

The Knights Templar School

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PARENTAL WEEKLY UPDATE – 5th February 2015 (also available on our website)

Dear Parents and Carers

I am pleased to be able to invite you to see one of the best Guitarists in the world perform here at school this coming Monday. Craig is the featured Guitarist on Classic FM at the moment. I do hope you will support us. Further details are found below.

www.ktemplar.herts.sch.uk/News/Craig-Ogden-Concert-Monday-9th-February

May I please ask those of you who pick up your child after school and park in the sports centre playground not to do so. It creates significant congestion every day. Earlier this week our PE department were taking students to a fixture and it took 15 minutes to leave the car park. Please make arrangements with your child to be picked up in one of the surrounding streets.

Two 'moments' in my week:

- I had the pleasure of showing the Headteacher from Hendon School around on Tuesday this week. Miss Povey was most impressed with the school and in particular the attitudes of the students to their learning and to each other.
- I was very pleased to have received some letters about school uniform from Mrs Mole's Year 8 English Class. The letters demonstrated their persuasive writing skills very well indeed, were well constructed and used punctuation with great precision. Thank you to the students for your letters.

Please may I remind you to take a look at the '[In case of snow](#)' section of our school website.

Regards,

Tim Litchfield
Headteacher

Dates for your diary:

06/02/2015	Friday	Bronze DofE Expedition Training 7.30pm-9pm at school
07/02/2015	Saturday	Bronze DofE Expedition Training, 10am-3.30pm - KTS
08/02/2015	Sunday	Bronze DofE Expedition Training, 10am-3.30pm - Barton Fells
09/02/2015	Monday	Yr 13 Mock Exams, 6th Form Common Room (including Yr 10 Mock Science exams, Hall & Gym, in the morning)
10/02/2015	Tuesday	Yr 13 Mock Exams, 6th Form Common Room (including Yr 10 Mock Science exams, Hall & Gym, in the morning) Gold DofE Expedition Training - Night Navigation, 7pm-10pm Year 7 Parents Evening (including Peripatetic Consultations for Yrs 7-13), 4.00pm-7.30pm
11/02/2015	Wednesday	Yr 13 Mock Exams, 6th Form Common Room (including Yr 10 Mock Science exams, Hall & Gym, in the morning)
12/02/2015	Thursday	Yr 13 Mock Exams, 6th Form Common Room Yr 7 & 8 Sports Hall Athletics Championships, 2.20pm-6pm, Highfield School Yr 8-10 Art G&T students Trip to Cambridge Galleries, all day Yr 7-11 District Swimming Gala, 6pm-9.30pm Full Governors' Meeting 7.00pm-9.00pm
13/02/2015	Friday	3:2 Split today Yr 13 Mock Exams, 6th Form Common Room Yr 6 Primary School Music Festival, 2.20pm-3.20pm - Hall/K3 Yr 11 (Yr 10 if spaces) GCSE Germany Trip (returns 17th) TBC

Science Enrichment Visits

We have had a busy week in Science with several trips taking place. On Friday, 21 of our Year 11 students attended a Science Live event in London to listen to talks by some well-known Scientists such as Lord Robert Winston, Dr Maggie Aderin Pocock and Prof. Andrea Sella.

On Tuesday the Year 12 Biologists went to Whipsnade Zoo for introductory talks on 'The Role of the Modern Zoo' and 'Details of the Biological methods behind Conservation Projects' The talks were extremely useful as an introduction to the Students coursework; which is an extended report on the solutions to a Biological Issue. We were lucky enough to also spend time looking round the zoo. A highlight for the students was seeing Whipsnade's latest arrival a baby pygmy hippo born on Boxing Day.

Thursday saw a small group of Year 11 students attending a Biology enrichment day At UCL. This has four Biologists speaking on a range of subjects from Cell biology to genetics to conservation. We are looking forward to some more detailed feedback from the students about their experiences on all of these trips.



AMBER HEALTH

Amber Health are offering a Free Health Screening for Year 10 students. Practitioners will come into school from Amber Health and pupils will be seen for the

screening during the school day. The screening will take between 10 minutes and 15 minutes and then a free postural and exercise advice sheet will be given to the pupil. It is hoped that parents can chaperone their child, but a chaperone will be provided if this isn't possible. Dates for the screening haven't yet been set, but it is hoped that this can be done in March.

