

# The Knights Templar School

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## PARENTAL WEEKLY UPDATE – 24<sup>th</sup> September 2015 (also available on our website)

Dear Parents and Carers

This week sees the start of the build for our new Science block – a great moment in the history of the school - the building will inspire young scientists for generations to come. This will obviously cause some disruption to the running of the school and we ask for your patience for the duration of the build. The main disruption will be that we will not be able to park cars on the field during open evenings, parent information evenings and other such functions. Therefore, during this year, when we have such an occasion, please do try to park in local streets or where possible walk to the school. I will keep you informed on the progress of the build, but we hope to be finished and ready for learning in September 2016!

We have been running our new food provision, the 'Pod', for nearly a week now and it is proving very successful. The Pod provides almost identical food to the canteen, apart from the sit down meals - the plan is alleviate some of the pressure from the school canteen. The pod will be open to all students, year 9 and above, from Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September. Please remember there is no cash facility at the Pod – students paying must use their thumb. This is also a good opportunity to remind you that our preferred option for students paying for food is through the cashless catering system – please do ensure your son or daughter has credit on their account if they wish to buy food.

Please can I ask you to ensure that your son or daughter arrives promptly to school. Students need to be in their form room by 8.35am. They should also be prepared for their learning. This will include ensuring they have all their books, a full pencil case (with spare equipment where necessary) and having completed all their homework. Please may I remind you that full school uniform is to be worn at all times, including to and from school. Please consult the school website or contact your year leader if you are uncertain regarding any aspects of school uniform.

As I hope you are aware, we are running our very first Careers Fair at KTS on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October. This is open to students in year 10 and upwards. We have some of the country's top employers here for you to be able to talk to, to ask questions about their work, how to apply, or the suitability of your son or daughter in their industry – please do attend with your son or daughter. School uniform need not be worn. The evening runs from 6.00pm – 7.00pm (Year 10 & 12 students) and from 7.15pm – 8.30pm for year 11 & 13. Please be aware that parking on the school site is very restricted.

Congratulations to the 120 students who received their Bronze, Silver or Gold certificates for completion of the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme from Mr Vivien Crellin (Headmaster at KTS 1960 – 1984) at our DofE Awards evening last night. It was a wonderful evening of celebration. Thank you to everyone involved in the organisation.

May I encourage all students to come in non-uniform tomorrow to help raise funds for Macmillan Cancer. The school is holding what must be one of the biggest Macmillan coffee mornings locally. Students are asked to pay £2 to wear non uniform and will get a cake as well!

Kind Regards,

**Tim Litchfield**  
Headteacher

**Dates for your diary:**

25/09/2015	Friday	Macmillan Coffee Morning (Non-Uniform)
28/09/2015	Monday	Yr 12 Photography Trip, Camden Town, London, all day
29/09/2015	Tuesday	6th Form Drama Conference at The National Theatre, all day 6th Form Theatre Trip to Our Country's Good (until 11.00pm)
30/09/2015	Wednesday	Staff Inset Day –school closed to students Silver DofE Assessment Planning Meeting 2, 7pm-9pm, T16
01/10/2015	Thursday	Yr 11 Revision Cracked Seminars (Periods 1-4) Careers Fair, 6.30pm-8.30pm, Hall
02/10/2015	Friday	Yr 11 Revision Cracked Seminars (Periods 1-4) Yr 12 & 13 trip to Macbeth, Letchworth Broadway

**Raising Self Esteem and Developing a Confident Child**

We are pleased to pass on information regarding the above workshop which is free for parents to attend:

Thursday, 5 November 2015

9:30am to 11:30am

St Mary's Junior School, St Mary's Way, Baldock SG7 6HY

For further details, please see here: [Raising Self Esteem and Developing a Confident Child](#)

**Notes from our PE Department**

We are always pleased to have supporters at our various sports events and matches. Please see the [here](#) on our website for details of matches taking place next week. This page is updated weekly with details of times and fixtures.

