

# The Knights Templar School

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## PARENTAL WEEKLY UPDATE – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016 (available on our website)

Dear Parents and Carers

I regret to inform you that the ***school will be closed for students*** on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July. This is as a result of the planned industrial action by the National Union of Teachers. The NUT is the largest teachers union in the country. This action is not against the school itself but is part of national industrial action organised by the NUT in the form of a national strike and as part of the ongoing dispute over workload and funding in schools. I have posted a letter on the school website, sent a copy to all parents and printed a hard copy which students will receive tomorrow in their tutorial period.

Please see the front page of the website for [a copy of this letter](#). It is important to note that there are a few previously arranged student events which are still running.

Please may I remind you that ***Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July is a school INSET day*** as per the published Calendar at the beginning of the academic year.

We have had a brilliant week here since our last bulletin!

- We had nearly 200 Year 3 students working with the Music department on the ***'Big Sing'*** project on Monday. What a treat to hear some lovely singing and such enthusiasm. Thank you very much to all the Primary Schools involved and for Ms Thomas, from KTS, who led the session.
- Great success in the District Athletics Championships on Wednesday, where we were named as ***District Champions!*** Many congratulations to all the students involved and to Miss Henderson for her incredible organisation!
- We had a brilliant Year 12 into Year 13 induction day yesterday. A day supporting our senior students as they move into their final year at KTS. The day finished with an excellent and often controversial presentation by ***Claire Fox*** – a British libertarian writer.
- Today, we have started a two day programme for students wishing to start our 6<sup>th</sup> form in September. Over 200 students have attended and getting a taster of what life could be as a senior student here at KTS. They were treated to a brilliant talk by ***Mike Southon***. Mike is a successful entrepreneur, best-selling business author and one of the world's top business keynote speakers on entrepreneurship, intrapreneurship and sales – inspirational stuff indeed!
- A wonderful performance at the Year 7 – 9 Drama Club Summer Production by an incredibly talented team. Many congratulations to all the students involved.
- Music Tour presentation evening and Silver DofE Planning meeting evening.

.....***Just another regular week at KTS!***

Please can I remind you that dropping off and picking up in your child in the coach turning circle is restricted. The times are clearly indicated on the sign as you enter the turning circle. Please can I ask to you respect this request.

Kind Regards,

**Tim Litchfield**  
**Headteacher**

**Dates for your diary:**

Friday	1.7.16	08:55-15:20 Yr 11 into 12 - 6th Form Induction
Saturday	2.7.16	Silver DofE Practice Expedition 2 - returns 5th
Sunday	3.7.16	10:00-15:00 Gold - Routecard Training
Monday	4.7.16	INSET Day – school closed to pupils
Tuesday	5.7.16	School closed due to Industrial Action. See information above.  However, the following will go ahead: 10:00-18:00 Yr 12 Tech BMW Group Plant (Oxford) 18:30-20:30 6th Form Higher Education Information Evening (Hall) 19:00-21:00 Yr 7-9 Drama Production - The Project, (DS)
Wednesday	6.7.16	GCSE and A Level Art/Photography Exhibition (Hall) 08:30-15:30 MFL Year 10 Immersion Day for Speaking Controlled Assessment 09:00-15:00 Yr 8 Firefit - 20 students 13:00-15:20 Yr 12 Engaging Minds - Holocaust Survivor, Hannah Lewis 18:45-21:15 Bronze DofE Assessment Expedition Planning Meeting 4, (T16) 19:00-21:00 Project 101, 7pm in DS
Thursday	7.7.16	GCSE and A Level Art/Photography Exhibition [Hall] 09:55-12:20 Maths Workshop - Yr 9 sets 1 and 2 [6CR] 19:00-23:30 Yr 11 Prom, Spirella Letchworth

**Enrichment Week & The KTS Greenway Challenge**

During the final week of school this year, students will participate in Enrichment Week, a summer education and experience package made up of experiences that are additional to their everyday curriculum. Enrichment Week will run for all students between **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July and Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July**. Your child will follow a pre-arranged timetable, which they found out about during assemblies recently.

