

# The Knights Templar School

Headteacher:  
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## PARENTAL WEEKLY UPDATE – 8<sup>th</sup> October 2015 (available on our website)

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you to all our parents who attended the **Careers Fair** last Thursday evening. There was a real buzz in the school, with students talking to prospective employers and starting to think about the future! I was delighted to see so many parents supporting the students and I spoke to so many of you who said that they were very impressed with the way their child had been briefed to speak to the exhibitors. If you missed the fair, we will be running one next year at about the same time. This link will take you to more information about the event [www.ktemplar.herts.sch.uk/News/Careers-Fair-at-Knights-Templar](http://www.ktemplar.herts.sch.uk/News/Careers-Fair-at-Knights-Templar)

As I write this introduction to our bulletin, the students and parents who hope to come to KTS next September in year 7, are leaving the school having had a talk from students and myself in the hall as well as a tour of the school. So many of the **prospective parents** have said that the students doing the tours were a real credit to the school – I feel very proud that our students represent themselves and us so well. These were mostly students from year 7, 8, 12 and 13, so many congratulations to them.

Since Monday we have sent **950 positive referral emails** home as part of our new communication system. You will be aware that when your child is given a positive referral in school, that then triggers an email which informs you. We are getting some very positive feedback from you regarding this area so as we are gradually refining the system we would welcome any comments from you regarding how we can improve it.

As you are aware, **attendance** at school is incredibly important. Can I please ask you to be aware that the Easter holidays 2016 fall the weekend after the Easter bank holiday Monday. This is not ideal for us, as we will have a long Easter weekend, be back for four days (Tue – Fri) and then start the Easter break, but school will close at 3.20 on the final day of the Spring Term (1<sup>st</sup> April 2016). Can I please remind you that holidays cannot be authorised during school term.

Student involvement in **extra-curricular activities** is a great strength of our school. We have 84 different activities that run, mostly on a weekly basis and so there is so much your son or daughter can get involved in. These enrichment activities add so much to the enjoyment factor in school and I would therefore ask you to speak to your child and ensure they are doing something regularly and every week. So many young people do activities every day of the week.

Kind Regards,

**Tim Litchfield**  
Headteacher

### Dates for your diary:

08/10/2015	Thursday	Yr 6 Open Morning, 9.30am - 12 noon Yr 7 Rugby Festival, 12.30pm-4pm, Stevenage RFC Yr 12 Blencathra Geography Field Trip returns VIth Form Big Quiz, TBC in VI CR
09/10/2015	Friday	Yr 6 Open Morning, 9.30am - 12 noon Yr 13 CV and letters of applications for Mock Interviews deadline Yr 7-9 Music of Bond Concert, 5pm-11pm, Royal Albert Hall
10/10/2015	Saturday	World Mental Health Day

12/10/2015	Monday	Yr 7-9 G&T, Composition Workshop, Rooms K1 and K2, all day Yr 7-11 District Cross Country Relays, 2.20pm-6pm, Princess Helena College
13/10/2015	Tuesday	Yr 7 G&T Maths Day, periods 1-4, Hall
14/10/2015	Wednesday	Yr 12 & 13 Engaging Minds, Rev. Richard Coles, 2.20pm-3.20pm, Hall or 6th Form Room Yr12 & 13 Theatre Studies and Performing Arts Performance Evening, DS, 7pm-8.30pm
15/10/2015	Thursday	Yr 13 UCAS deadline for Oxbridge, Medicine and Vet medicine Yr 13 Mock Interviews , all day, Hall/CR/SB2

## KTS in the News:

### The Comet Newspaper, 8<sup>th</sup> October 2015



■ Head Tim Litchfield, above, was joined by eager students at the inaugural careers fair.

## 'So many options on offer'

Baldock students were looking to the future as Knights Templar School held its first ever Careers Fair.

Pupils from Year 10 upwards were invited to discuss their future career paths with 42 employers, including representatives from the emergency services, Vauxhall, Stevenage-based Airbus Defence and Space and the National Grid.

There was the opportunity for both parents and students to grill representatives on their respective companies.

Headteacher Tim Litchfield said: "Preparing young people for life beyond school is our key priority.

"We pride ourselves on developing well rounded young people who have the skills necessary to succeed in the 21st century.

"The evening demonstrated that there are so many options for young people and this was a good opportunity to start exploring them.

"I was delighted that so many students and parents attended and took away with them some excellent advice – an opportunity not to have been missed."

If you would like to exhibit at the next careers fair email [admin@ktemplar.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ktemplar.herts.sch.uk).



■ Looking to the future at Knights Templar School, above. Left, the armed forces were among the 42 potential employers who supported the inaugural event for pupils from Year 10 and above.

