

# The Knights Templar School

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## PARENTAL WEEKLY UPDATE – 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2015 (also available on our website)

Dear Parent or Carer

### WONDERFUL NEWS!!

I am delighted to be able to announce that the school has been successful in its bid to build a new Science block. The block will be completed and open for teaching on September 1st 2016. Our current Science labs have not been fit for purpose for some time now and whilst there is some outstanding Science teaching going on in the classrooms, to have new, purpose built spaces will further engage the students in this important area of the curriculum. I will, of course, inform you when I have a clearer plan for the start of the build.

This Easter holiday will be a crucial time for students taking exams in the summer public exam period. Using the time wisely is the best advice I can give. Have a revision schedule, stick to it and remember that every minute does matter. Parents and Carers play a very important role in ensuring there is a quiet space for study. If you have not already seen it, there is a very useful guide for parents and carers on our website under the Parent tab. Please do have a look at it [www.ktemplar.herts.sch.uk/KTS-Parent-guide-to-exams](http://www.ktemplar.herts.sch.uk/KTS-Parent-guide-to-exams)  
The summer exam schedule can be found under the 'students' tab or please click this link.  
[www.ktemplar.herts.sch.uk/News/Examinations](http://www.ktemplar.herts.sch.uk/News/Examinations)

I hope you enjoy looking at our **student honours board** this week. As you are aware we try to publish some of the exceptional achievements of the students of this outstanding school towards the end of every half term.

I would like to draw your attention to a very special group of young people who have worked very hard this term.

Using the data provided by the teachers I am able to identify the students who have made most progress between the Autumn and Spring reports. I have today spoken to and wish to acknowledge the top students in years 7, 8 and 9 who have made the most progress in terms of attitudes to learning and achievement.

Year 7 – Most Improved –	<b>Oliver Orton, Madeline Redfearn, Alicia Padget-Dunthorne</b>
Year 8 – Most improved–	<b>Charlie Duplock, Andrew Gonis, Ewan Wallace</b>
	<b>Samuel Toombs, Stanley Sheekey, Henry Broderick</b>
Year 9 – Most improved –	<b>Samuel Chapman, David Bills, Bobby Pearce</b>
	<b>Matthew Wootton, Rachel Grant, Louis Gunnell</b>

Congratulations to all the students named above and please keep up the good work.

May I thank you all for your continued support this term. I am very grateful for the hard work of all my colleagues and their dedication to the students. I am also very proud of the attitudes of the students to being as good as they possibly can. But, the success of the students does rely on the support from parents and carers and this continued partnership will ensure success.

May I wish you all a very happy Easter holiday and please be reminded that school starts on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April.

Many thanks,  
Regards,

Tim Litchfield  
Headteacher

### Dates for your diary:

02/04/2015	Thursday	Last Day of Spring Term
03/04/2015	Friday	Ski Trip to France
11/04/2015	Friday	Ski Trip to France Returns
17/04/2015	Friday	Gold DofE Practice Expedition, Brecon Beacons
12/04/2015	Sunday	Yr 10-11 Madrid Trip
18/04/2015	Saturday	Yr 10-11 Madrid Trip returns
02/04/2015	Thursday	Last Day of Spring Term
03/04/2015	Friday	Ski Trip to France
11/04/2015	Friday	Ski Trip to France Returns
20/04/2015	Monday	Summer Term begins
22/04/2015	Wednesday	Yr 7 G&T Athletics Masterclass, 8.55am-12.20pm Bronze DofE Expedition Planning Meeting 1, 7.30pm-9pm - KTS Governors' Meeting (PH&S), 5.00pm-7.00pm Yr 12 & 13 Drama Trip to see Everyman, The National, 4pm-11.30pm
23/04/2015	Thursday	Yr 7 - 10 Shakespeare Day - Library Yr 9 Parents Evening, 4.00-7.30pm Gold DofE Post Practice Debrief, 7.30pm - T16
24/04/2015	Friday	Yr 7-10 North Herts G&T PE Masterclass (12 students), 1pm-3pm Combined Concert featuring Senior Chamber Choir & Welwyn Garden City Brass Band, 7.30pm-10pm
25/04/2015	Saturday	Bronze DofE Assessment Expedition 1 (returns 27th)
26/04/2015	Sunday	Bronze DofE Assessment Expedition 1

### Year 9 Parents' Evening – 23rd April 2015

Please be aware that the Year 9 Parents' Evening Online Booking system is now available to make your appointments. Access to the booking system is available through the school website under the "Parents Tab". All Year 9 students have been given a letter regarding the procedure of booking appointments..

