

# The Knights Templar School

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## PARENTAL WEEKLY UPDATE – 19<sup>th</sup> March 2015 (also available on our website)

Dear Parent and Carer

The Knights Templar School has once again demonstrated that the wide range of enrichment activities on offer really do develop the whole child. As well as the trips and regular extra-curricular activities on offer we have had two inspirational speakers in school. Peter Tatchell spoke to the year 12 students yesterday talking about aiming high and to believe that you can achieve anything. Today, John McCarthy spoke to our year 11 students, telling them of his experience being kidnapped by Islamic Jihad terrorists in Lebanon in April 1986 and how he was held for five years. Both of these speakers were inspirational for the students and staff. Many thanks for Mrs Brando for organising these visits as part of our Engaging Minds programme.

May I also remind you that we finish school on Thursday 2nd April at 12.00. Students who travel home by bus can be assured that the buses will be here at 12.00 in the usual manner. School starts again for the Summer Term on Monday 20th April.

Many thanks,  
Regards,

Tim Litchfield  
Headteacher

### Dates for your diary:

20/03/2015	Friday	Yr 12 Progress Reviews North Herts G&T Masterclass (12 students), Yr7-10, 1pm-3pm
23/03/2015	Monday	Yr 11 GCSE PE Moderation (including some Yr 10 & 12 students), all day Yr 11 GCSE Music Solo Performances in the Hall, all day
24/03/2015	Tuesday	Yr 11 GCSE PE Moderation (including some Yr 10 & 12 students), all day Yr 11 GCSE Music Solo Performances in the Hall, all day Bronze DofE Practice Expedition Planning Meeting 2, 7pm-9pm - T16
25/03/2015	Wednesday	Yr 8 District Hockey Tournament, 2.20pm-6pm Yr 11 GCSE PE Moderation (including some Yr 10 & 12 students), all day Yr 10 Parents Evening, 4.00-7.30pm
26/03/2015	Thursday	Yr 8 & 9 Under 14 District Girls Football Tournament, 2.20-6pm Yr 11 GCSE PE Moderation (including some Yr 10 & 12 students), all day
27/03/2015	Friday	Yr 13 Final Report Yr 7-10 Girls Rugby Festival, Hertford Rugby Club, 11.20am-5pm Yr 11 GCSE PE Moderation (including some Yr 10 & 12 students), all day
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### Solar Eclipse

Mother Nature is joining in with National Science week on Friday when we will hopefully (weather dependent) be treated to a solar eclipse (about 80% coverage). The KTS Science Department will be making

the most of this event, using telescopes, binoculars, pinhole cameras and even colanders to view the phenomena, as long as the weather does not ruin it!

Please be careful if you get a chance to view the eclipse. Do not look directly at the sun before, during or after the eclipse, as it can permanently damage your eyesight. For more information on how to view the eclipse safely follow this link [http://www.ras.org.uk/images/solar\\_eclipse\\_leaflet.pdf](http://www.ras.org.uk/images/solar_eclipse_leaflet.pdf)

“First contact” is due at about 0830 with maximum coverage at about 0930. Please do send in any images you manage to take of the eclipse as we would love to see them and share them with the students.

### **Year 7 Castles**

In History lessons, Year sevens have been set the challenge of creating a medieval castle. Many pupils rose to the challenge spectacularly and we have received some fantastic models. One winning model was created by Billy Clark and Hugo Major who made a fantastically accurate model of a stone keep castle complete with a moat, flags, functional portcullis and catapult. So much effort has gone into their work it has been proudly displayed in reception to inspire all KTS pupils.



### **Drama GCSE Practical Exam**

Congratulations to the Y11 GCSE Drama who have just completed their Practical exams! After a ten hour rehearsal process the students performed to an external examiner. They devised pieces in a variety of genres, from social realism to political theatre. Themes included drink-driving, the class divide, child abuse and the dangers of technology. Each group crafted their performances and should be very proud. Their Working Records reflected the hard work in rehearsal, showing great analysis and evaluation of the practical work.

The Drama Department continue their Practical Exam Season with the A Level performances on Wednesday 1st April at 7pm in the Drama Studio. The performances are open to students in Y10 and above, family, friends and staff. We hope to see you there!

### **Year 7 Netball**

Congratulations to the year 7 netball squad for coming second in the District tournament at Marriotts School on Wednesday 18th March. We played fantastically throughout the whole tournament winning 4 matches and drawing 1 match in our pool. In the semi-final we played against Hitchin Girls' School, beating them by 1 goal. We then had to play John Henry Newman in the final, the match was very close with both teams battling it out till the end...finishing with JHN the winners. The player of the tournament was Clara Wood for excellent shooting and great improvement within the team.

