

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 – 10th September 2015 (also available on our website)

Dear Parents and Carers

I do hope that you have had a wonderful summer holiday and I am looking forward to the year ahead. After a very successful year last year and with some fantastic exam results in the summer exams, the school is certainly going from strength to strength. May I thank you for your support last year and in anticipation for the year ahead.

One of the great strengths of the school is our Duke of Edinburgh programme run by Mr John Glover MBE. We are very proud to be one of the country's top state schools in terms of the number of students who participate in the Gold scheme and are subsequently invited to the palace to receive their award. We are always looking for support and help on our expeditions (Bronze, Silver and Gold) and if you have experience in this area or are keen to act as a volunteer, please would you contact myself for further information.

Please may I remind all parents that the 'turning circle' (where the buses drop off and pick up), is not accessible until after 3.35pm or when the buses have left the school site. I fully appreciate that drop off and pick up sites are difficult around the school, but please do not park in front of Reception, in the turning circle, staff car parks or the Sports Centre. These areas are busy and our students are constantly moving around these areas. Thank you for your consideration on these matters.

I am very proud that we have some lovely 'green' areas of the school and am keen to develop the front of the school in terms of looking after the grass, tending the shrubs and developing the grass area outside the 6th form common room. If there are any parents (or indeed Grandparents) who would be willing to volunteer some time each week or every few weeks to help enhance and develop these areas I would be very pleased to hear from you. Please do contact myself if you can help.

One of my priorities this year is to develop the students as independent learners. Knights Templar are therefore proud to be able to offer our students an outstanding facility, **World Book Encyclopaedia Online**. This is a high quality, current, accurate reference resource for students of all levels. The Librarians have selected three levels for KTS: **Student, Discover and Advanced**. It is a bespoke, encyclopaedia, aimed primarily within the world of education. It develops information literacy skills, with special focus on individuals carrying out research.

The resource is continually creating new and innovative content discovery platforms that bring learning to life, including eBooks, iPad Apps, immersive websites, and a robust and ever-expanding collection of print series that align with the latest educational trends, it connects users to greater learning through proven content creation methods, cutting-edge delivery systems, and an inextinguishable passion for knowledge.

Knights Templar students can access it by clicking on the link below and using the password and username indicated. Please encourage your son or daughter to use this fantastic resource. The link takes you through to the school website, through the students tab and to the VLE (Virtual Learning Environment)

www.uk.worldbookonline.com/?subact=GB0000039

Lastly, a very important date for your diary please! On the 1st October between 6.00 and 8.30pm, we will be running our very first **Careers, Information, Advice and Guidance Fair**. The event will be targeted at students in Year 10 and upwards. We will have over 40 employers, both national and local, who can talk to your child about opportunities for future careers and employment. There will be University information,

information about the very wide number of apprenticeships on offer locally and nationally as well as local employers. We will publish our full list of exhibitors soon, but companies such as MBDA, Microsoft, GlaxoSmithKline, Vauxhall Motors, National Grid and Deloitte are already committed to attending. Please put it in your diary as a MUST ATTEND evening.

Please keep an eye on the [School Calendar](#) through our school website which is now updated instantly with any changes. Pressing dates for your attendance are the Year 12 information evening this evening (6.00pm) and the Year 10 GCSE information evening on Monday (6.00pm) – it is vital that parents, carers and students attend this evening to hear about how to succeed at GCSE . Presentations from the Faculty Heads of English, Maths and Science will be vital for you to understand about the deadlines, how the courses are run and assessed.

I look forward to meeting you all again over the next year.

