

# The Knights Templar School

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## PARENTAL WEEKLY UPDATE – 11<sup>th</sup> June 2015 (also available on our website)

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to offer my congratulations to the Maths department on a wonderful achievement. The department have been recognised by the Good Schools Guide as the **winner of the 'Good Schools Guide Award for Excellence at an English Comprehensive School'**. This award is specifically for Girls taking Mathematics (statistics) at AS level. This is an incredible achievement and may I pass my thanks to all colleagues who have contributed to this award. You may be interested to know that this is the third time the Maths department have been recognised by the GSG as in 2009 and in 2007 they achieved the very same accolade. May I also add that we do equally as well with our boys!

Please may I remind you that the school has a very strict approach to managing visitors on our school site. The **safety of our students** (and staff) is my number one priority. If you wish to visit the school for any reason, you must come through reception where the member of staff that you have an appointment with will be contacted. There are no circumstances where parents and carers could simply walk onto the school site! If you wish to discuss a matter with any of the school staff can I ask that you please do make an appointment. Anyone on site without a visitors badge and being escorted can expect to be challenged. The main school office should be accessed by the entrance on Park Street. Thank you for your co-operation on this matter.

You will be aware that all schools are having to manage **very tight budgets** and as we move into the academic year 2015 – 2016, we will be looking very carefully at our money to ensure best value. Most schools are working to find creative ways to increase income. If any parents have any good ideas I would be very pleased to hear from you. On this note, we have been donated three extremely exciting items which we wish to raffle. In discussion with us, the Student Council has decided to raffle these items off to raise much needed funds for dining facilities to use at break times and lunchtimes, which is an area we are keen to develop for the benefit of all students.

### The items are:

- A framed Chelsea football shirt signed by *Diego Costa***
- A framed Arsenal football shirt signed by *Alexis Sanchez***
- A framed Pirates of the Caribbean poster signed by the actor *Johnny Depp***

The Student Council will run three simultaneous raffles for these items over the next 2 weeks starting on **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> of June**. Tickets will be available during registration from student council reps, who will be visiting form rooms; and from a table in the Dining Hall at break time where the items will be on display. Tickets cost £1.00 each and students can enter as many times as they like. Parents can also buy tickets for the raffles by visiting reception.

We are extremely lucky to have been donated these fantastic prizes and hope you will take advantage of this excellent opportunity. Any support you can give of this fundraising initiative is much appreciated.

Finally, can I remind you of two superb events that are taking place over the next few weeks – further details can be found on the school website. The Friends of Knights Templar are holding their annual **Garden Party** on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30. This is a wonderful evening where you can enjoy food, drink and high quality music. The Friends work very hard throughout the year to help raise money for your son or daughter. On Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> our annual **Jazz spectacular** has a special feel to it this year as we come to the climax of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. Special guests, past and current students and past and current staff will be entertaining you from 7.30 onwards. Please do join us if you can – tickets are selling very fast.

Many thanks,

Tim Litchfield  
Headteacher

### Dates for your diary:

12/06/2015	Friday	KS3 Exams (until Thursday 18/6)
15/06/2015	Monday	Yr 12 return to lessons KS3 Exams Yr 10 Exams (until 18th June)
16/06/2015	Tuesday	KS3 Exams Yr 10 Exams Yr7&8 District Rounders Tournament, 3.20pm-6pm
17/06/2015	Wednesday	KS3 Exams Yr 10 Exams
18/06/2015	Thursday	KS3 Exams Yr 10 Exams Friends of KTS Garden Party, 7.30pm
19/06/2015	Friday	Yr 7-10 G&T Athletics Masterclass, all day

### Year 9 Cricket Success

Congratulations to the year 9 boys' cricket team who continued their unbeaten run in the district league with an emphatic victory of John Henry Newman. The bowling talent of Sam Rayner, Freddie Hindson, Ben Reed and Ollie Hodson was too much for the opposition batsman and the powerful batting displays of Marcus Crowther and Jack Petre helped KTS ease to a crucial win. Well done to all of the boys involved!

.....and huge congratulations to our girls' team who gained a credible 3rd place this week in the Lady Tav's County Cricket Tournament.

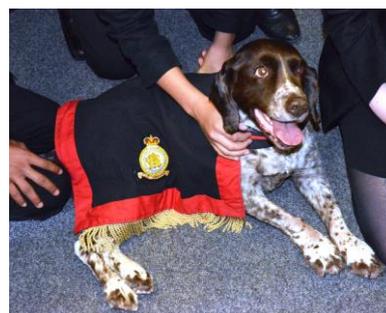
Remember to check for our PE fixtures on our website [here](#). We are always pleased to see parents and friends supporting our teams!



### Buster's school visit

Last Thursday, 4th June, Year 8 Art students were honoured to welcome RAF Flight Sergeant Will Barrows and his munitions dog Buster to school.