## Tesco come to KTS

**Niall Walsh**, the Head of International Digital and Ecommerce Marketing at **Tesco** visited Knights Templar on Tuesday 6th October and spoke to the Year 13 Business studies Applied group. The class are currently working on an assignment that investigates why businesses develop an international presence and Niall was able to shed a light on some of the reasons for Tesco's international expansion. He also spoke about his journey from school to his current position. The students thought his visit was really interesting and extremely useful. The Business Studies department is always looking for speakers from industry to come in and speak to Business Studies students as it helps them with their understanding and brings the subject to life. If you think you can help, please get in touch!

*Ms Brando Business Studies teacher*

## A Level English Students attend Screening of *Macbeth*



Pupils studying A-Level English attended a private screening of *Macbeth* at the Broadway Cinema in Letchworth on Friday morning. Starring Michael Fassbender as the eponymous Scottish Thane turned tyrant and Marion Cotillard as his scheming spouse, the film is a brutal and unforgiving interpretation of Shakespeare's tragedy.

Whilst studying this play will be of immediate use for Year 13 literature students who are studying the Gothic, it was certainly an illuminating experience for those undertaking the variety of A-Level English courses available at KTS. The film divided opinion among those in attendance, but all of those who were present represented the school with impeccable behaviour and attention during the screening.

We are grateful to the Broadway Cinema for their efforts in helping us with the enrichment of our pupils.

### **BBC's Ten Pieces**

On Tuesday, the Music Department took 30 year 7-9 students to the cinema to see a performance of the BBC's Ten Pieces.

The aim of this exciting initiative is to open up the world of classical music to children aged 11 and over and to inspire them to respond creatively to the repertoire.

The pieces were performed by the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra and were chosen to represent a wide range of styles and eras relevant to the music curriculum. An Introduction to each piece gave an insight into the composer and the historical and social context.

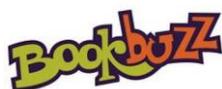
Students will build on this week's trip with a compositional workshop in school next Monday.



### **Library News:**

**Welcome!** To Mrs Martin, our new Library Assistant, who has recently joined the Library team. Rachel brings with her a wealth of experience and expertise and is already settling well into the busy life of our school.

**Reading is the key to success!** With an 84% increase in reading levels for pupils participating last year, we are again offering 1:1 Reading Sessions once a week to our Year 7s and additional Year 8s from next week. These will run on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Fridays during registration time. We are able to provide extra places for this enriching literacy initiative this year as we now have 34 trained Reader Leader volunteers from Years 10,11, 12 and 13, who recognise the importance of reading and who also want to develop their own mentoring and listening skills. Thank you to you all. **Note to all Parents and Carers :** Please would you encourage your child to read at home too, as reading regularly – even 15 minutes a day – can develop the brain, help us to relax and make each of us more understanding and socially aware. PS: Don't forget the Parents' Book Swap facility in the Reception at school – it's free 😊.



BookBuzz Books (free books for all Years 7) have been ordered and should arrive in school shortly after half term.

**Independent Learning for all.** The Librarians have just finished the first of three Library lessons for all Year 7 pupils through their English sets. Pupils should now be more confident in the Library, able to use our on line Library catalogue "Autolib" to find books for themselves, both for their school work and for enjoyment. General Library inductions for all Year 12s are also underway, to ensure that our 6<sup>th</sup> formers can navigate their way around the wide range of specific quality resources provided for them, including those online. A reminder that all pupils should become members of the Hertfordshire Public Library in order to access the excellent resources there, including the On-line Reference Library through the Herts Direct website.

### **This week is Dyslexia Awareness Week 5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> October**

#### **Dyslexia Action: Creating enthusiastic readers**

The Library works hard to promote a positive reading culture, but for children who struggle with words, reading can become disheartening.

- What can you do to maintain children's enthusiasm for reading?
- What can you do to help them improve their skills?
- What can you do to help them become independent readers?

**The Dyslexia Action Shop offers a DIY Support Pack**, developed with parents in mind to assist children with reading. Visit: [www.dyslexiaactionshop.co.uk](http://www.dyslexiaactionshop.co.uk)

**A paper copy of "Reading hints and tips... for parents of reluctant and struggling readers"** can be found at our parental book swap point within the school's main reception.

### **Bookshare – Free Subscription Offer**

For some people, reading books in an accessible format can make a real difference. Dyslexia Action has teamed up with Bookshare, an online library of eBooks adapted for people with print disabilities. Until the end of December 2015, anyone who has a formal diagnostic assessment can apply, through Dyslexia Action, for a free one year subscription to Bookshare.

Register Online [www.bookshare.org/signUpMember](http://www.bookshare.org/signUpMember)

*Mrs Evans and Ms Rogers, Librarians and the Library Team*



**AMBER HEALTH**

At the beginning of this year we were privileged to partner with Amber Health and offer the Year 10's a free Health Screening during the school day. Pupils who wished to take up the opportunity were assessed and then given advice sheets to remind them of good posture, particularly noting that teenagers have a lot of desk work and use mobile phones and media devices, causing neck aches and pains!