Access the [Parents Evening Booking System here](#)

### Easter Revision for Year 11 students

The timetable for Year 11 revision sessions that are planned in school over the Easter week can be found [here](#)

### Roald Dahl's chocolate box

Every night after dinner, Roald Dahl would offer his fellow diners a chocolate from this little red box. Whether he was dining alone with his family or hosting a dinner party for friends, the red chocolate box invariably made an appearance after every meal.

As Roald's wife Licky Dahl says in the introduction to [The Roald Dahl Cookbook](#):

*"With the coffee he would place on the table a grubby plastic box crammed with chocolate goodies, irresistible to dogs, children and adults alike."*

This is that box. Once full of Smarties (which were the favourite of his dog, Chopper), Mars Bars, Milky Ways, Maltesers, Kit Kats and much more, it has been cleaned up and is now kept carefully in the Roald Dahl Museum archives.



### News from the Drama Department

- Congratulations to the A level Theatre Studies students for their original and exciting exam performances on Wednesday. (See more in the Sixth Form section of this bulletin)
- Best wishes to Harry Pearce (Y10), who will be appearing in the Hertfordshire County Youth Theatre's production of 'Peter Pan' at the Watford Palace Theatre this coming Friday and Saturday. Tickets are £8 (adults) and £5 (under 25 yrs). Box Office: 01923 225671 or [watfordpalacetheatre.co.uk](http://watfordpalacetheatre.co.uk)

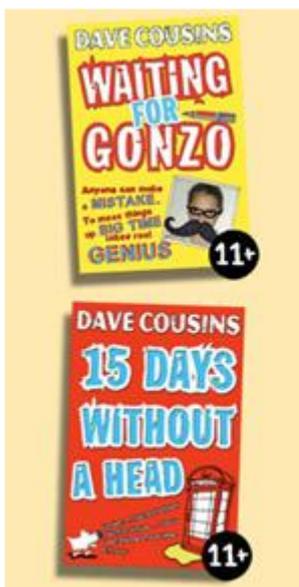
- Former Theatre Studies student, Lukas Lee, is in his final year at GSA Drama School and will be appearing as the title role in Shakespeare's Henry IV at the Waterloo East Theatre, 14<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> April ([tickets: www.waterlooeast.co.uk/henry%20iv%20.html](http://tickets:www.waterlooeast.co.uk/henry%20iv%20.html)). He has successfully auditioned for his first professional role as Sir Toby Belch in a UK and Europe tour of Twelfth Night.
- Finally, well done to all of the KS3 students who have been completing performance assessments over the past couple of weeks in Drama lessons – some extraordinary talent in performances of Silent Movies (Y7), She's Leaving Home/Realism (Y8) and *Too Much Punch for Judy*/Theatre in Education (Y9).

### News from the Science Department

KTS Science would like to commend **Balraj Minhas** in Year 10 for his most recent achievement in Chemistry. Balraj, who is already an excellent scientific communicator, has recently submitted an essay entitled 'chance' to the royal society of chemistry's Bill Bryson Science communication Prize. In the words of Bill Bryson himself "Science is always, I mean always, interesting, fascinating, useful".

KTS Science wishes Balraj the best of luck!

### Library News



Over the Easter holidays interested pupils from year 7-9 and library staff will be preparing for our forthcoming North Herts Schools Author and Book Event.

We will be reading six selected titles, whilst eating our chocolate eggs, with the aim to select a winning publication on the day.

The experience includes a visit from prominent children's author Dave Cousins!

### Year 7 Rugby 2014-15

Year 7 is traditionally a challenging year, not only have the majority of students never met each other, there also exists a distinct gap in rugby experience. This being said, for this group of students to come together and mould into such a successful team, in a short period of time is incredible.

All season long, I have been burdened with a thumping headache, partly from the insane levels of energy and excitement throughout every Monday training session, but mainly due to the issue of selection. Many coaches I have worked with in the past have issues finding enough players to play a match, this group of year 7's on the other hand have made it incredibly difficult for me to involve everybody (which is a fantastic headache to have). Despite the fact rugby is a brand new sport to the vast majority of students at KTS, we have had over 30 players regularly fighting for places in matches, tournaments, finishing with the County Final in March.

