorkshire Dales. It was a superb trip with a brilliant bunch of pupils who were not only a credit to themselves for pushing the bounds of courage not only in the cave, but in the pitch black of the limekilns, jumping into the freezing plunge pool of a waterfall called Janet's Foss and in climbing to the top of Pen-y-Ghent in a bitter wind at twilight, but also to the school by attracting so many positive comments from many a stranger who came across our group on their adventures. Wonderful stuff!!

Year 10 Bronze DofE:

All pupils in Year 10 who are nearing the end of their Bronze Awards will need to know that we are starting a series of lunchtime sessions starting on the 17th November where participants will get their books back and start to update their details onto their eDofE accounts. Full details are on the [calendar section](#) of the school's DofE website. If any pupil needs their books back earlier than this, then Mr. B. Glover (Cover Supervisor) will be available in the DofE Office from Monday at the start of lunchtimes to allow pupils to collect these. We are assuming that all participants will have either completed their Award activities by now, or are very close to doing so. Any problems, then you can email [Mr. J. Glover](#).

Year 9 Bronze DofE:

We are launching the Award to our Year 9 pupils on Friday 14th November and there will be a meeting for all parents of our new cohort on Wednesday 26th November at 7.30 in the School Hall. At this meeting, we will go over the requirements of the Award including the Expedition Section and will be giving you details of equipment and deals we have brokered with a local outdoor shop. Traditionally, interest is often higher than we have room for and both pupils and parents will need to 'be on the ball' to get their names down as enrolment will be offered on a 'first come – first served' basis!! Letters will go home next Friday but copies of these and other details will be available on the [school's DofE website](#).

EST work on Recycling

Many of you may not know that the school have a fantastic group of pupils from all years, linked to the Environmental and Sustainability Team. As part of the many activities they are involved in, they have taken responsibility for the management and action of the recycling of paper, cardboard, cans and plastic on the school site. They work hard to keep on top of the large amount of material a community of this size can generate and we are very grateful for their efforts. This system can only work effectively if everyone does their part. Sorting of waste at source has become a household task and this should be mirrored in school. Therefore, we are urging pupils and staff to do their bit by using the blue and red bins around the site for plastic and cans, the boxes in offices and classrooms for the paper and flattening any cardboard so that it can be quickly stored for collection. If we all work together on this we can help those that are doing a great job voluntarily.

Chris Gough

'Green' Governor

English advise GCSE students

We have published a '[GCSE Advice](#)' booklet for Year 11 pupils and their parents and carers, which offers general and subject-specific advice about the content of each exam and appropriate exam technique.

The aim of the booklet is to present clear information about precisely what questions will be faced in each exam. This will guide students in their revision and allow for more informed conversations at home about revision topics and exam preparation.

A copy of the booklet will be sent home with all Year 11 pupils. A digital version is also available on the '[Parents/How can I help my child?](#)' section of the school website.

Twitter

Are you following us on Twitter? It's an easy way to stay up to date with everything happening at school. Our twitter name is @kt_school

Friends of KTS

Being the parent of a teenager is hard work. Friends of Knights Templar School' is designed to give parents the opportunity to make regular donations to help the School continue to provide the best opportunities for its pupils. And the best thing is, it doesn't mean you have to commit your valuable time. Please consider becoming a Friend of The Knights Templar School. If we all commit to giving a small, regular amount, then together we can make a real difference. Please [download an expression of interest form](#).

Media

A reminder to all year 11, 12 and 13 Media students that payment for the for Media trips is needed ASAP. The deadline is next Friday for both trips and it is crucial that all students attend.

The year 12 and 13 trip is to the Media Magazine student conference at the Institute of Education in London. It is a day of guest speakers, including a music video maker, a film maker, the chief examiner speaking on how to get perfect coursework. The topics all relate to the exam course they are following. Cost is £25 and trip is on the 16th December.

The year 11 trip is to a TV News Study day at the BFI in London, preparing them for their exam topic. The day will feature a speaker going through the topic and production activities. This is a very useful day which will prepare students well for the demands of the exam. Cost £25 and it takes place on 22nd January.

Music

The KTS Advent Concert will be taking place at 7pm on Tuesday 18th November in the school hall. We will be performing a varied programme of classical and popular music with the Wind Band, Wind Quartet, Senior Brass Quintet, Senior Choir, Chamber Orchestra, Guitar Ensemble, Big Band, String Group, Brass Band and Chamber Choir all taking part. Entrance is free of charge, and we hope that many of you will come along to support our musicians.

Emergency Salbutamol Inhaler

The letters and permission forms for use of the School Emergency Inhaler are being sent out today, to all those parents or carers who have informed us that their child has a prescribed Salbutamol inhaler. If you do not receive one and would have expected to have one, please let Mrs Mance know. A copy of the letter and permission form are on the [medical page](#) of the school web site.

Art Department Reminder

There will be an Art/Art Graphics trip for Year 10 students, to Tate Britain, on Wednesday 12th November.

“The Knights Templar School presents... 75 Years”

As part of the ‘Celebrate 75’ events this year, current students from Knights Templar will be performing for one night only at the Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage, on Friday February 27th 2015. Many students have already started rehearsing for dance, gymnastics, choir and ensembles. The final auditions for acting will take place over the next couple of weeks. The evening promises to be a spectacular celebration of the traditions that make Knights Templar a great school and we hope you will join us.