### **KTS Students Interview Sir Oliver Heald on Budget Day**

Sir Oliver met up with Joe Royal to discuss the debate on giving 16 year olds the debate. The MP for North East Hertfordshire was a splendid host and answered Joe's searching questions in full. Janvi Bhalla and Kate Bennett were the experience mentors for the day, while Johnny Warman and Sam Collins filled and worked on sound. We tweeted our pictures during the day [@ktsnewscast](https://twitter.com/ktsnewscast) and [@OliverHealdMP](https://twitter.com/OliverHealdMP) favourited our tweet.

The whole story was screened live in the hall. You can watch the whole report at [www.ktemplar.herts.sch.uk/News/KTS-School-Report](http://www.ktemplar.herts.sch.uk/News/KTS-School-Report)

PS Watch out for KTS Newscast for Easter.

### **PA 200 Club.**

Are you a member of the PA 200 Club? If not, why not? It's a school based lottery which pays out 3 cash prizes per month for the princely sum of £1.00 a month. That's only £12.00 a year! The more families who join up, the bigger the prize. Click the link [http://www.ktemplar.herts.sch.uk/PA-200-CLUB/Lloyds\\_TSB\\_Mandate.pdf](http://www.ktemplar.herts.sch.uk/PA-200-CLUB/Lloyds_TSB_Mandate.pdf) to join the club and return it in an envelope addressed to: PA 200 Club. Next week! A photo of this month's draw, and the lucky prize winners announced!

## KTS Celebrates '75 Jazz Spectacular – Save the Date

This year ONLY, the KTS Jazz Spectacular has had to move out of the two weeks of the fantastic Baldock Festival. The new Jazz Spectacular date will be **Saturday June 27th**. This special 75th Anniversary Jazz Spectacular will be a celebration of our past, present and future. It will feature the KTS All Stars under the direction of their new band leader Mrs Eli Guinane, as well as a special reunion Big Band featuring as many old boys and girls as we can find under the direction of the inimitable Mike O'Neill. We will round the night off with a special set from ex head teacher Peter Chapman and his teachers Jazz Band. Stay tuned as more details become available.

## COMIC RELIEF

The final total is in and we raised **£1880.54** for Comic Relief on Red Nose Day this year. Congratulations to everyone and thank you especially to those who dressed in red or came to the Great KTS Bake Off, and to Mr Somerville's programmers who designed the Comic Relief Scratch games.

The Bake Off was a hard fought contest - but there can only be one Star Baker per round. So, congratulations to Miss Staines, who crossed rivers, climbed mountains and overcame other geographic obstacles to be crowned Star Baker in the technical challenge, and to Mr Smith, who showed he's a champion in the kitchen, as well as on the rugby pitch, by designing and making the best funny face cake.



## GCSE PE Moderation

Year 11 GCSE PE moderation is due to run between Monday 23rd March – Friday 27th March, which is inevitably going to impact other PE lessons. Can all students ensure they bring appropriate clothing to go outside, inclusive of suitable footwear.

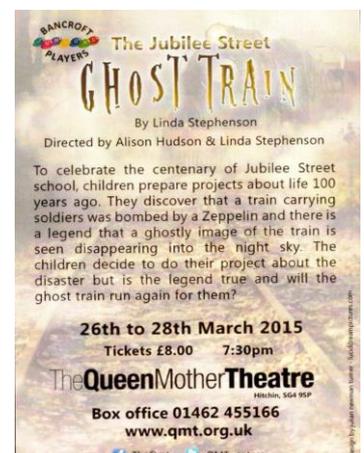
## Year 10 Parents' Evening – 25th March 2015

Please be aware that the Year 10 Parents' Evening Online Booking system is now open for bookings. Access to the booking system is available through the school website under the "Parents Tab". All Year 10 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.

## Props and Gift Club

Whilst the fantastic KTS Performing Arts department are between productions the Props & Gift Club has been busy designing and making props and scenery for the Junior Bancroft Player's production of The Jubilee Street Ghost Train. The show runs from 26th to 28th March at the Queen Mother Theatre in Hitchin and features children from KTS and other local schools. We have also found time to make a few lucky mums some lovely gifts for Mother's Day!

Props & Gifts club runs every Tuesday lunch in the Tech block.



### Coming Soon to KTS – Jan Waite’s reading garden

Pupils and staff at KTS are currently working on creating a Reading Garden as a tribute to Jan Waite, who devoted many years to teaching English at KTS. We have raised £500 towards the cost of the project and we have received a donation of £200 but we still need your help.