Buster is a 13 year old spaniel who has his own best-selling book out, recounting his adventures in Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan where he saved thousands of people's lives. He has been awarded with many medals, won the Peoples Prize at Crufts, and has even met the queen. Buster is now an RAF mascot and loves accompanying Will to meet people and tell his story. As you can see in the photographs, Buster thoroughly enjoyed meeting our students



## **Making Music**

Congratulations to Gabriel Taylor in Year 7 who has composed a wonderful song 'Moving On', which has just been featured on the National Sing Up website, alongside a very well written article by Gabriel himself.

If you would like to listen to Gabriel's composition, it can be found online on the link below:

<https://www.singup.org/news-local-events/news-article/view/1194-a-song-by-a-student-moving-on-by-gabriel-taylor/>

Thanks also to Rachel Dawson for leading the Junior Choir in their performance of "Moving On" and Charlie Knighton who recorded and edited the performance.

If you'd like to hear it live, the Junior Choir will be performing 'Moving On' at this year's Summer Concert on the 23rd June.

## **Music Events to come**

The Music Department has launched next year's Music Tour to the Costa Brava, Spain. The tour will take place from 16<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> July and is open to students currently in years 9 to 12. For more information, please collect a letter from the Music Department.

Places are still available on the Year 7 – 10 Music & Drama trip to see Matilda the Musical in London on 15<sup>th</sup> July. We are seeing the matinee performance and will be leaving school at midday, with an estimated return time of 6.30pm. The trip costs £38.00 and includes coach travel, entry ticket and insurance. If you would like to come, please collect a letter from the Music Office.

Our Summer Concert takes place at 7pm on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Featuring performances by the Junior Orchestra, Junior Jazz Band, Junior Choir, Brass Band, Recorder, Guitar, String and Flute ensembles and the Wind Band, the concert will be a varied programme of classical and popular music. Entry is free, with a retiring collection in aid of the Music Department. We hope you will come along and support our young musicians.

## **Year 9 Mathematics**

Next week on Wednesday and Thursday in their Maths lessons all of Year 9 are going to sit some new tests that we have obtained from our Exam Board. We want to trial them to see if they give as reliable results as our current assessments. The best time to do this is now when the children have just been prepared for their end of year exams.

We do not expect the pupils to do any extra preparation for these. We might even provide some cakes as a thank you!!!

Mrs Dixon

## **Bronze Assessment 3: North Yorkshire Moors**

The third trip in our series of four took place last weekend and involved 27 girls from our year 9 along with 2 suffering lads! The trip took place in sunny conditions making perfect weather for backpacking the 15 miles or so over the two days, working their way from Rosedale in the heart of this high moorland area of the National Park, north-west up to Farndale moor before descending down to Westerdale and camp for the night. The second and final day saw the group finish at the Lion Inn, one of the highest points in the Park.



A tricky first day focused minds and it was a different group psychologically who completed the second day with skill, determination and humour. Well done and to our superb Expedition Team for running yet another event in our extensive calendar!

The final trip takes place in July and this will be to the Yorkshire Dales, making our 'world tour' of northern England's National Parks complete - ish!

### **Silver Practice Expedition: The Shropshire Hills**

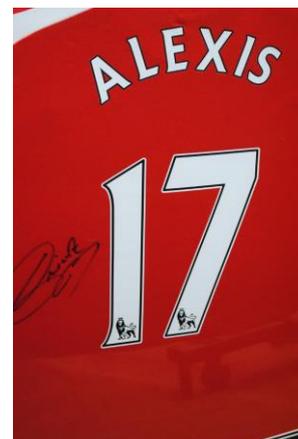
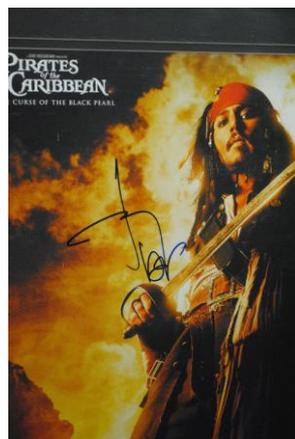
A second summer term DofE Expedition attended by Mr Glover - and a second with very heavy rain and extremely windy conditions. Is there a message here (Mr Glover did not go on the Bronze Moors trip which was beautiful!)?

A good first day saw the group set off from just inside Wales and then quickly escape eastwards camping near the Stiperstones. Bad weather coming in later in the second day saw the groups focus with energy and clarity and 'stormed' the route, navigating with skill and precision, to get into our 'emergency' campsite just before the winds picked up to gale-force and above, with horizontal rain belting in. Our original site on top of the Long Mynd would have been a significant test for anyone's campcraft - a fact substantiated by the staff team who went up just to confirm the right decision had been made!

A lovely final day saw the group finish at Church Stretton and the journey home. Well done yet again to our pupils - the resilience of our pupils faced with very testing conditions and the level of professionalism which is beyond their years never fails to impress! Good luck for those on the second trip. We are due good weather!! Mr Glover is going on that trip!!!