A letter should have come home with your child, detailing what is on offer and if parents and children are interested, please complete the questionnaire and return it to Mrs Mance's red drop box. The letter and questionnaire will be on the school web site, which you can copy off if needed.

There is no obligation to return the forms, but if you would like to take up this very generous offer, do return the forms before Half Term, by 13th February.

KTS Presents...75 Years

We are all looking forward to this gala performance on 27th February 2015. We have been sold out at the Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage, for about a month now. Rehearsals are coming thick and fast for Gym, Dance, Music and Acting. It really is going to be an AWESOME show! Students have been issued with a letter regarding the final arrangements for rehearsals and the performance day. Parents should go through the letter carefully and contact the school with any questions. A copy of the letter is on the 'KTS Presents... 75 Years' webpage on the school's website: <http://www.ktemplar.herts.sch.uk/News/Knights-Templar-Presents-75-years/>

Updated information will be put on this webpage and will be sent to parents via Parentmail.



Some of the music participants in the 'KTS Presents...75 Years' gala performance.

The Crucible

We have had an overwhelming response to this year's school production of The Crucible. There has even been mention of taking it on tour! The audiences have all been totally gripped by the story and mesmerised by the powerful and moving acting. All of the cast and crew deserve to be congratulated on the commitment and determination throughout the rehearsal process as well as for the run of performances. This was a truly astounding production by a group of dedicated and talented students. Knights Templar School could not be more proud. @drama_kts #TheCrucibleKTS2015 #TeamCrucible



The cast of The Crucible, 2015.

Senior Question Time

A lively debate took place in the school hall at Knights Templar School on the afternoon of Friday 30th January. Excellently chaired by Miss Sarah Barker, Deputy Headteacher at KTS, representatives from all the major political parties as well as John Francis, the editor of The Comet and our head teacher, were grilled on a wide range of questions from students. There was a heated discussion on the planned building of up to 3,500 houses in and around Baldock and a frank exchange of views between Sir Oliver Heald (MP, Conservative) and Mario May (Green Party candidate), much to the delight of the 16 and 17 year old students in the hall. Questions on hot topics such as the NHS, traffic congestion, costs of public transport and voting rights for 16 and 17 year old young people, were delivered from the very interested and informed student audience. The panel's responses were challenged by the audience - in particular John Francis' suggestion that he would 'kick his children out the house' if they didn't vote. He did clarify that he would kick them out **to vote** and not on a permanent basis! We shall be running a full election campaign in school over the next few months with students representing all the major parties.



Just a quick reminder to bring along a book to the Library to take part in our national world record attempt this Friday.

The event in the library will take place over break and lunch.

Music Update

This term's music tuition fees are due for payment by this Friday, 6th February. Payment can be made online via Wisepay or by cheque. Cheques should be made payable to Knights Templar School and placed in an envelope addressed to the Music Office. Please contact the Music Office if you have any queries.

A reminder that our annual music peripatetic consultation evening takes place next Tuesday, 10th February from 4.30 to 8.00pm. Please ask your son/daughter to arrange a mutually convenient appointment with their instrumental teacher if you would like to attend.

Biology Olympiad students strike Gold (& Silver!)

Two KTS Year 13 Biologists have won gold and silver medals in the national Biology Olympiad. Along with more than 6,000 students from over 500 schools, they sat two demanding hour long papers designed to stretch and challenge the most able biology students.

Building on other medal successes last year, Korede Odumade came away with a silver medal for attaining in the top 15% of results, whilst Louise Baxter took the top award and walked away with a Gold medal and is amongst the top 3% of results across the whole country.

Students from many from top private schools all over the country enter the Olympiad, so to have won two medals including gold is a great achievement and the students should be really proud of themselves.

Any Year 12 Biologists interested in entering next year's competition should see Mr Chantrell for more details.