On **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July** all students and staff will take part in a sponsored walk challenge in support of a charity set up by one of our former students; Darren Clawson. *Endurance Limits* is an organisation he set up to raise funds for Great Ormond Street Hospital. Click this link for more details:

<http://endurancelimits.com/about/>.



The team fundraise by setting themselves extreme challenges, and we are supporting them by completing a challenge of our own – to walk The Letchworth Greenway! This will be a fantastic Knights Templar community event, and with all staff and students involved, it also promises to be a fun day in the sun as well! Students have already heard about this event in Year 7-9 assemblies and we have been touched by their enthusiasm. A comfortable pair of shoes, filled water bottle, packed lunch and plenty of sunscreen on the day will be essential! There will be refreshment stops spaced throughout the walk and some fantastic photography competitions to get involved in. A letter will be sent out tomorrow explaining the week in more detail and students will receive their sponsorship forms in registration tomorrow.



### Buy-a-Brick Through £3000.00

Well, we have passed the £3000.00 mark and are astounded by the generosity of parents and families in our school community. We hope that you have found the time to purchase a brick for your child and family.

Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity. If this has been on your 'to do' pile, please [click here](#) on our website now. Add your name to the ever growing list of our supporters. It's simple and easy.

**Your name.  
Your School. Forever.**

### Work Experience Countdown

With only 2 weeks to go before Work Experience starts, we would like to remind parents and students of the following:



- It is the responsibility of each student to contact their own employer in order to arrange an interview or clarify details for their first day.
- If a student is unable to attend an interview due to distance and/or not being supervised in the placement by a family member, they should make a courtesy phone call to their supervisor to introduce themselves.
- If a student is working with a family member they must check with Mrs Sidey if these calls are required.

**Students must make travel plans which enable them to get to and from their placement each day. If they are using Public Transport they will need to check timetables. Having a realistic idea of timings for travel times to placements is required. It is essential to arrive on time each day.**

Please contact Mrs N Sidey with any concerns: [nsidey@ktemplar.herts.sch.uk](mailto:nsidey@ktemplar.herts.sch.uk)

### Hockey Champions Trophy Thursday 23rd June.

Last week the KTS Hockey Squad travelled to the Olympic Park to watch Argentina v New Zealand in the Women's Hockey Champions Trophy. Some of the squad have only been playing hockey for the last year or so, so for many it was their first time watching a hockey match of such a high standard. Despite some very fashionable (free) ponchos supplied by the event organisers, we managed to avoid the torrential rain and were able to enjoy a great game, with the Argentinians ending up the victors. All in all it was an excellent experience and hopefully we should be able to organise more of the same in the future for a Hockey Squad that continues to grow and grow.



### Year 8 boys' cricket success

Congratulations to the boys' cricket team for their recent victory over Greneway school. An excellent bowling display from the KTS boys ensured that Greneway were unable to set a substantial amount of runs to chase and KTS subsequently secured victory in excellent style within just 13 overs.

Congratulations to all of the boys involved!

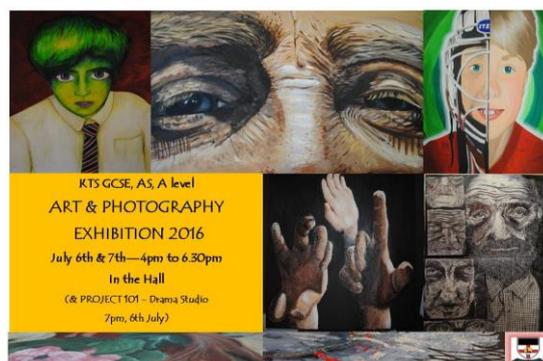
### Ski Trip 2017, Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup>-Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April

Next year's Ski Trip is now open and we plan to go to the resort of **Winter Park, Colorado, USA**. This is a resort we have been to a couple of times and has proved hugely successful with excellent snow conditions, weather and activities. We will be staying in the "Winter Park Mountain Lodge". Please see our [website](#) for further details and a form to complete for any interested. The trip is open to all pupils.