### **Student Council Raffle**

From Monday students can buy raffle tickets in fantastic 3 raffles. The raffles are for a framed football shirt signed by *Diego Costa* of Chelsea Football Club, a framed football shirt signed by *Alexis Sanchez* of Arsenal Football Club and a framed Pirates of the Caribbean poster signed by the actor *Johnny Depp*. The tickets cost £1.00. Reps will be coming around to sell tickets in forms during registration for the next 2 weeks. Tickets are also on sale at break time in the Dining Hall where the prizes will be displayed. Students can enter 1 of the raffles or all of them and buy as many tickets as they want. Parents who wish to purchase tickets can do so by visiting reception.



## **School Production Auditions!**

**Fiddler on the Roof:** This will be a very exciting opportunity for all our students who enjoy singing, dancing and acting. We will also be looking for instrumentalists for the orchestra and a team of backstage techies! Although the performance will not be until the end of January 2016, the auditions start soon. Please see below for dates:

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June:** Audition material for all actors and singers will be available from Drama and Music from today. ALSO Lunch in the Drama Studio, all students can come to learn the audition songs.

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June:** Current Y7 and Y8, First Round (group singing and acting)

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June** Current Y11 and Y12, First Round (group singing)

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June:** Current Y11 and Y12, First Round (acting)

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June:** Current Y10 and Y9, First Round (group singing and acting)

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June:** Dance (for dance troupe)

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July:** Acting/Singing recalls

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July:** Acting/Singing recalls

*Please see Mr Sills or Mrs Guinane if you have any questions.*

## **Are you ready for Summer holidays?**

The following reminder has been issued to us by our Schools Health team:

- It's really important if going abroad for summer holidays to ensure that the whole family is properly immunised. With Measles circulating widely across many parts of the world, including Europe and the USA, it is particularly important to ensure that children have received two doses of MMR (measles, mumps and rubella). Around a third (27) of all new cases of measles in England were infected while overseas.
- Uptake of Pre School Booster, which includes the polio booster, is below the levels required. With the recent international spread of wild polio virus this could present a serious risk to those travelling to affected countries.

## **Volunteer Opportunity**

Hertfordshire Libraries are working in partnership with The Reading Agency to offer 14-24 year olds the opportunity to provide support for children taking part in Record Breakers, Summer Reading Challenge 2015.

Volunteers will be based in libraries, giving out rewards for each stage of the Challenge and listening to children talking about the books that they have been reading. Last year almost 19,000 Hertfordshire children took part in the Summer Reading Challenge, through our network of 46 libraries.

Young people volunteering for this project will gain valuable experience in working with children and those aged 14+ will be able to work towards national volunteering recognition schemes. Feedback from volunteers in previous years indicates that they find the experience very rewarding, and several have secured part-time jobs with the library service since volunteering.

More information and an online registration form can be found at <http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/libraries/childyng/SRCv2015/>

## Sixth Form News:

### Urgent message for all year 12 students!

The deadline is looming for year 12 students to register for the trip to The University of Bedfordshire's UCAS Conference. This trip takes place on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June and is compulsory for all year 12 students.

**STUDENTS MUST NOW INDIVIDUALLY REGISTER ONLINE BY FRIDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JUNE AND PRINT OFF THEIR TICKET FOR THIS EVENT. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL RESULT IN NON-ADMITTANCE.**



Students will need to follow the step-by-step instructions provided via the following link to complete their online booking:

[https://www.ucasevents.com/UCAS/media/uploaded/EVUCAS/event\\_1388/BED15%20Advisers%20Briefing%20sheet%2012112014.pdf](https://www.ucasevents.com/UCAS/media/uploaded/EVUCAS/event_1388/BED15%20Advisers%20Briefing%20sheet%2012112014.pdf)

### Help required: Donations for the common room and help with cleaning!

With the new academic year fast approaching, we have decided to refurbish the Sixth Form Common Room. The Common Room is the only social place for sixth formers to unwind out of lessons and study time, as well as holding its purpose for assemblies and exam use; we would really like to improve the appearance of the room to benefit both current and new students.

This task will be completed over the summer holidays where the room will be painted, cleaned and improved with the help of a willing team of sixth form student volunteers.

We would also like to invite parents, family, friends and local businesses to help with the refurbishment. We are looking for donations of good quality chairs, coffee tables and other furniture, as well as any other items which you feel may be an asset to the newly refurbished room. The sixth form will greatly appreciate your support and will truly benefit from any donations. If you are interested in donating please contact Mr Raymen, Deputy Head of Sixth Form by email [DRaymen@ktemplar.herts.sch.uk](mailto:DRaymen@ktemplar.herts.sch.uk).

We look forward to presenting the room to the Sixth Form in September and would like to thank you in advance for your help and support.

*Barnaby Taylor Lucy Merrell, Matthew Dyne and Helen Inman  
(Head Boy and Head Girl, Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl)*

### Year 13 student qualifies for business awards final

Carys Langsdale (yr13) has qualified for the prestigious FSB Bedfordshire Business Awards Final. Carys has built a thriving business, specialising in the designing and manufacturing of personalised gifts. Congratulations to Carys on this fantastic achievement!