Please also see the following links that you may be interested in:

[£2 Tennis](#)

[Girls' Football](#)

**KS4 Astronomy**

After a fantastic turn out to a taster session open to Year 10 and 11 pupils, a group of Year 13 prefects and Year 12 students in conjunction with Science staff, have commenced extra-curricular Astronomy sessions on Thursday and Friday lunch times which will continue throughout this year.

The sessions will run in parallel with the current Astronomy GCSE syllabus and comprise four main topics: Earth Moon and Sun, Planetary Systems, Stars and Galaxies and Cosmologies

For those students that prove their suitability over the course of this year (and next for the Year 10's) this could lead to the possibility of achieving an extra GCSE- something that could really help you to stand out from the crowd and is especially useful if you are planning on pursuing a science A level in the future.

For any students that missed the taster session but may still be interested in attending, speak to Kate Bennett, Helen Inman, Rennan Tilbury, Alex Massie, Alex Smith, Stuart Dougal or any member of the Science team for more information

*(Kate Bennett- Year 13)*

**Debating Club – new to KTS!**

This week has seen the successful start of the KTS Debate Club. The club which will meet every Wednesday lunch time started with a bang. Students from across the years attended and debated cases from 'should Goldilocks be arrested' to the benefits of control over freedom. Please encourage your children to come along to Debate Club to gain wonderful skills and the opportunity to participate in inter-school debates

We are very proud to share this article from last week's Comet with you about our very own Monica Yianni who is a Member of Youth Parliament for North Herts. Well done Monica!

# Monica shows politics is not just men in suits

by James Scott  
james.scott@thecomet.net

A schoolgirl from Ashwell is hoping to deliver a speech in the House of Commons which proves that politics is not just about 'old men in suits'.

Monica Yianni – a pupil at Baldock's Knights Templar School – will be following in the footsteps of Britain's political leaders when she gives a presentation on the Magna Carta from the hallowed chamber on Friday, November 13.

The 16-year-old is a Member of Youth Parliament for North Herts, and was chosen from all of her equivalents across the east of England to step into the Westminster spotlight.

Monica and her fellow MYPs – supported by Herts County Council's Youth Connexions team – will also be launching the county's 2015 Young People's Manifesto next month, with an event to raise awareness in Stevenage on Thursday, November 4.

After a vote involving almost 7,000 young people, the issues at the top of the agenda are cyber bullying, young people's rights, hate crime, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues, educa-



■ Monica Yianni.

tion and financial support for young people.

Monica, who feels more young people should get involved in politics, said: "I thought the group would be full of people who knew everything about politics and the names of all the politicians, but it's really just a group of like-minded people who care about the same things.

"Even though it's politics, you don't feel like you're 60 – you still feel 16.

"We all have our own opinions, but we all have the same job of making life better for young people.

"It makes young people more aware of what's happening around them.

"Politics is not just old men in suits – it's for everyone as it affects all our lives."

Councillor Richard Roberts, who is responsible for children's services at County Hall, said: "Monica is a credit to the youth parliament, her school and wider Hertfordshire community.

"I hope she has a great day in parliament, especially delivering her speech.

"The youth parliament is a great place for the voice of young people to be heard and to bring influence to bear.

"I particularly welcome meeting the challenge of the priorities coming forward in the next youth manifesto and the debate that will follow.

"If you want to get involved, our excellent youth connexions service will give you all the support you need. Please get in touch."

If you're aged between 11 and 25 and live, work or are educated in the county and want to find out more, email [jasmin.payne@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:jasmin.payne@hertfordshire.gov.uk).

## News from The Music Department

### Music Students go to the Opera.....

On Wednesday this week, 30 Year 10-13 students visited the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden, London for a special schools' performance of Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*.

We were treated to some beautiful music and an amazing spectacle. As always, the students were a credit to themselves and the school.



### **Mass for the Armed Man**

To commemorate Remembrance Day, the Knights Templar Choirs and the senior orchestra will be joining St. Mary's Church Choir to perform Karl Jenkin's The Mass for the Armed Man on Friday 6th November at St. Mary's church, Baldock.

A letter detailing rehearsal and performance information has been distributed to choir and orchestra members. Please return the reply slip to the Music Office by 5th October.