### News from the Art Department

- Next Wednesday and Thursday (6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> July) the annual GCSE, AS & A level exhibition takes place in the hall, from 4pm to 6.30pm. There will be some fabulous art and photography on show, please come and see.
- Parents of Year 9 students progressing to GCSE Art in September: Please note that the purchase of a KTS basic GCSE art equipment pack is highly recommended, keep an eye out for the letter/order form that we will issue soon. Also, a reminder about the trip to Tate Modern on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July, it promises to be a great day out and will set firm foundations for GCSE study.



### Junior Maths Kangaroo

Congratulations to Tom Collinson and Revae Tilbury who took part in the Kangaroo Challenge run by the UK Mathematics Trust (Leeds University). They both achieved the top award of a merit, putting them in the top 25% of students in the country who participated.

### Library News

#### The Library & Drama Department Presents: BILLY the KID

On Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> July the library would like to invite you to another top class theatre production at KTS with free entry, and wine, juice and snacks available. We will be showing **Billy the Kid**, a recording of a theatre production staged at the Unicorn Theatre.



The play centres on a game of football, and covers topics such as war, family, loss and friendship. Based on a book by Michael Morpurgo and suitable for 10 years and above, we welcome pupils, friends and family to attend this free event. Doors open at 3.45pm and we expect to finish by 5.30pm. You can view a trailer for this exciting and thought provoking piece of theatre at <http://tinyurl.com/gshbqgy>

If you wish to attend please contact a member of library staff at [librarian@ktemplar.herts.sch.uk](mailto:librarian@ktemplar.herts.sch.uk), or telephone 01462 620700 ext. 224 to reserve your seat.

### Summer Reading Challenge 2016

For anyone who is not yet aware of this year's public library reading initiative – **The Big Friendly Reading Challenge**, a wonderful promotional video has been released to tell children and their families what is involved and promote the scheme to a wider audience. To view please visit <http://tinyurl.com/hrsap8x>

For individuals aged 14-24, who can spare 12 hours or more over the summer holidays, there is an opportunity to volunteer. As a reading Hack Volunteer you can build skills, get experience for your CV, meet new people and support your community. And of course have a fun, rewarding experience by helping others enjoy reading. To find out more visit [readinghack.org.uk](http://readinghack.org.uk)



## School's online news team saluted as best in the UK

Student journalists from a Baldock school have been recognised with a national award and £1,000 in prize money.

The NewsKnight team from Knights Templar School, including Sasha Mills, Bill Burkett, Ben Buky and Louie Trezise – pictured above with Google's Harry Walker – scooped the best online prize at the Shine School Media Awards.

As part of the award they have won a journalism masterclass for three pupils at the TES educational magazine in September.

"We beat off competition from Manchester Grammar, City of London, Kimbolton and

many more," said teacher Ben McDermott.

"We've been going about six years and gauging by the national competition, there's nothing else in the UK like it."

Knights Templar head Tim Litchfield said: "I am delighted NewsKnight has been recognised by such a prestigious organisation. It is a vibrant and important part of school life, and the students do a great job.

"Congratulations to them all and to Mr McDermott for achieving a 'highly commended' award as a school leader."

To find out more visit [ktsnewsnight.com](http://ktsnewsnight.com) or go to [vimeo.com/ktsnewsnight](http://vimeo.com/ktsnewsnight).

## Parent & Carers Coffee Morning



Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July

10.00am - 11.30pm

Baldock Fire station Community Room

Is your child struggling at home or in school?  
Do you feel supported? Are you able to cope?  
Do you understand what you are being told?

Come and join us for our last coffee morning this school year

Hosted by the local Family Support Worker and Pastoral Care Team from Brandles School. An opportunity for a cup of coffee and informal chat let us see if we can put your mind at rest. If we're unable to help then we will do our best to make sure that we find someone who can.



### Year 12-to-13 induction

On Wednesday, our current year 12 students had their 'year 13 induction day' that serves to prepare them for the next stage of sixth form study and encourages students to look ahead to their post-18 options.

The students were introduced to the university application process and after a detailed presentation delivered by Mrs Hopkins, the students were able to work with Mr Raymen to register on the UCAS website and begin the official application process.