The commitment and enthusiasm shown by the boys this year must be commended, without which, the success of this season would not be possible. They should be incredibly proud (as I am) of their achievements this year as a TEAM, and the skill developments they have made individually throughout this year.

We have played some fantastic rugby this year, resulting in a number of victories and a few narrow losses. The common trait that impresses me most is that regardless of the result, everyone would come to the

team huddle after every game, with a huge smile, laughing with their team mates, asking “Sir, we are training again Monday aren’t we?”, “Sir when is our next game?” which was fantastic to see.

The boys have definitely grown closer as the season has progressed and I’m sure friendships have been created that will last a long time. I would like to firstly thank them for all their efforts this year, congratulate them of their achievements and finally wish them the best of luck for future seasons at KTS and maybe one year, we will have our revenge in another County Final!

### **Year 10 Educational Trip to MBDA**

On Friday 23rd March eight year 10 students went to MBDA in Stevenage to compete in an engineering competition against other Hertfordshire schools. The Knights Templar School took two teams: Team 1 - Sam Collins, Will Hall, Katie Allerton and Rosie Muge and Team 2 - Callum Crawford, Joe Sell, Pippa Mackenzie and Kiera D’Cunha. Each team had to create a PowerPoint presentation on an engineering marvel of their choice. Team 1 chose Concorde and Team 2 chose a tanks turret. The overall winner for the competition was Thomas Alleyne and their presentation was on superconductors. Two other awards were given out and Team 1 won the award for best knowledge shown in regards to subject selected in their presentation. During the event there was also a rocket flying competition where the teams had to design and build a rocket which would be propelled by pneumatic pressure from a foot pump and land into a target; points were awarded for accuracy. The Da Vinci School took the title, even so, we enjoyed making the rockets and testing them, especially as KTS team 2 managed to launch theirs and hit an office window which was approximately 12 metres up from the floor. Overall it was a really good event and we all enjoyed it.

Rosie Muge & Katie Allerton

### **The Fixer**

Lester and Sue Adams from Big Space play area, who appeared on The Fixer (see below) came in and spoke to GCSE Business Studies students today.

They talked about their Business Plan, the gap in the market that they had found (providing a play area for young people with a coffee shop culture) , their marketing mix and current progress. They also discussed the advantages and disadvantages of their appearance on the programme.

The students found it extremely useful as it helped them better understand key topic areas in their syllabus as they were able to relate and apply what they had learnt at school to a real business.



## **Sixth Form News**

### **Successful sixth form quiz**

Another very successful sixth form 'big quiz' was well attended last Thursday night with over 60 students purchasing tickets for a chance to take on their peers in a battle of wits, general knowledge and even crisp tasting! With Head of Sixth Form Mrs Hopkins as the entertaining 'quiz master', the students had a fantastic time as they battled it out for the coveted big quiz prize! We have received some incredibly positive feedback and would like to thank the dedicated team of students who organised the whole event.

### **Brilliant performance from young KTS musician**

Year 12 student Ben Goldscheider has had a very successful musical career so far and his most recent exploits have seen him compete against some of the best young musicians in the country, on BBC Radio 2's live broadcast of the Young Brass Award Final. Ben was the youngest competitor in the final and performed brilliantly on the night but was unlucky to lose out to a much older and more experienced musician. We are all incredibly proud of Ben's achievements and with so many years of his promising career ahead of him, we are sure that he will go on to win more and more accolades in the world of music. If you would like to listen to Ben's performance and his very eloquent accompanying speech, click on the link shown below.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b05mqpv9>



### **Senior boys' finish runners-up in district final**

Last minute goals, extra time and penalties- this final really did have it all but unfortunately for the senior boys' football squad, they were unable to make it 3 district titles in a row. KTS took the lead in the first half after a composed strike from Serge Lebedinskie left the opposition goal keeper with no chance of preventing the goal. Unfortunately, a goal in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half from John Henry Newman School sent the game into extra time and the Stevenage school wasted no time in making it 2-1 early on in the extra period, putting the pressure on the KTS boys to find an equaliser or crash out of the final. However, with the last kick of the game and with all 22 players on the pitch scrapping for the ball in the box after a KTS corner, year 13 student Dan Bracken had the quickest reactions to win the ball and smash it high into the roof of the net, sending the game to penalties. Although the boys were unlucky to lose on penalties, they played fantastically well in a very physical and demanding game. Well done to all of the boys who have been involved with the squad in another very successful season.



