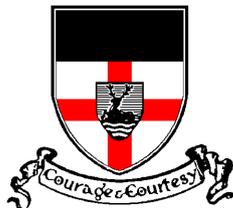


The Knights Templar School

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PARENTAL WEEKLY UPDATE – 18th December 2014 (also available on our website)

Dear Parents and Carers

On Monday evening St Mary's Church was packed with parents, friends, staff and students as the school presented its annual Festival of Nine Readings and Carols. What a joy it was to be present! The readings and the music were of the highest standard and the congregation singing was uplifting. We are most grateful to Reverend Andrew Holford and Reverend Chris Jenkins for leading us through the service – long may this partnership continue.

Today, the students have been involved in our annual Christmas Concerts programme. Each Year Group was entertained in the school hall with a range of high quality music, dance and drama. The atmosphere in the hall was wonderful and all the students were perfectly behaved and joined in when they had the opportunity. The concerts were skilfully compered by Mr Sills.

The last part of our Christmas celebrations this week will be tomorrow when we will be attending St Mary's Church for a short Christmas service and we will be holding Year Group assemblies in the main hall.

It has been a fantastic first term as Headteacher at The Knights Templar School. The students are wonderful and work very hard to be the very best they can be. May I also take a moment to thank all my colleagues on the staff who have been incredibly supportive and could not have worked any harder this term.

Finally, I thank you for your support of the school! Your attendance at all of our evenings is greatly appreciated – I believe that the partnership between home and school is key to the success of the student.

Have a Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year.

Regards,
Tim Litchfield
Headteacher

Entry from the Log Book of Frank Hancock, MBE; first Head-teacher of The Knights Templar School, 20th December, 1939:

School closed at 4p.m. for the Christmas vacation. I record here my appreciation of the energy and enthusiasm shown by the staff in helping to shape this new school. The Christmas holidays are to be filled with treats and entertainments for local and evacuated children

Dates for your diary:

19/12/2014	Friday	End of Term
05/01/2015	Monday	Inset Day
06/01/2015	Tuesday	Spring Term Starts
09/01/2015	Friday	Commemoration Evening, 6.45pm-9.00pm

Audition Success

Harry Pearce will follow in the footsteps of Eden Tinsey, Ewan Morris and Dani Close in the next Hertfordshire County Youth Theatre production. Harry has successfully auditioned to be a part of the company and will work with a professional director at the Watford Palace Theatre in rehearsals for a production of Peter Pan. Congratulations Harry and we wish you all the best for the rehearsals!

Well done also to Darcie Watts who is performing in the Stevenage pantomime as a dancer.

The Crucible

This year's school production will be upon us very soon in the new year. The talented cast will be performing Arthur Miller's famous play, 'The Crucible', from Tuesday 27th to Friday 30th January in the school hall. The stage management team, made up of students, have already been hard at work creating the set for this in-the-round production. Tickets will be on sale from the start of next term. We look forward to seeing you there.

Sir Oliver Heald helps out the Business Studies Department

Our local M.P. Sir Oliver Heald has long been a friend and supporter of the school, and was able to offer some very valuable help just recently to us in the Business Studies Department.

We had been told by our Exam Board that, as part of the ongoing reform of A Levels, the A Level Applied Business qualification was to be abolished and that this would happen a full year before a suitable replacement course would be ready to offer our students, creating a massive problem for us and students due to start next year. (The course is currently taken by 30 Sixth Formers, who can of course continue with it without any problem.)

We wrote to explain all this to Sir Oliver and he passed on our concerns both to the minister and to Ofqual, the body that decides on all qualifications. It emerged in a reply he received from the Chief Regulator at Ofqual that, contrary to what we had been advised by our exam board, a final decision had not yet been made.

This enabled us at Knights Templar to make further representations both to Ofqual, and to the exam board to press for a reprieve for one year. This has now been granted to all schools that are currently teaching the course, meaning we can offer it again to next year's (Sept 2015 start) cohort of students, while awaiting the new specification for Sept 2016. (The link to ofqual's page announcing this is: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofqual-announces-decisions-following-2015-subjects-consultation>).