Tim Litchfield
Headteacher

Dates for your diary:

10/09/2015	Thursday	Yr 11 Chamonix Trip (returns 14th) 6th Form Parents Information Evening, 7pm-9pm, Hall LAMDA Parents Evening, 6pm-6.45pm, DSA
11/09/2015	Friday	Yr 7 Freshers Fair, 1.20-3.20 Silver DofE Assessment Expedition 1 - returns 14th
14/09/2015	Monday	Yr 11 Chamonix Trip Returns Silver DofE Assessment Expedition 1 - returns Year 10 Standards Evening, 6pm-7pm, Hall
15/09/2015	Tuesday	Darren Gough Cricket Masterclass with PE Students, 11.00-12.30
16/09/2015	Wednesday	NHSSP Primary Schools Legacy Event, (9am-2pm in Hall, Sports Hall & Gym)
17/09/2015	Thursday	NHSSP Primary Schools Legacy Event, (9am-2pm in Hall, Sports Hall & Gym)
18/09/2015	Friday	Yr 11, 12 & 13 Art/Art Graphics Life Drawing, DS - all day

News from the Performing Arts Departments of Music and Drama

Parents of LAMDA students are reminded that at 6pm this evening they are invited to an informal meeting in the Drama Studio. This is an opportunity to meet our tutor Mrs Baker and hear about the work that the students will be doing during their LAMDA classes throughout the next two terms towards exams later in the year. We look forward to seeing you there.

Edinburgh Arts Trip to The Fringe

At the end of August the Drama and Music Departments took a group of students to Edinburgh as ‘punters’ for the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. We had an incredible time watching a full variety of performances, from Sketch Comedy to Political Theatre and Circus to Jazz. All of the students said they would return to the Fringe and were inspired to take their own shows to perform as part of the fringe. We even found time to walk up Arthur’s Seat! If you would like to see some more photos search for #KTSEdFringe on twitter.



School production: Fiddler on the Roof

The rehearsals for this year's school production have started! It was wonderful to see most of the cast at rehearsal yesterday – full of energy and excitement. If you would like to follow the rehearsals, you can search for #OnTheRoof on Twitter. The rehearsal schedule is available on the school's website for all participants with all rehearsal dates and the key performance dates. Please contact Mr Sills or Mrs Guinane if you have any questions.

Follow Drama and Music on twitter @drama_kts and @music_kts

Come and Sing!

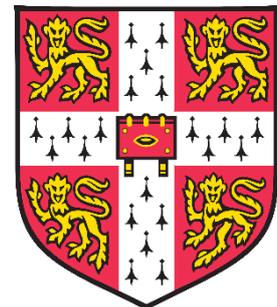
The KTS School Choirs will be putting on a performance of Karl Jenkins' The Armed Man on the 6th November, in conjunction with St Mary's Church, Baldock. This will be a special performance to commemorate Remembrance Day. We would like to invite staff and parents to join forces with us to perform this. Staff are welcome to come to choir rehearsals on a Wednesday lunchtime in K1 from 13.40 - 2.15pm. Parents, grandparents, any other musical family members or members of the community would be welcome to join in St Mary's Church Choir rehearsals which take place on a Thursday evening. Please contact Antony Copsey, the choir master at St Mary's, for further information at antonycopsey@fsmail.net if you are interested in joining in this exciting venture!

Marriage of Figaro - Trip to Royal Opera House

On the 23rd September, the Music department is running a trip to the Royal Opera House in London to see a Schools Matinee performance of Mozart's the Marriage of Figaro. Priority will be given to our GCSE and A Level music students, however, if any other students in Years 10-13 are interested in collecting a letter from the Music Office, please come and see us next week.

University of Cambridge Interns Return for A2 studies

During August, three of KTS's brightest and best students secured internships at the University of Cambridge. Kate Bennett, Amelia Ellis, and Charlie Langshaw spent a week each in a cancer research lab getting to grips with the world of cutting edge research. The students said, "Gaining time in the lab was an invaluable experience and one that will be extremely helpful in the coming years. It was very beneficial to learn more about aspects of biology we have already seen, for example how to carry out tissue culture and grow cells to study cancer. We gained knowledge of cancer biology and profiling DNA, topics that come up in the A2 biology course this year. The week was very inspiring and we had the chance to talk to some enthused academics. We had a fantastic time, thank you to Dr Kerr for helping organise the placement."



Dr Catherine Wilson and Dr Debbie Burkhart from the department of Biochemistry contacted the school to say, "The KTS Students were a pleasure to have in the lab, enthusiastic, helpful, and showed a real passion for biochemistry. Good luck in your A-levels this year"

Year 10 Physics ISA (CA)

Year 10 students will be starting their first ISA in their Physics lessons during the week commencing 14th Sept. These will continue in every until early October so students should make every effort to attend all lessons in this time period.