The aim of the project is to transform the quad outside Student Services into a reading garden for students to use throughout the year. As you can see from the photographs, this area is in dire need of renovation! We have student and staff volunteers to help with the landscaping but we still need you! Please see our [website page](#) for more information and updates.

### National Apprenticeship Week

As part of National Apprenticeship Week Tesco’s Early Career team came into a year 11 business lesson to talk to the students about the opportunities available to them. They delivered an interactive session so that the students got a feel for what apprenticeship schemes involved and the benefits of learning through working.

The session involved an overview of the apprenticeships at Tesco followed by an interactive session involving 8 members of Tesco’s apprenticeship scheme. The students found it beneficial to find out first-hand about apprenticeship schemes with ...Charlie Littlewood.....saying “I really enjoyed the lesson as it gave me an insight into what is involved in apprenticeships and that it can be for anyone from 16 – 65.”

The students got first-hand experience of what it is to be a buyer at Tesco for their clothing brands and also to experience what is involved in technological developments at Tesco . They had the opportunity to see how Google glasses could be used by their customers.

We are building up a wide and varied selection of businesses to come into lessons or be involved in activities linked to future career option choices for students. If you might be interested in working with the school and being actively involved in your sons/daughters education please contact Mr Vallier, Head of Business and Social Sciences Faculty at [dvallier@ktemplar.herts.sch.uk](mailto:dvallier@ktemplar.herts.sch.uk)



### Shakespeare Week 16th-22nd March

The library contains a vast collection of Shakespeare’s works, including easy readers, plays, and graphic novels. Pupils will be encouraged to learn more about our great bard.

#### Can you help?

The library is in need of a small, smart, light pine, or beech bookcase.

If you think you have something suitable that you would like to donate, please contact us at [librarian@ktemplar.herts.sch.uk](mailto:librarian@ktemplar.herts.sch.uk)

And finally.....

*“If you don’t turn your life into a story, You just become a part of someone else’s story”*

Sir Terence David John “Terry” Pratchett OBE  
28th April 1948 – 12th March 2015



“Be not afraid of greatness: some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them.”

William Shakespeare

### **British Youth Fencing Contender**

Dylan Daniel (7 Knights) took part in the Eastern Regional Fencing tournament in Cambridge on Saturday 14th March. The competition was attended by fencers from across 5 counties (Herts, Cambs, Suffolk, Norfolk and Essex) plus some affiliated London clubs. Dylan fenced really well in the largest age category and won the silver medal (coming 2nd in the Boys under 12 foil). This achievement means that Dylan has qualified to represent the region in the British Youth Fencing Championships in Sheffield on 4th May, where all the best youth fencers in the country will compete for the GB title. Well done Dylan and good luck for May!

### **Year 9 Engineering Day – 5th March 2015**

On 5th March we held our annual Year 9 Engineering Day. Over 200 students participated in the day, undertaking a variety of activities, which ranged from building an electronic test system, to constructing a cardboard bridge, and stress testing it with a range of loads.

External engineers, and sponsoring companies, supported the day, and we were very pleased to welcome MBDA and Astrium, from Stevenage, to school for the day, with our students benefiting from their technical guidance through the various projects.

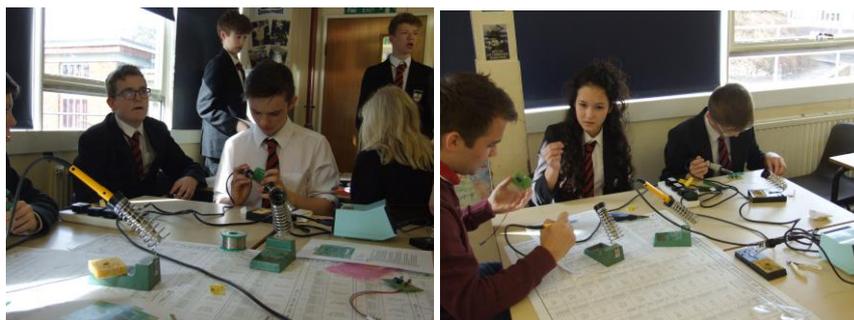
Chris Gomm, a local engineer, who has supported engineering day for over 16 years, brought a team of volunteer engineers, who also regularly support our events, and they were able to guide our students through the problem solving tasks, with professional advice on construction, and stress testing.

Our own Technology department ran the bridge construction project, and students certainly enjoyed this engineering problem, and the destruction testing of their many, and varied, creative solutions to the task.

Raw eggs were a popular payload for the Astrium exercise, and having built a model satellite from paper, card and foil, these were vigorously tested by opposing teams, with enthusiastic applause for any failures, and the resulting egg mess.