### **Instrumental Tuition**

Invoices for this term's instrumental tuition fees have been issued. Please note that the payment must be received by Friday 16th October. If you have any queries regarding instrumental tuition, please contact our Music Secretary, Sarah Fraser on ext. 279 or via email [sfraser@ktemplar.herts.sch.uk](mailto:sfraser@ktemplar.herts.sch.uk).

### **New Views – National Theatre Playwriting Competition**

'New Views' is the National Theatre's annual playwriting programme for 15–19-year-olds. Each year hundreds of students from across the UK learn about playwriting from some of the finest writers in the business and write their own short plays, with one play chosen to be staged at the NT with a professional cast. Students follow the specially created online course in a school-based writing groups, see NT productions and take part in workshops with professional writers. Students write half-hour plays about the challenging issues that matter to them, stage readings of their work in school and have a chance to see their play produced by the National Theatre with a professional cast.

The Knights Templar group will be meeting on Thursdays after school, 3.30-4.30, although there are opportunities to participate on a more flexible basis. If your son or daughter is interested in taking part in this competition, please ask them to see Mr Sills in the Drama Office. This is an enrichment activity for ALL interested Y10-13 student, so do not need to be taking a Drama qualification.

### **Library News**

#### **Scholastic Teen Book Club**

The closing date for your Scholastic Teen Book Club orders is the 1st October. Please return any order forms with payment before this date to the Library. We accept cheques, cash, and credit cards. Discounted publications include the Maze Runner series, Tom Gates, and the latest in the How to Train a Dragon publication.

#### **Parent Book Swap**

The library is pleased to announce our parent book swap facility is now available, and located within the school's main reception area. Parents and friends of the school are welcome to borrow items from the bookcase, or make suitable donations. This forms part of the school's greater commitment to creating a reading community. The books are primarily short stories and quick reads, covering a variety of genres.

#### **Christmas is coming at Knights Sports Centre**

Knights Sports Centre are running a charity drive for all the children that are too poorly to go home from Lister Hospital for Christmas.

All donations will be gratefully received at the Sports Centre in the form of either money donations, for gifts to be purchased on your behalf, or you can donate a gift yourself. Please label gift donations with age and gender that the gift is designed for. Thank you.

#### **Year 9 boys' football team defeat Rickmansworth**

A strong performance from the year 9 boys' football team resulted in a thoroughly deserved 3-2 win against Rickmansworth School, who are traditionally very strong in the county competition. Goals from Ollie Plant, Gus Long and Cole Butler helped secure a place for KTS in the 2nd round of the county cup. Standout defensive performances from Marcus Cesvette, Charlie Wilson and Will Elsom ensured that KTS held onto their slender advantage, to defeat their opponents from the south of the county. Well done to all of the boys involved!

### Year 7 boys' football- first game, first win!

The year 7 boys' football team got their season off to a flying start on a beautiful Saturday morning, defeating Monks Walk School 5-3. Adam Turner was the match-day hero, scoring all 5 KTS goals but a strong team performance helped ensure that the school from Welwyn were never truly in the game. An immense defensive effort from Jude Law, combined with Teddy Stevenson's control over midfield proceedings helped the KTS boys ease to their first win of their secondary school careers.



### Olympic and Paralympic Legacy Event

On Wednesday 16th and Thursday 17th September the North Herts School Sport Partnership hosted their annual Olympic and Paralympic Legacy Event at Knights Templar School in Baldock.

The two days saw over 1000 primary school children from across North Herts participate in a number of sporting and cultural activities. Each school represented a different country and teams were able to take part in the following activities: Handball, Netball, Boccia, Dance, Wheelchair Basketball, Sitting Volleyball, Table Tennis, Sports Reporting and Design and Create. Both days started with an opening ceremony and torch relay to declare the games open, and finished with a closing ceremony and medal presentation.

160 Sports Leaders were involved in the event from local secondary schools: Knights Templar School, The Priory School, Hitchin Boys' School and Hitchin Girls' School. There were also a variety of activity leaders from local organisations such as North Herts District Council and Hitchin Town Community FC who made the event possible, supported by Sports Apprentices from Sporting Futures Training cic.