Life Drawing Day

The annual Life Drawing Day for Years 11, 12 and 13 Art/Art Graphics students, takes place in the Drama Studio on Friday 18th September.

Sixth Form News

Another year of excellent A' Level results

We are incredibly proud of our sixth form students who today have received an outstanding set of A level results – with one student achieving 3 A* grades and another with 4 A*/A grades.

41% of students achieved 1 or more of the highest grades (A* or A). With the average grade across the board of C+.

- **25%** of A2 grades achieved were at the highest grades (A* or A).
- **51%** of A2 grades achieved were grade B or higher.
- **79%** of A2 grades achieved were grade C or higher.
- **100%** of A2 grades achieved were grade 'E' or above.
- **100%** of our students achieved 1 or more Key Stage 5 qualification at grade A*-E.
- **93%** of our students achieved 2 or more Key Stage 5 qualifications at grades A*-E.
- **88%** of our students achieved 3 or more Key Stage 5 qualifications at grades A*-E.

We are delighted that 26% of this cohort have gained places at the prestigious Russell group universities. This is further evidence of the high aspirations we have for our students!

We are especially proud that 12% of our year 13 students achieved three or more of the highest grades at A level (A*/A). These students are:

Student	Number of 'A*' grades at A' Level	Number of 'A' grades at A' Level
Louise Baxter	3	-
Neil Blyth	2	1
Mea Cooper-Keeble	1	2
Anise Jones	1	2
Carys Langsdale	1	2
Bethan Roper	1	2
Priya Shah	1	2
Andrew Tse	1	3
Emma Duncan	-	3
Oluwakorede Odumade	-	3
Lauren Rule	-	3
Victoria Swain	-	3



Some of our outstanding individual student achievements were:

Louise Baxter - studying Veterinary Medicine at Bristol University. Louise worked incredibly hard and exceeded her offer of 3 A grades and achieved 3 A* grades. She is a true credit to the school and deserves every success in the future.

Carys Langsdale - Carys not only achieved A*AA in her A level exams, she achieved this whilst studying for an AS Level in maths (achieving an A grade) in her own time. She also worked incredibly hard as our deputy head girl as well as running her award nominated business. Carys will now take up a place to study Architectural Engineering at Cardiff.

Andrew Tse - Having achieved an impressive set of AS results, he made the decision to study all 4 to A Level. His results of A*AAA together with an A grade for AS further maths studied in his own time means he can take up his place to study Chemical Engineering at Bath.

Neil Blyth - Neil's grades of A*A* for maths and further maths together with an A grade for Physics means that Neil will take up his place to study Mathematics at Warwick. He fully deserves our congratulations.

Lauren Rule - Lauren has very recently been in the limelight becoming the English School's Senior Champion for the 400 metres. She combined her training commitments with a determined focus and commitment to achieve 3 A grades at A Level. Lauren will now take up a place to study Law and Sociology at Kent.

Headteacher Tim Litchfield said: "I am truly delighted with the students' outstanding results! Supported by their parents and their extremely dedicated, inspirational teachers, our students have worked with great determination to exceed our expectations. What makes these levels of achievement so impressive is that they were combined with an outstanding commitment to a huge range of extra-curricular activities.

Knights Templar continues to develop well rounded young people, prepared for the world beyond school. Congratulations to all our students and we wish them every success for the future."

Gill Hopkins, Head of Sixth Form, added: "This group of students has really impressed me and I am delighted with the considerable progress that students of all abilities have made in our sixth form. Their achievements exceeded our expectations and they deserve many congratulations!

The majority of students have secured places at their first-choice universities and we wish them all every success for [the future](#)."

Welcome to year 12 students

We would like to congratulate our new year 12 students on their excellent GCSE results over the summer and welcome them to the Knights Templar Sixth Form. We would particularly like to extend a warm welcome to those students who have joined us from other schools- we are confident that you will enjoy your time at Knights Templar and excel both in and out of the classroom.