Tickets are already available from the Gordon Craig Theatre: <http://www.gordon-craig.co.uk/whats-on/the-knights-templar-school-presents-75-years-coming-soon/>

Library News



Christmas is coming (eek!) and we are making preparations in the Library for our annual Library Activity Week which begins on Monday 17th November 2014 . We are inviting pupils from Years 7, 8 and 9 to sign up for the FREE lunchtime Christmas craft activity sessions. Numbers are limited and bookings will open next Wednesday (12th) at breaktime.

The Library team

Water Polo

Water Polo is not necessarily a sport that many of us would think to try so when we recently received a report from the Secretary of the Herts Water Polo Club, we thought it would be interesting to share it.

<http://www.ktemplar.herts.sch.uk/Learning/Play-Water-Polo/>

Year 8 Football Team Thrashes Greneway

The Year 8 Boys’ Football team continued their unbeaten run with a convincing 9-1 win over Royston based, Greneway School. The dominance of Cole Butler and Gus Long in midfield, combined with a Man of The Match performance from Curtis Brookes proved far too much for the Royston school as the KTS boys smashed in an incredible 7 goals in the 2nd half alone. Well done to all of the boys involved.

Netball

On Thursday 23rd October, 11 girls travelled to St Chris school to play netball against Highfield School and Hitchin Girls School.! We played Highfield School first which resulted in a 10-2 win for us with shooters Maya Clawson, Alicia Padget and Clara Wood all scoring well. Our second game against Hitchin Girls School proved more of a challenge and despite great effort from everyone the final score was 5-3 to Hitchin Girls School. After the two games we were exhausted but very proud. We can’t wait for our next match!

Millie Haywood

Twickenham Trip- Tickets Remain!

There are still a handful of tickets remaining for the school trip to Twickenham to watch England vs. Samoa in an international rugby fixture on Saturday 22nd November. Tickets are just £16 and details, as well as payment options, are available on WisePay. Book now!

Sixth Form News:

The Big Sixth Form Quiz

On Thursday 23rd October, approximately 60 students participated in the Big Sixth Form Quiz to raise money for the Sixth Form. The evening demonstrated a fantastic community feel among the sixth formers, as students mingled, chatted and had fun, all the while competing for the coveted prize of the Big Quiz coffee mugs! We would like to thank all of the students that were involved in the exceptional organisation of this event, as well as those who participated to raise money for the Sixth Form. A special thank you also to Mr Sills who dazzled the crowd with his own personal brand of comedy and entertainment as ‘quiz-master’!

More Musical Honours For 6th form student

In the most recent development in his flourishing music career, Sixth Form student Ben Goldscheider has been awarded the position of ‘Principal Horn’ in the National Youth Orchestra. We would like to congratulate Ben on yet another fantastic achievement and wish him luck on his upcoming music tour to Berlin.

Senior Football Team Unbeaten in Europe

At the start of the half term break, the Senior Boys’ Football team travelled by coach and ferry to Holland for a 4 day football tour. The squad demonstrated their high level of skill and physicality winning their matches against local Dutch clubs AVV America and Wittenhorst 4-1 and 13-1 respectively. In their free time, the boys made the most of their Center Parcs accommodation by enjoying the swimming pool and go kart facilities and even lost out to the staff duo of Mr Vallier and Mr Buck in the team Pool competition! On the final day of the tour, the boys were treated to a tour of The Phillips Stadium, home to European football giants PSV Eindhoven. They even got a chance to walk by the

side of the pitch and pose for photo opportunities in the team dug out, changing rooms and executive boxes. Congratulations to all of the boys involved and a particular thank you to the parents for their support of this trip.

Old Rivalry... Same result

Tuesday's Senior football match against Barnwell saw the Stevenage school suffer a defeat at the hands of KTS, in similar circumstances to last year's Senior District Final. Despite going a goal down in this year's fixture, the KTS boys battled well and absorbed a large amount of Barnwell pressure before playing great counter attacking football, resulting in a sublime Ash Wilkinson finish to equalise. Soon after, KTS took a 2-1 lead only to be pulled back to 2-2, after a well worked Barnwell move. However, Callum McKenzie emerged as the hero after he out-muscled his defender to wriggle free and bury his shot past the goal keeper for a 3-2 win.

Senior Netball Success

The Senior Girls' Netball team registered a win against local rivals Highfield on Monday night but lost their 2nd game of the tournament to Hitchin Girls' School. The girls' experience and excellent team play resulted in a confident win against the Letchworth School with Rosanna Moynihan selected as 'Player of the Match'. A special mention also to; Mila Vasey for an excellent performance against Hitchin Girls' School, to Helen Inman for an impressive debut at Wing Attack and to Janvi Bhalla for sweeping up anything and everything in the defensive 3rd. Well done girls!

KTS Student at the World Track Cycling Championships

Congratulations to Rebecca Maynard (Yr12) who is the only 'Young Volunteer' to be requested as a Results Assistant at the World Track Cycling Championships in London this December. Rebecca's skill and enthusiasm for this role has been recognised by track cycling's main organisation and she will be responsible for much of the logistical work surrounding the collating of all results. Rebecca will be able to rub shoulders with some of the finest cyclists in the world at this hugely prestigious event and we would like to congratulate her on achieving this honour.

Dinner Dance Tickets On Sale Next Week

Tickets go on sale next week for the annual Sixth Form Dinner Dance at the Spirella Ballroom, Letchworth! This event has always been a popular and successful affair and we anticipate this year to be the best so far! Don't miss out on getting your ticket next week at the cost of £35 or pay a £10 deposit to guarantee your place.