Tim Moynihan has provided the advice sheets for all pupils to access and they are available on the Medical Matters page of the School Web Site under the Parents tab.

[Stretching Advice](#)

[Teen Ergonomic Advice](#)

Please feel free to copy these off and encourage your child to make use of them, as posture is becoming more of an issue in all teenagers with the increased use of technical devices.

*Mrs Mance*

*Medical Student Services*

### **Work experience Glaxo Smithkline**

Glaxo run a work experience programme for 6th form Students which takes place during the Spring half term 15th to 19th February 2016.

They are offering placements in the following areas:

Lab based placements in Biology and Chemistry

IT based placements

Laboratory Animal Science Placements.

More information is available from Noticeboards in the Science Corridor and application packs are available from Mrs Gray in the 6th form office or Mrs Brown in the Science Department.

Many of our students have benefited from this very worthwhile experience in previous years.

### **Reminder about participation in PE lessons**

If your son or daughter is unable to participate in their PE lesson due to injury or as a result of medical advice, can we please remind parents and carers that the student must hand a written note to their PE teacher at the start of the lesson. In a busy working day we cannot guarantee that we will manage to read email correspondence before the lesson.

Department policy also states that students must still change into their PE kit even if they have a note. This will ensure they are still learning and making progress by participating in their lesson in some other form, for example as an umpire or coach, as well as them being more appropriately dressed for the PE environment

### **Hockey results**

In their first County Cup match of the season, the year 8 hockey team had a resounding 7-0 win over Sir John Lawes School. The team were so dominant that our GK Molly Wright didn't have a touch of the ball. Scorers were Anna Wallace (3), Zara Northern (2), Mia Luck, and Felicity Massie. Well done to the whole team - a great performance. Training is on Monday after school, everyone welcome.

### **Girls' rugby "On the Up".**

Girls' rugby got underway with their first set of fixtures last Thursday with a combined year 7 and 8 team taking on Nobel and John Warner and 9 and 10 playing Nobel.

The year 7/8 team were fantastic considering it was many of the girls' first time playing full contact rugby. Mr Litchfield was present to witness all of KTS's games and saw the year 7/8 beat John Warner by 30 points

to 20. Tries were scored by Sami Miah, Verity Naylor (who captained the team superbly), and 4 tries for the outstanding Nicole Kingham.

In their second fixture of the evening the year 7/8's took on a strong Nobel team and narrowly lost out, losing 15-10. Again it was the outstanding Nicole Kingham who was on the scoresheet scoring both of KTS's tries. A special mention to Jhanelle Ridge and Sophie Prior who made their rugby debut and KTS debut respectively, as well as superb performances from Bethany Sell and Felicity Massie.

Mr Smith stated, 'the year 7 and 8 girls were superb and the standard of rugby being played, considering many girls making their debut, was exceptionally high. I think this team have a great chance of winning a trophy this year!' Mr Litchfield commented, 'It is fantastic to see Girls rugby really on the up at KTS!'

The 9/10 team faced a well drilled and experienced team from Nobel. Nobel had some amazing runners that powered through our squad keeping themselves one try ahead of us at all times.

The KTS girls rallied together and held their own team talk at half term and came back focused and motivated. In true KTS spirit they raised their game making superb tackles on the touch line and building their confidence in running some creative lines. Darcy Fischer played an outstanding game, breaking through players and gaining the girls yards every time she got hold of the ball. A great first game of the season with a solid foundation to build on.

Don't forget to check the [PE area of our website](#) for details of fixtures for the coming week if you would like to come and support any of our teams!

#### **Another busy week in the Drama Department!**

Rehearsals are in full swing for the school production of ***Fiddler on the Roof***. To parents of cast members, please check the updated rehearsal schedule which is available on the school website – [Drama Productions](#). Splendid Productions returned to KTS for the fifth year with their performance of ***The Odyssey***. The students were treated to a truly EPIC piece of theatre, full of audience interaction and imaginative staging ideas. The Y10-13 Drama students also participated in practical workshops lead by the professional actors from Splendid Productions.

Y10-13 Drama students also travelled to the Cambridge Corn Exchange to watch a visually engaging production of ***Lord of the Flies***. This creative adaptation was full of energy and moved from one powerful moment to the next.

**Date for the future: Hertfordshire County Youth Theatre Auditions** will take place at Knights Templar on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November in the Drama Studio 4pm-6pm. All students in year 9 and above are welcome to audition, however places will be limited. See Mr Sills for further information.