This strikes us as an eminently sensible compromise which we are delighted with and we feel sure that our M.P.'s intervention on our behalf made them all sit up and take notice, enabling us to make effective representations to the right people, and strongly helping sway the decision,
Dominic Vallier, Adrian Cosker

Basketball

The second County Basketball league match of the season saw the KTS Seniors (made up of students from Years 9-13) take on Queens from Watford, a school with a strong basketball programme and tradition. The match up looked tough from the start, but this did not deter the seniors.

Queens started fast and strong, hitting a 3 point shot to open up the game, but both teams fought hard throughout every quarter. The start of the final quarter saw knights with a 7 point lead with 7 minutes to go, but by the time there was 1 minute on the clock, Queens had the lead by 3 points. With time winding down, the team captain, Nick Allin drove and to tie the game with a 3 point play, hitting both the tough layup and the clutch free throw leaving the score at the buzzer reading 45-45. The overtime battle was 'nip and tuck' throughout, both teams fighting hard through the fatigue and continuing to compete against the physically tough play of the older Queens players. It just wasn't meant to be with a final score of 52-54 in favour of Queens.

Training continues on Wednesday lunch time for new (or returning) players with Mr White & Mr Chantrell.

Report by Ibukunoluwa Odumade

DYNO-SAURS visit KTS! *(This time with photograph included – sorry Mr Vallier!)*

As part of the year 10 business students learning on the different types of business ownership, they recently had a presentation from Graeme Hall, a franchise director from DYNO. Graeme gave an informative presentation on how to become a franchise owner including the benefits and risks associated with it. After the presentation Graeme



commented “It was obvious they had researched a great deal about the brands and asked some challenging questions”. The students were then asked to design a suitable character to represent DYNO heating along with justification for their design. Over the last week a number of entries were received and after heated discussions by the judges on their individual merits, 3 winners were selected. The lucky students that received the DYNO-SAURS were Caitlin Grant, Joss King and Ryan Murphy. Caitlin said “I really enjoyed the presentation as I got an idea of what it is like to run a business and was really pleased to be successful in the competition.”

Food Technology

Year 9 students were recently creating gateaux in their Food Technology lessons. There was one special creation by Fiona Henderson who made an amazing gateau. This was particularly creative and an extended level for a Yr 9 student. Well done Fiona!



Washing Up

Remember this item from our recent bulletin – there will be plenty of opportunities over the Christmas period!

Washing up must happen at least 3 times a day in most households. What a perfect opportunity for the students to practice these vital life skills regularly. Washing up individually and part of a team is a very important activity that must happen in all Food Technology practical lessons however this essential skill is missing from some students. Miss Theobald would like all parents to encourage all your children to do the washing up at least once a week (not including using the dishwasher). Clearing away rubbish, using the correct equipment for washing, scouring and drying utensils and tidying equipment away again are all skills that should be done in the correct order and are necessary to complete food practical lessons on time. Please try to motivate a reward for this if your child has done their work exceptionally well or if they complete it in under 10 minutes? The quicker the students are at washing up the more time there is to make delicious treats! Washing up used to be a family post-dinner activity, the only issue being who washed and who dried!!

Year 11 Parents’ Evening – 15th January 2015

Please be aware that the Year 11 Parents’ Evening Online Booking system is now open for bookings. Access to the booking system is available through the school website. All Year 11 students have been given a letter regarding the procedure of booking appointments but if you have any difficulty accessing the website then please don’t hesitate in contacting the school.

