

# The Knights Templar School

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## PARENTAL WEEKLY UPDATE – 15<sup>th</sup> January 2015 (also available on our website)

Dear Parents and Carers

I would be delighted to receive applications from parents who would wish to become a Parent Governor. We have one vacancy at the moment and whilst we would welcome a parent with a financial background, this is not essential. The commitment is two Full Governor meetings per term, which run in the evening between 7.00 – 9.00 and two 'sub-committee' meetings per term that run between 5.00 and 7.00. Please do email Mrs Roper on [froper@ktemplar.herts.sch.uk](mailto:froper@ktemplar.herts.sch.uk) for further details.

Can I remind Parents and Carers that you can access our Learning Gateway through the school website. The Learning Gateway gives you up to date information on attendance and behaviour for your child. The web link here will take you to that page [www.ktemplar.herts.sch.uk/Parent-Area/Sims-Learning-Gateway](http://www.ktemplar.herts.sch.uk/Parent-Area/Sims-Learning-Gateway). You will need to apply for this if you have not already done so and the details for application are on the link.

I am very much looking forward to the Classical Guitar recital to be given by Craig Ogden, here in the school hall on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February at 7.00pm. Craig is one of the **leading Classical Guitarists in the World** and having him perform at KTS is a real honour. I do hope that you will be able to join us. Tickets are available at £8 for adults and £5 for concessions and can be purchased through the school website or by emailing [sfraser@ktemplar.herts.sch.uk](mailto:sfraser@ktemplar.herts.sch.uk).

Can I remind Parents and Carers of Year 11 students that the deadline for application to our 6<sup>th</sup> form is Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February. I do hope that parents of Year 11 students are receiving our weekly information emails and that you are finding them useful. If you have any questions about the application please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Gray (6<sup>th</sup> form Student Services) at [mgray@ktemplar.herts.sch.uk](mailto:mgray@ktemplar.herts.sch.uk)

We are looking forward to seeing all Year 9 Students at our **GCSE options** evening next Thursday. Please note that there will be talks in the hall and the opportunity to speak to subject heads. This year there will be a group of year 12 students available to speak to you as well. They will be able to give good advice about what they have learnt themselves over the options process – please do find them on the evening.

There are a wide range of exams which will be taking place over the next few months and I have attached a link here to a very useful document – “[KTS Parent guide to supporting their child](#)”. This document covers some simple things that can be done at home to help prepare your child for their exams.

Many thanks to all parents, carers and friends of the school who have bought tickets for **the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Concert** at the Gordon Craig Theatre in February. The tickets have now sold out.

Please may I remind you that Mrs Waite's funeral will take place on Monday 26th January at 4:15 pm at Harwood Park, Crematorium, Stevenage, Herts. Everybody is warmly invited to attend.

Regards,

Tim Litchfield  
Headteacher

**Dates for your diary:**

15/01/2015	Thursday	Year 9 Winter House Matches Yr 13 Deadline for UCAS applications Yr 11 Parents Evening, 4.00-7.30pm
16/01/2015	Friday	Year 8 Winter House Matches
17/01/2015	Saturday	
18/01/2015	Sunday	All Yrs - School Production Rehearsal, 1pm-6pm - DS/Hall
19/01/2015	Monday	Yr 11 Art/Art Graphics Trip to The Fitzwilliam Museum - all day Yr 9 Indoor Hockey Tournament, 3.30pm-5.30pm, Sports Hall
20/01/2015	Tuesday	Yr 12 AS History Trip Information Meeting, 7pm-8pm - Hall
21/01/2015	Wednesday	Yr 10 GCSE Controlled Assessment Geography Fieldwork Trip
22/01/2015	Thursday	Yr 12&13 Cause for Concern Progress Review KS4 Options Advice to Yr 9 Students & Parents, 7pm-9pm
23/01/2015	Friday	Yr 10 GCSE Controlled Assessment Geography Fieldwork Trip

**KS4 Information Evening for Year 9 Parents**

Mr Burrows will be briefing Year 9 in assembly on Wednesday, 21st January. A copy of his presentation that will be used for the assembly, and also for the information evening on Thursday, 22nd, will be available on the website immediately after the evening. The updated options booklet will be up on the website (<http://www.knightstemplarsch.org.uk/Options-Booklet-for-Year-10/>) either Friday 16th or Monday 19th, in order that parents can have a read through before attending the meeting on Thursday evening.