The jump from GCSE to A Level is very challenging and students need to be utilising their time effectively outside of the classroom by completing wider reading around their subject area, completing extra research and familiarising themselves with course specifications and requirements.

We would also like to encourage year 12 students to immerse themselves in the fantastic extra-curricular opportunities on offer such as;

- Being a part of the mentoring programme
- Participating in a sports club; basketball, netball, football, rugby and hockey are available this term.
- Participating in one of the many musical groups in the school (particularly our student led Senior Counterpoint Chamber Choir)
- Being a part of the school production, *Fiddler on the Roof*.
- Assisting with the reading programme for KS3 pupils in the library
- Offering help and assistance in specific lessons or clubs for younger year groups.
- Contribute to Newscast
- Duke of Edinburgh Award
- Contribute to sixth form council and the *Interact Group*
- ...and many more

We would also like to remind year 12 students of a couple of administration notices. Any students requiring a new login for the IT system should speak with the IT support department asap. Any queries regarding locker keys should be directed to Mrs Gray (in sixth form student services) and any students requiring a re-take of GCSE English Lang and/ or Maths to achieve a grade C should liaise with Mrs Hopkins, Mrs Weston and Mrs Dixon.

This year promises to be a busy and successful one and we are very much looking forward to what it has to offer!

Common room refurbishment

We would like to thank the large number of students (and even a couple of parents) for giving up their time over the summer holidays to give the sixth form common room a much needed upgrade! The students worked tirelessly to empty and clean the common room in preparation for the decorating and floor repairs and have since been adding their own touches of brilliance to display boards and other aesthetic features in the room. A particular thank you should go to our Head/ Deputy Boy and Girl who helped to mastermind the transformation of the common room.

We would also like to thank Georgina Paulus- Nield for dedicating hours of her summer holiday to produce an exceptional 'mural' which is now proudly displayed on the feature wall of the sixth form common room.

Common room refurbishment- in pictures.

Before



After



My time in Morocco- Georgina Crowther (year 13)

In the summer, myself and a group of year 12 students were lucky enough to venture into the depths of the Moroccan Atlas and the fringes of the Sahara desert, summiting not only the highest peak of North Africa, but witnessing the magnificent Moroccan sunrise from the highest sand dune the Sahara has to offer. Our expedition included trips to various Moroccan tourist attractions such as the crazy souks of Marrakech or the set of Gladiator in the desert town of Ait Benhaddeou. We also got to experience the parts of Morocco where tourists rarely venture; visiting towns that we could only access by foot and making friends with the locals who were not used to seeing different types of people on a day to day basis.

Experiencing a side of Morocco that the average tourist does not get to experience was for me the most rewarding part of the trip, meeting children who were so grateful to even be gifted a pen and playing games of catch or frisbee, are both experiences that many of us will never forget! We all agreed we would never take our education for granted again! This was due to the very few educational facilities we saw on the whole of the trip- as a group we saw just two schools and no universities! Both very normal things a teenager would expect to see in England!

The trip was a once in a lifetime opportunity, changing many of our lives and creating memories with people we will never forget!



A busy summer for our music phenomenon

We are very proud that so many of our students were pro-active throughout the summer, getting involved in a range of positive activities- however, one young man had a busier summer than most!

Year 13 student Ben Goldscheider received even more accolades to add to his already impressive musical CV. Ben participated in The National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain Tour, performing at incredible venues such as; Snape Maltings Proms, Aldeburgh; Symphony Hall, Birmingham; BBC Proms, Royal Albert Hall and the Konzerthaus, Berlin!

Ben also recorded a Christmas album with "Blake", due to be released in November and is even featured on a track with Shirley Bassey!

As if this wasn't enough, Ben was successful in his application to The International Music Academy for soloists held at Buckeberg Palace- he will be attending the academy for 10 days later this year.

If you are interested in hearing more from this exceptional young man, please use the links below to access his performance at the BBC Proms, as well as a BBC interview for a commissioned musical piece.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02wwbnp> and <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02wwbnm>