Well done to County Schools Cross-Country Championship competitors

A group of KTS pupils recently qualified for the County Schools Cross-Country Championships in St Albans and performed brilliantly in their representation of KTS and the North Herts District. Despite the terrible conditions involving a mixture of snow, sleet, rain and ankle deep mud, the KTS competitors demonstrated their resilience, performing brilliantly on the day. Special congratulations to Charlie Duke who placed in the top 20 of the senior girls' race and Anna Wallace who placed in the top 30 of the junior girls' race. Well done to all involved!



See the [PE section of the website](#) for full results information.

(Charlie Duke in action)

Year 7 basketball success

The year 7 basketball team is a real 'mixed bag' of tall and short, quick and strong, boys and girls but the one thing they all have in common, is talent! This was most evident on Wednesday night when the team cruised to a 32-19 win over Stevenage School, Thomas Alleyne's. The team has shown huge levels of talent, commitment and improvement this year and we are extremely proud of their progress so far. Well done to all of the pupils involved.

Erin Davies receives Wales 'call-up'

We would like to congratulate Erin Davies and recognise her fantastic achievement in successfully securing a place with the Wales U15 girls' football squad. Erin's talent and commitment to her sport has been spotted by a number of scouts and coaches over the last couple of years and this most recent footballing achievement is very much deserved. Well done Erin!

Sixth Form News:

Knights Templar Senior basketball had a busy week in both County and District competition.

In the District competition they took on John Henry Newman at Home last Thursday- a challenge they faced without captain and talisman Nick Allin.

After an even first quarter possession-wise, the score read 16-9 with Knights edging JHN. This lead of 7 points felt like a comfortable lead, but due to several uncharacteristic errors the lead evaporated down to 2 by the end of the second quarter making the score 22 – 20 at the half. The game stayed even throughout the third quarter, but strong performances, particularly by the Odumade brothers & Elliot Campbell-Gumb saw the team home to a comfortable 10 point lead, winning the game 60-50.

Monday night saw a trip to St Albans saw KTS take on Sandringham school- a team challenging for top spot in the County league standings.

A fast start by Sandringham saw a score at the end of the first quarter of 9 – 21 in favour of the opposition and it was evident that if nothing changed, this match would end up a humiliating loss. KTS were transformed in the second and third quarters putting on a great display of offensive and defensive effort that closed the gap and eventually tied the score, staying close until the end of the fourth quarter. Unfortunately the comeback never came to be a reality. The score at the end of the game read 54-61 in favour of Sandringham. It was a tough loss, but also an excellent match to play in with standout performances from Nick Allin and Joe Croker, amongst an excellent team effort.

Report by Ibukunoluwa Odumade

KTS graduates on the rugby world stage

We are very proud to announce that former Knights Templar students Sydney Gregson and Justine Lucas have been selected to represent England against Wales in this Sunday's Womens' Rugby Six Nations clash. It is a fantastic achievement for the girls to have reached such lofty heights in their rugby careers and we are incredibly proud to say that we have 2 KTS graduates amongst the best female rugby players in the country! We wish them all the best for the competition and the rest of their flourishing careers.



Justine Lucas



Sydney Gregson

More on the team from [BBC website](#).

Sixth form perspectives for year 11 students

Year 12 students will be visiting year 11 forms in the next 2 weeks to discuss their perspectives on life as a KTS sixth form student. The year 11 pupils will be treated to a short presentation on the benefits of continuing post-16 education at KTS with a focus on the thriving extra-curricular and social life of the sixth form, as well as the ambition to achieve academic excellence in small, personal class sizes. We hope that these student visits will spark conversations amongst year 11 pupils and with parents about the benefits of a KTS sixth form education.

Mock exams

With sixth form mock exams fast approaching, we would like to encourage students to get into the good revision and organisational habits that we hope to see from them during the summer exam period. As discussed in year 12 assembly this week, 'success really is a habit' and we would like to emphasise the importance of students working hard towards their examinations, while maintaining a balanced lifestyle full of exercise, social time and rest.

Sixth form stars of 'The Crucible'

The school production is always a fantastic time of year for sixth form students and this year has been no different. Sparkling performances on stage and back stage from an array of experienced, sixth form actors and technicians left the crowds 'wowed' by the levels of talent on show by our most senior students. Huge congratulations to all students involved with this fantastic spectacle.