**The Crucible**

***Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January***  
***7pm in the Main Hall***  
***Adults: £8 and Concession: £5***

With less than two weeks to go before the opening night of this year's school production, the cast and crew are stepping up the pace – rehearsals are going very well and we will be performing an extract in assemblies during the coming week. Tickets are now on sale! Students can purchase tickets at break or lunch in the canteen. Parents can reserve tickets by emailing [DramaBoxOffice@ktemplar.herts.sch.uk](mailto:DramaBoxOffice@ktemplar.herts.sch.uk) and pay by wisepay (£10 minimum), pay by cash or cheque in a sealed and clearly marked envelope to the Drama Department or pay when collecting tickets on the door. Reserved tickets will be available for collection on the nights of the performance. We hope to see you there!

- Visit the school website homepage to see the poster designed by Izzie Rodgers (Y12)
- Look out for the banner on the school fence with a poster design by Haydn Giovine (Y10), one of the many GCSE Art students who have produced stunning images based on The Crucible.
- Follow KTS Drama (@drama\_kts) on twitter #TheCrucibleKTS2015 #countdowntothecrucible

**Year 7 kick off hockey season with resounding victories**

The Year 7 hockey team made a fantastic start to the District League with two emphatic wins over local rivals HGS and JHN. Outstanding attacking play by Zara Northern and Anna Wallace helped secure the winning scores of 4-0 and 2-0 respectively.

Rachel Gower's midfield linking play and strong defending by Mia Luck ensured KTS were dominant throughout the matches. Special mention for Molly Wright who made her debut in goal and kept a clean sheet!

Practice continues to be on every Monday after school, 3.30-4.30pm. New members always welcome, so come and give it a try and be part of the winning team!

Miss Olden

### Year 7 basketball triumph

Congratulations to the year 7 boys' basketball team who beat local rivals Highfield 23-18 in their 2nd game of the season. The boys showed how much they have progressed as a result of rigorous training sessions, with stand-out performances from Jack Byrne, Rhys Davies, Archie Page and Ollie Mitchell. Well done to all of the boys involved!

### Year 11 Artists Visit Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge

There will be a Year 11 GCSE and BTEC Art trip to the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge, on Tuesday 20th January.

Walking to and from stations will be involved, so please ensure students are dressed appropriately; the weather forecast is very cold.

### Geography Controlled Assessments in Norfolk

Next week on Wednesday (21st) and Friday (23rd) there is a Geography field trip to Norfolk for year 10 as part of their GCSE Controlled Assessment. Further information on this trip, along with a copy of the letter sent to parents can be found on the website under Recent Letters on the Homepage at:

<http://www.knightstemplarsch.org.uk/Recently-issued-letters/index.asp>

### LIBRARY NEWS this week.....



This year's Scholastic Half Price Christmas Book Fair was a huge success. It was well supported whilst on display within the library, and during the Christmas Fair. Thanks to your support we sold £600 worth of books and merchandise, raising £60 towards new library stock.

Saturday 7th February is National Libraries Day 2015. As part of celebrating Libraries all over the country including schools, CILIP will be attempting another Guinness World Record attempt on **Friday 6th February**. The target to beat : the most books swapped in 8 hours – our school library will be taking part in this exciting event, so please encourage your child to select a book suitable for swapping and join us in the library. It's not only an opportunity to take part in the challenge, but to meet fellow readers and choose a new book. More details about this nearer the day.



**Please note** that the library will close early on Monday 26th January, at 3.40pm, as staff will be attending the funeral of Mrs Waite, a beloved colleague and friend of the Library.

Mrs Evans and Ms Rogers, Librarians

### Year 9 Boulogne Day Trip – Saturday 15th May

Year 9 pupils will have received letters inviting them to take part in this trip during language lessons. The trip is open to all Year 9 pupils, regardless of the languages they are currently learning. Full details are included in the letter, which is available on the school website. The total cost of the trip is £50 with an inclusive £10 deposit payable by 30th January. If you have any queries, please contact Mr Sherry. A copy of the letter sent home to parents can be found on the Homepage of our website under Recent Letters:

<http://www.knightstemplarsch.org.uk/Recently-issued-letters/index.asp>

### Newscast

In case you missed the latest KTS Newscast, watch the New Year edition here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZyDu57emiil>

- The student team host a debate on the effects of gaming on teenagers
- Interview new principal horn of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain
- Go on location at London's Lord Mayor's Show

and much, much more

### **Yr10 Bronze DofE**

We are getting close to the point where all participants are expected to have completed their activities, have got their assessors to sign up their Record Books and then married this up with their eDofE Accounts. So far, about a third of pupils have completed their books and brought them to me for signing. A significant number of these have not yet collected these back from the DofE Office in order to upload the signed pages to their eDofE accounts. However, there are an even greater number of participants who have not yet brought their completed Record Books to the DofE Office to have them checked and verified by me before uploading. Several have still to bring their books to have their Expedition Pages completed, a task which was required last November!