### **A-Level Dance Showcase**

The students involved in the A Level Dance course are forever rehearsing, practicing and refining their craft, often giving up masses of free time to do so. Tuesday night was the girls' opportunity to show off their talents to family, friends and staff and they did just that! The audience was treated to a wonderful dance spectacle, exhibiting the creativity and athleticism of our students. Standout performances from Ami Buzza and Chiara Cavanagh deserve a special mention but we would like to congratulate all of the girls involved for their hard work and immensely impressive performances.



### **KTS involvement with general election count**

Members of the sixth form council will be visiting the Kettering Conference Centre to assist with the general election count, as well as other administrative tasks surrounding this hugely high profile event. We were invited to participate in this event by Kettering Borough Council and despite having to work from 10pm-5am, the students have shown real enthusiasm to participate in this interesting and rare opportunity.

### **A-Level drama performances wow the crowd**

On Wednesday night, our Theatre Studies students put on a brilliant series of performances for the audience, as part of their assessed work.

The AS Theatre Studies students are expected to perform an extract from a published play using the theory of a famous director to inform their interpretation. This year, they chose to perform extracts from 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' with reference to the theory and practice of Peter Brook, a hugely influential figure in the form from 1960s to the present day. This was an explosive performance, full of energy and intrigue. Congratulations to Joe Nelson, Rachael Robinson, Connor Smith and Barney Taylor for their magnificent contributions.

The A2 Theatre Studies students are required to devise a piece of original theatre in a specific theatre style. This year, the A2 students decided to use the style of Creative Adaptation to bring to life Roald Dahl's 'The Revolting Rhymes'. In a thrilling promenade performance, Charlotte Bell, Eden Tinsey and Nick Wootten created a truly scary atmosphere- well done to all involved.

(Written by Mr Sills).

### **Mock Trial at KTS**

On Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March the Old Bailey was brought to KTS as a crack team assembled. The Prosecution and Defence teams took their place in court for The Mock Trial, to argue the case of 'Alex Myers' – a student who had been 'caught in possession of Cannabis'. Both teams made strong cases and all of the hard work and efforts over the last few weeks was evident for all to see. Mrs Allman, who ably led the evening, directed and summed up, as the 12 members of staff (who have to remain anonymous for legal reasons!) were sent out to deliberate. The jury gave a verdict of 'Not Guilty' (much to the delight of the aptly named defendant; Thomas Luck!) and a very positive evening was enjoyed by all! The excellent team included: Lena Harding, Lauren Marshall, Tanishia Gearing, Thomas Luck, Milly Green, Julia Ten Hove, Caprice Brookes, Helen Inman, Zoe Melabiankaki and Janvi Bhalla. Well done to everyone concerned!





# Honours Board, 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2015



**Congratulations to the following students who have taken instrumental grade exams this term:**

Callum McCreath	Grade 1	Classical Guitar	Merit
Sophie Allen	Grade 1	Guitar	Merit
Herbie Underwood	Grade 2	Jazz Piano	Merit
Edward Bell	Grade 2	Jazz Piano	Distinction
Stephen Colegrove	Grade 2	Classical Guitar	Pass
Miles Almond	Grade 2	Classical Guitar	Pass
Abigail Collins	Grade 2	Singing	Distinction
Adam Caine	Grade 3	Classical Guitar	Merit
Myles Johnson	Grade 3	Jazz Saxophone	Distinction
Sasha Mills	Grade 4	Classical Guitar	Pass
Tom Kendle	Grade 5	Classical Guitar	Merit
Herbie Underwood	Grade 6	Drums	Merit
James Luk	Grade 7	Classical Guitar	Merit
Sophie Fairburn	Grade 7	Classical Guitar	Pass
Emily Wallis	Grade 4	Flute	Pass
Jonathan Wing	Grade 3	Flute	Pass

Congratulations to Harnek Phul (year9) for successfully gaining his Black Belt in Karate recently. This is indeed something to be proud of! Well done Harnek!



## **UK Youth Parliament**

Many Congratulations to Morgan Sykes and Monica Yianni for standing in the UK Youth Parliament elections, representing North Hertfordshire. Monica was successful in this election, securing 477 votes. Morgan came second with 425 votes. This is a huge achievement – congratulations!