The MBDA task required some intricate soldering, and the electrical testing of the completed circuit, which brought some new skills and experiences to the day.

Feedback from the students at the end of the day indicated that a good time was had by all, and the prospect of considering a career in engineering would seem to be a possibility for many.



## Sixth Form News

### Famed activist Peter Tatchell visits KTS sixth form

The sixth form were treated to an inspiring and thought provoking speech by famed human rights activist, Peter Tatchell. A number of issues were covered ranging from Mr Tatchell's initial interest in the black civil rights movement in America during the 1960s, to his leading role in the fight for equal rights for the gay and lesbian community and even a fascinating story regarding his attempted 'citizen's arrest' of Zimbabwean President, Robert Mugabe on UK soil in the late 90s. Mr Tatchell challenged our sixth form students to question how the world we live in is governed and take real action in making it a better, fairer society for all. We would like to thank Mr Tatchell for taking the time to address and inspire our sixth form students.



### Senior boys' football squad qualify for district final

We would like to congratulate the senior boys' football squad who overcame a number of injury issues this season to earn a place in the district final against John Henry Newman. The final will take place on Friday 27th March (4pm KO) and will be held at Fearnhill School. We would like to encourage as many students (past and present) and parents to attend as possible to support the school, as we attempt to make it 3 senior district titles in a row!



### Current student profile- Alexandra Mitchell

As teachers, we often tell sixth form students how important it is to ensure they 'stand out from the pack' by becoming involved in extra-curricular activities and volunteering schemes- today, we would like to celebrate the achievements of one student who certainly has acted upon our message. Alexandra Mitchell is a year 12 student, working hard towards her academic studies during the week but every Saturday, she volunteers her time at the Lister Hospital, working alongside a variety of professionals on the maternity wards. Despite being unsuccessful in 3 previous applications to gain a place on the highly competitive NHS run Student Volunteering Programme, Alexandra's perseverance paid off and she is now enjoying work in a very dynamic and challenging environment. Alexandra admits that she was 'hesitant' about taking on such a different type of challenge but her courage and determination to succeed has definitely paid off; 'I believe that it has given me an insight into a professional, caring environment and I have also gained more confidence...' Alex went on to say that the most rewarding part of this opportunity is the sense of 'contributing in a small way to the comfort of patients, as well as helping with the heavy workload of staff'. Well done to Alexandra on securing this fantastic opportunity and demonstrating such impressive community spirit!

### Sixth form involvement with 3 peaks challenge

It was fantastic to see strong representation from the sixth form on the Yorkshire 3 Peaks Challenge, with 13 sixth form student taking on the gruelling climb. Our year 12s and 13s have been working incredibly hard in the class room but their commitment to taking on new challenges such as climbing the Yorkshire 3 Peaks is a perfect illustration of the fantastic work ethic and motivation instilled in our students. Well done to all involved!





### **Sixth form students advise year 11s**

Making choices about post-16 options can be daunting and this week, year 12 students have been providing year 11 pupils with short assemblies based on their own experiences of the KTS sixth form, detailing why they chose to continue their education here. This initiative was devised and delivered by the students who felt that year 11 pupils needed some 'student perspective' with these big decisions! The feedback from this week's presentations has been very positive and we would like to thank the students involved for giving up their time for this cause.

### **Head boy and girl speeches**

On Friday the candidates running for the Head Boy and Girl roles (Sept 2015), faced the daunting task of delivering a speech to their sixth form peers, detailing why they were the ideal person for such a distinguished role. Also present in the audience was our Head Teacher, Mr Litchfield who commented; *'The presentations from all the candidates were very well prepared and very well delivered – it was a joy to see talented young people talk passionately about the impact they believe they can have on the development of the school. I wish we could appoint all of them!'* The final round of the selection process involves an interview with senior staff and governors of the school- good luck to all of the candidates involved; *Barney Taylor, Amit Shah, Tanisha Gearing, Helen Inman and Lucy Merrell.*

### **Sixth form representation at the BASE Awards**

Last week, 6 year 12 students travelled to Cambridge to participate in the 'BASE' Business Awards competition. The challenge required students to analyse a business profile, solve problems and increase its customer base and profits. After a day of rigorous tasks were complete and all the presentations by various groups had been delivered, the students had access to a number of accountancy firms. Through conversations with professionals from these firms, students were able to expand their understanding of what is required to become an accountant and what the job entails. The opportunity provided by Mrs Hopkins was an invaluable experience and a great day was had by all.  
(Written by Zoe Melabianaki, year 12 student).