*The Knights Templar School*  
*Senior Students*



*Present an evening of music  
featuring*

***Counterpoint*** 

*Student-led Chamber Choir*  
*Venue- St. Faith's Church,*  
*Kelshall*

***Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October 7:30pm***  
*Tickets- Adults £10, Students £5*  
*and Under 12's free*  
*Tickets available on the door*



## Sixth Form News

### Careers evening a huge success



Last week's careers evening was a huge success and particularly useful for our year 12 and 13 students who are contemplating the next stage in their academic and professional lives. We would like to thank Mr White for organising such an informative and large scale event. We would also like to thank sixth form students; Hannah Barnett, Euan Ryan and Georgina Crowther for organising a team of 25 sixth form students to play an integral role in the organisation and logistics of delivering such an event! Well done to everyone who was involved and attended this event!

### Mentoring

Pupils in years 7-11 who have initially been nominated to participate in the mentoring programme will meet their mentors for the first time today and tomorrow. At present we have over 56 fantastic mentors working with over 40 pupils from key stages 3 and 4 and the list is still growing. We hope that both the sixth form mentors and younger pupils gain a lot from this experience.

### Senior boys' football tour- Holland February 2016

The senior boys' football team will be travelling to Holland once again as part of their international tour! Between Mon 15<sup>th</sup> - Thurs 18<sup>th</sup> February in the half term holiday, the boys' will have the opportunity to visit the same location as they did last year where everyone had a fantastic time! The tour will comprise of; 2 fixtures against local Dutch opposition, a tour of PSV Eindhoven's stadium and visit to club shop, accommodation at Limburgse Peel Center Parcs, with access to swimming, go-karting, sports facilities and much more. Students will be housed in villas and will be responsible for preparing their own meals throughout the trip. This year, places on the trip are available to anyone in years 11, 12 and 13 who have been part of/ would like to be part of senior team training. This promises to once again be an excellent trip so please see Mr Raymen for more details.



### Sixth form Drama students experience 'Lord of the Flies'

On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October, those students in the sixth form taking Drama went to see the modern adaptation of the Lord of the Flies, at the Cambridge Corn Exchange. It was a beautiful visual way of showing how a community can spiral out of control and how people react in stressful situations, and I think I speak for all the sixth formers who attended, when I say it was a very moving and enjoyable experience.

We were greeted by a breath taking set, with what looked like real parts of a plane that had crashed into an island full of sand. The set was sloped down towards the front row so the audience felt fully involved with the action and almost felt we were in it together. This then meant that as the intended audience, we could take much more from the production, ultimately preparing us brilliantly for our end of year exam. The production taught us about our own lives and made us consider the way we go about our daily lives as teenagers and young adults.



I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Drama department for organising this terrific trip to open our minds to another aspect of theatre; to allow us to become more cultured and aware of situations around us and that classic books and plays are still relevant today in teaching us about ourselves and others. Thank you!

*Written by Emily de Fraine (year 12)*

### **KTS 'graduate profile- Alex Kither**

Alex left KTS in the summer of 2015 having achieved grades BBC in History, Theatre Studies and Music respectively. Alex immersed himself in the extra-curricular life of the school, particularly in relation to his music and drama endeavours. He often received main roles in school productions, most notably his exceptional performance in Nicholas Nickleby. In the music department, Alex achieved his Grade 8 on the tenor saxophone in his final year at school. He was a loyal member of the Big Band and the Wind Band, as well as being an excellent composer. He attended the school Music Tour to Italy where he also played in a Saxophone ensemble. Not only is Alex a tremendous performer, he is also a fiercely talented writer, devising scripts for the sixth form revue and his own dramatic performances and short films which pulled in big crowds when they were broadcast at school events. We are very proud of Alex's achievements and wish him all the best with his future endeavours.

### **Senior Rugby: KTS vs. Bishops Stortford College**

On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October, the schools' senior rugby team hosted their first home game of the season with a match in the first round of the prestigious NatWest Cup (formerly the Daily Mail Cup).

The boys welcomed a very strong Bishops Stortford College side who approached the game as the favourites, with a proud rugby tradition.

The home side had been struggling for numbers with several school trips going out this week and injuries rife throughout the squad, meaning that the team were missing some of their more experienced players. Despite this, the team came out fighting strongly with several impressive tackles and carries, and looked to match the opposition in the opening minutes.



After the 10 minute mark, however, the away team started to show their ability and scored twice in quick succession, through good work from the strong Stortford pack. Unfortunately, this set the tone for the rest of the game and despite good work at the scrum and working hard to break through the opposition defense, the KTS boys' were unable to match the intensity of Bishops Stortford.

The lads have another home fixture on the 14<sup>th</sup> October against Beaumont School and hope to bounce back with a victory which would hopefully become the first of many at the start of a very promising season.

*Written by Alex Bowles (year 13)*