Wet weather on the Wednesday meant some activities were moved indoors to Letchworth Tennis Club, with Cozy Travel Ltd working effortlessly to transport all the schools to and from the venues. Huge thanks to everyone involved in making the two days so successful!



## Sixth Form News

### Life at the KTS sixth form- an 'outside' perspective

Lydia Halsey joined the KTS sixth form from the prestigious St Edmund's College and has found the transition to be a smooth one. In a recent conversation with the Deputy Head of Sixth Form, Lydia said: 'I thought that moving here would be quite difficult but actually it has been easy! Everyone is very friendly and I have already found a nice group of friends to spend time with'.

Lydia is studying A Levels in; Art, Product Design, English Literature and Creative Writing. Lydia has found the courses to be just what she was looking for- 'the courses are all quite creative and they challenge me to think about what I want for my own future'.

Outside of lessons, Lydia has already undertaken the mentor training and hopes to be assigned a mentee from the younger years in the next couple of weeks.

We are very happy to receive applications from students of Lydia's calibre and even more excited when they make the KTS sixth form their number 1 choice!



### Senior Football boys struggle in the national cup

The senior boys football team battled well in their opening fixture of the season against Bedford based, Sharnbrook. Two injuries to the centre back pairing of Ollie Hume and Jamie Allen put the KTS boys on the back foot in the opening minutes of the game and it wasn't long before Sharnbrook took the lead. However, the team fought hard to get back in the game and 2 goals from lone striker Sam Oram helped give KTS a chance of booking a place in the next round of the national cup. Unfortunately, Sharnbrook held on for a 3-2 win and the KTS team will now have to turn their attentions to district and county competitions.



### Interact plan to visit Weston Way Nursery

Interact is the youth branch of the Baldock Rotary Club, striving to contribute as positively as possible to initiatives in the local community. This academic year has started well for the student led group who have already organised a crafts day at Weston Way Nursery. Sophie Weston (President), Amelia Ellis (Secretary) and Katie Winzer (Treasurer) have already confirmed plans to take a group of KTS sixth form students to Weston Way Nursery, providing an opportunity for the children of the nursery to participate in a range of arts and crafts activities. We are very proud of the incredibly active role Interact play in the community and we would like to congratulate those students involved on all of their endeavours.

### Enterprise Day- helpers

#### CALLING ALL MEN AND WOMEN OF BUSINESS!! !

We are looking for parent volunteers to help with our year 12 'Enterprise Day' on Wednesday 21st October. We require volunteers, ideally with a background in business, finance, sales, advertising etc to volunteer their time as 'facilitators' for the day. Your responsibility as a facilitator would be to work with a group of approximately 12 students, helping to guide, prompt and inspire them, throughout a series of tasks that contribute towards the overall competition of the day. The event starts at 8.30am and will finish at 3.20pm, although facilitators are not necessarily needed for the entirety of the day. Coffee, pastries and lunch will be provided for our volunteers. If you are interested in assisting with this event then please contact Mr Raymen at [draymen@ktemplar.herts.sch.uk](mailto:draymen@ktemplar.herts.sch.uk)

### **Sixth form students help with 'House Matches'**

The PE department have had a very successful week of house matches and we would like to thank all of the A Level PE and BTEC Sport students who helped ensure the smooth running of each event. Students worked brilliantly throughout the 3 days of house matches this week, assisting with; equipment, time keeping, officiating and score keeping, as well as engaging with the pupils in lower years and motivating them to fully participate.

BTEC Sport students Ryan and Jemma assisting with the badminton tournament



The event would not have been such a success without you!

### **KTS 'graduate profile'- Christian Elliott**

Christian graduated from the KTS sixth form in 2012, having achieved 2 A\* and 2 A grades in History, English, Ethics and Philosophy and Chemistry, respectively. This in itself was quite an achievement, but this incredible academic performance was made even more impressive due to the constraints on Christian's time as Head Boy of the school. He went to Balliol College at Oxford to study History where he achieved a First Class Honours Degree. He has recently been employed by well-known and prestigious law firm, Slaughter and May, where he will be in receipt of funding to study for his law conversion qualification. We are extremely proud of Christian's achievements and would like to wish him all the best for his future endeavours.