PSR Social Skills - Christmas Outing

The Social Skills group from the Pupil Support Room and their staff had their Christmas trip out this week to the cinema in Letchworth. Below are some of the comments from some of the pupils who attended:

Ana Drakes: *PSR treated us to a nice day out at the cinema and treated us nicely. Miss Bell, Mrs Gregson and Mrs Jones all caring for us even though it was a big cinema.*

Sabrina Benjamin: *I would like to say thank you for our day out and treating us to Cinema and Dominos*

Chantelle Rankin: *Thank you for everything you have done for me and I really had a good day today at the Cinema and our lunch which was Domino’s. We had a good laugh.*

Paulina Kostuch: *Thank you for treating us nicely today and giving us Domino’s pizza. It was great time spent with all the PSR staff.*



Sixth Form News

Senior basketball win over Richard Hale

Congratulations to the senior basketball squad on a convincing county league win over Richard Hale School. The Hertford based school struggled to contain the 3 point threat posed by Nick Allin (yr13) and could not compete with the defensive intensity and hustle of Korede (yr13), resulting in a 20 point win. There were some fantastic performances from year 10 and 11 students, as well as a very confident and controlled performance from year 9 point guard, Jim Acquah playing 3 years out of his age group! This was an excellent victory for the boys in this very competitive league.

Sixth form help at the Christmas Fete

The Christmas Fete was a huge success and we would like to thank the sixth form students that were involved, particularly Megan Winzer and the student council. Their help setting up the venue and working on the stalls was invaluable to the success of the event and we have received many comments from staff and pupils congratulating the sixth formers on all of their hard work.



Connor Smith and the boys on working the stall



Connor Smith, Tom Roper, Caprice Brookes and Georgina Paulus- Nield



The Christmas Fete in full flow

Sixth form mentors enjoy pizza with the Head

The sixth form mentors have been very busy this term and they were rewarded last Friday with a take away lunch of pizza and fried chicken with Mr Litchfield. The Head Teacher spoke with the students about the challenges they face while mentoring younger pupils and discussed the strategies used to assist their mentees with day-to-day life at KTS. We would like to thank the mentors for all of their hard work this term!



Honours Board, 18th December 2014



Congratulations to **Amelia Spinks, Charlotte Spinks, Abigail Sunderland, Ruby Doherty** and **Felicity Massie** who, as members of East Angels team were crowned the 2014 Under-14 UK Inter-Regional Water Polo Champions.

The first Inter-Regional U14 Girls Water Polo tournament held at Liverpool Aquatic Centre on the 8th - 9th November was a resounding success for the Knights Templar pupils who were part of the East Region squad.



Their team, from clubs all over the East of England, was called "East Angels" and were a force to be reckoned with. After the initial first game on Saturday ended as a draw against East Midlands 12-12, they went on to top their group with wins over North West Thunder (9-6) and London Sharks (8-4). This meant that on the Sunday the team would be in the Semi Finals against North East Steelers, who they brushed aside 19-3. The final against North West Lightning was quite a tense match, with huge and very vocal support from parents and players alike, with the team running out eventually winners 7-5 and thus National Champions in the first ever U14 girls tournament. To quote the East Region Manager Chris Stephens "the first Championship victory since the East Region was set up almost a decade ago."

For all the girls, this was their first national tournament and they grew in confidence as the matches progressed. The team coach Carly Rutter was very pleased with their performance overall, and is very keen for them to continue their playing at the higher levels of the sport to gain more experience. Abigail Sunderland and Amelia Spinks were both named "Best All Rounders" by Carly, making excellent saves whilst in goal and Amelia's defending on pitch making things difficult for some of the attacking players. Felicity Massie increased in confidence and ended up marking some players comprehensively out of the game, and Ruby Doherty and Charlotte Spinks both had solid defensive periods in the pool.

All the girls really enjoyed themselves and are keen and ready for their next challenges.

Congratulations to all the girls on this incredible success!

Well done to **Ollie Leach** in 8 Bennett who has recently been registered with MK Dons FC Academy

Dylan Daniel, 7 Knights, has worked really hard and had an outstanding year in his chosen sport of Fencing. Dylan's achievements in fencing this year (now that the 2014 fencing season has ended) include:

Hertfordshire under 12 boys foil competition - 1st place and County champion
Cambridgeshire under 11 boys foil competition – 1st place and County champion
Eastern Regional under 12 boys foil Tournament – 3rd place and qualification for the British Youth Fencing Championships
Leon Paul under 11 boys foil series (15 tournaments with 123 competitors) 5th place
Overall GB ranking for the 2014 season 5th (out of 123 fencers)

Well done Dylan!