It would be a real shame if all the hard work pupils have put in, and all of the financial commitment given by parents, did not result in the getting of the Award! Lists of pupils will be going up onto the DofE noticeboard opposite the DofE Office and similar lists will be put onto the school's [DofE website to indicate progress](#). Should parents wish to nag their offspring into getting their books completed, we, they and probably you, will be very grateful!!

### **Yr11 Silver DofE**

Most Record Books have been handed into to have the Expedition pages completed but there are still several still to come in. Silver books will be available for collection during the week after next if they have been brought to school, but others who have not yet handed them in should bring them to the DofE Office on Monday or Tuesday in the second half of lunchtime to allow these to be completed as well.

### **Yr9 Bronze DofE**

All participants listed on the [New Bronze List of the website](#) should have already started their activities and these can date from the 1<sup>st</sup> January this year. There will be a series of rolling lunch time sessions starting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb where all participants will meet in T13 by form group during either the first or the second part of these lunchtimes to have their eDofE accounts activated and to be given their Record Books and their Welcome Packs. Details are on the [Calendar Page](#) of the website. However, it is very important that all participants complete the [on-line form on the website](#) before getting too far into their activities to allow me to check that they are viable. It would be a real shame if money was spent on, and time put in to, any activity which will not count towards the Award!! Please nag participants to do this as soon as is possible. The Expedition Training starts very soon and everyone should have had a letter about this, but if not then [copies of the letters](#) and details of the [Training Sessions](#) are on the School's DofE Website. There will be a meeting during the week after next for all Yr9 participants to go over these matters.

Countryside in Stevenage now have sufficient stock for you to get your waterproof gear and anything else you want. If you have lost your voucher then these can be collected from the DofE Office during the second part of lunchtime on any Monday or Tuesday. We will be doing a waterproof clothing check at the Training weekend and no one without gear of the quality we require will be allowed to go on their practice and other expeditions!!! If you are unsure about what is required, [click here](#) to get to the part of the website that tells you about this.

### **All DofE Participants**

Please follow the Award at KTS on Twitter on [@KTSDofE](#) as this will contain news of meetings and activities which your sons and daughters may miss through the usual school channels!!!

Please also be aware that any participant in the Award can come along to the DofE Office during the second part of lunchtime on any Monday and Tuesday for advice, dropping off and picking up of Record Books or indeed any other DofE related matter.

### Senior 'Question Time'

On January 30th, during Period 5, Sixth Form and selected Year 10 and 11 students will participate in a specially organised 'KTS Senior Question Time.' The focus of this event is to give students an opportunity to put our local politicians in the 'hotseat'. They will be asking a range of questions about issues which will affect them, as they grow to adulthood in this area. Guests currently include Sir Oliver Heald, Councillor Michael Muir and John Francis, editor of The Comet. Over the next week Year 10-13 students will have the opportunity to pose a question through their form tutors. We are very excited to give students this opportunity to engage in mature debate about local issues.

### Sixth Form News:

#### Senior Hockey Tournament

On Monday, 8 students took part in a senior hockey district tournament, finishing 4th overall. One of the highlights of the tournament was a very impressive defensive performance against an excellent Hitchin Girls' team, holding them to a 0-0 draw. The girls played fiercely and competed brilliantly against strong competition, even when team captain Helen Inman was injured when an aerial struck her thumb at pace during the game against St Francis. Well done to all of the girls involved.

#### Interact Arriving in Style

Members of the Interact branch of Baldock Rotary Club were invited to their Christmas Lunch held at the Cloisters in Letchworth recently.

Interact President Nick Wootten, Secretary Megan Winzer and committee member Eden Tinsey arrived in some style for the lunch in a vintage yellow Rolls Royce!

Interact, established in 2012 at the Knights Templar School, have been busy this year and have organised a number of events including a fireworks arts and crafts session at Weston Way Nursery, as well as an annual Christmas party for the pensioners who attend a weekly afternoon tea at the Baldock community centre.

In 2015 three Interact members plan to participate in a "Youth Speaks" debating competition which will hopefully become an annual event for Interact members.



#### KTS Student in the news!

Year 12 student Rebecca Maynard has recently been in the news, with an article covering her achievements as a young volunteer at the World Track Cycling Championships. For more details of this article please visit the web link shown below:

<http://www.britishcycling.org.uk/go-ride/article/20141217-Young-Volunteer-strikes-gold-at-track-world-cup-0>