Students were also provided with an informative seminar by Mrs Hopkins regarding the all-important process of writing a personal statement & letter of application.

An interesting feature of this year's induction day was the variety of ex-KTS guest speakers that provided insight, advice and guidance to our students based on their own education, employment and life experiences. This seminar was designed to prompt our students to think about their futures and hear about a diverse range of potential pathways. This small group of ex-KTS students delivered



short presentations on their own experiences and pathways after A-Levels, ranging from; studying at Oxford University, studying in the USA, apprenticeships and exploring different employment routes. This section of the day is an invaluable asset to our induction programme and has hopefully prompted a lot of thoughts among our students about the next stage in their lives.

Finally, the students were treated to an incredibly interesting and controversial 'Engaging minds' seminar with the founder of *The Institute of Ideas*, Claire Fox. More details of this fascinating presentation can be found in Bill Bowkett's (year 12) article below.

Thank you to our guest speakers for giving up their valuable time to assist us with this important day and well done to the students for conducting themselves so well throughout the induction programme.

### Thank you to year 13 athletics helpers

We would like to formally recognise and thank Tom Roper, Georgina Crowther and Nia Barnes (year 13 students) for giving up their time on Wednesday at the District Athletics Championships to operate the scoring system and record results for every event throughout the day. This is a task that requires extreme diligence, hard work and attention to detail and we are very grateful to our year 13 students for once again contributing so positively to the PE department specifically and the school as a whole.



## Fox Fires Debate on Free Speech



Wednesday 29th June saw Year 12 students take part in an induction day, on the subjects of further education and personal statements. However, the highlight of the day was an Engaging Minds speech by Claire Fox on the challenging topic of Free Speech.

Born with Irish parents but raised in North Wales, Claire Fox was the publisher of Living Marxism, which was removed due to libel action. Since 2000, Claire has been the Director of The Institute of Ideas, whose mission is to

“create an atmosphere of intellectual freedom and a space for open-ended exploration of new ideas, research and trends.”

She is also been a key promoter in racial and economic equality, as she believes that “Everyone can be as rich as a multimillionaire.” In addition, she worked from 1981 to 1987 as a social care worker for people with mental health issues.

As well as her work at a Think-tank, Claire is also the author of I find that offensive (Operation Snowflake in America), which is written about the convention of free speech and how censorship can be seen nowadays as “intimidating.”

In her presentation to over 100 students, she talked about how free speech has “changed dramatically over the years.” She talks about how young people at school and at university are “too thin skinned,” and that, like a snowflake, the youth are “Flaky and useless.” In a bold statement, Fox even said that she would not give 16 year olds the vote, because of idea that “Older people telling young people are the future is not exactly true.”

In relation to the young people’s political participation, much of the former Revolutionary Communist Party members’ talk was to do with the recent EU Referendum, in which 52% of all voters decided that Britain would be better off outside of Brussels.

She found the campaign a “Great exercise for free speech,” whilst also urging the audience to “Go for democracy and grow up with it.” As a keen ‘Breixter’, Fox equated that “Expert does not equal wisdom,” and that “All people should be entitled to a say.”

In heated view to many A-Level students, she found the comments and actions of many people, including the youth, as “Too rowdy and vicious to old people.” As Fox was reading out some of the comments in newspapers and blogs to students about Brexit, she ignored censoring phrases such as ‘F\*\*K you’, even though she “Is in school. But I don’t care.”

As a humanist, Claire portrays the idea that the young do not have as much of a larger say in democracy as old people or pensioners. “If a young person gets three votes, does a 70 year old man get half a vote who fought for their lives and experienced the world throughout its time?” Online, Claire defines social media as a “me me me world, who do not get their way.” And that, in the end, “Young people must go through change. It’s exiting. That is how life works.”

To conclude her talk, Fox advised Sixth Formers that “Reading, knowledge and communication is key,” that people should act more arrogant “In order to get there way.” And that “All opportunities should be taken.”

Many students were in disagreement or opposition to Fox. But as Head of Sixth Form Miss Hopkins said, “It was a forum for debate and a great speaker.”

Thank you to Miss Brando for organising the talk once again and to the students who participated in the debate. BB