Archie Foulkes, a Year 7 pupil, is a very keen cyclist and member of CCA (Cycle Club Ashwell). He races cyclocross (off-road cycling) most weekends through autumn and winter in a league for all the cycling clubs in the East of England. Although this is just his 2nd season, Archie won a podium place in the Eastern region cyclocross race at Bury St. Edmunds recently. In a very tough race he finished in 3rd place overall and he managed to clock up the fastest lap time of all the riders for his final lap!

Harneke Phull was recently awarded the prestigious Player of the Year trophy at Letchworth Golf Club where he has been playing as a member for 6 years. Harneke has won no less than 5 competitions there this year! When asked how he came to be awarded the trophy, he said that other players noticed his achievements throughout the year and put his name forward.





Ben reaches the semi-final of the BBC Radio 2 Young Brass Player of the Year Award!

Ben Goldscheider is one of our very talented musicians and was singing at the School Carol Service in St Mary’s Church on Monday evening. However, Ben is not just an excellent singer.....

Ben, 17, principal horn of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, lives in North Hertfordshire. He began learning the horn at the age of 9 with Tim Welch (a trumpet teacher at his local primary school and who now teaches at KTS) who, after a short period of time, advised Ben to find a horn teacher as his talent became evident. Ben has since been a pupil of Susan Dent at the Royal College of Music Junior Department, where he receives a full scholarship.



When he was 13, Ben was appointed principal horn of the National Youth Chamber Orchestra and in 2014, became principal horn of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain. Aged 14, he was the youngest participant in the prestigious London Symphony Orchestra Brass Academy, participating in master classes and workshops with the LSO Principals.

As a soloist, Ben has performed across the country in public recitals. He has appeared as a soloist multiple times with orchestras and as a result of winning the Guildford Symphony Orchestra Young Soloist prize in November 2014, will be playing Richard Strauss Horn Concerto 1 in March 2015. Ben has participated in numerous competitions and festivals and has won the Toddington Young Musician of the year, Marlowe Young Musician of the year, Musicale Eisteddfod (Open recital class) and both the brass and concerto classes at the Woking Music Festival.

Aside from solo playing, he has performed with an orchestra in the Barbican, Royal Festival Hall, Sage Gateshead, Royal Liverpool philharmonic hall, Belfast waterfront hall, the Royal Albert Hall and Buckingham palace.

Ben is now preparing to perform in the Semi-finals of the BBC Radio 2 Young Brass Player of the Year. He will be playing in Salford in January and is being accompanied by the Brighthouse and Rastrick Brass Band – one of the World’s best brass bands!

Congratulations to the following students who have passed their instrumental grade exams:

TRINITY MUSIC EXAM RESULTS

Lauren Carter	Grade 1	Flute	Pass
Matthew Caldwell	Grade 2	Drums	Pass
Caitlin Bracken	Grade 2	Piano	Distinction
Esme Wase	Grade 2	Guitar	Merit
Connie Payne	Grade 2	Flute	Merit
Maggie Gannon	Grade 2	Flute	Merit
Rachel Goward	Grade 2	Violin	Distinction
Rishab Gupta	Grade 3	Guitar	Pass
John Goward	Grade 3	Guitar	Pass
George Gearing	Grade 3	Guitar	Pass
Lucy Owen	Grade 3	Piano	Pass
Joseph Allen	Grade 5	Tenor Horn	Merit
Felix Shaw	Grade 5	Trumpet	Merit
Millie Goddard	Grade 5	Cornet	Merit
Rosanna Moynihan	Grade 5	Flute	Merit
Emily Wallis	Grade 5	Piano	Merit
Pippa Mackenzie	Grade 6	Flute	Pass
Ellen King	Grade 7	Trumpet	Pass
Nick Brewer	Grade 8	Tuba	Merit

ABRSM Music Exam Results Autumn 2014:

Emily Northern	Grade 5	Theory	Pass
Sam Rayner	Grade 5	Jazz Piano	Pass

