

The Knights Templar School

Headteacher:
Mr T. Litchfield, G.G.S.M.

Park Street
Baldock
Herts
SG7 6DZ

Email: admin@ktemplar.herts.sch.uk
www.ktemplar.herts.sch.uk



Tel: 01462 620700
Fax: 01462 620701

PARENTAL WEEKLY UPDATE – 17th September 2015 (also available on our website)

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to invite you to join the Friends of KTS parental group if you have not already done so. Friends of KTS help raise significant funds for the school which are used to increase the opportunity and experience for all students, including your child. I have spoken to parents and carers in year 7, 10 and 12, but we do not have parent information evenings for the other year groups. A growing number of parents have now signed up. Please would you click the link below and forward your details to the school. For the price of a cup of coffee per month, we can make a significant difference. May I thank you for your continued support www.ktemplar.herts.sch.uk/Parent-Area/Friends-of-KTS

Please be aware that there is no parental information evening on Monday for parents of students in year 11.

We have a new addition to our catering offer, which I hope will give your child choice and flexibility at break and lunchtime. Please see the section below to find out more about this. This offer will start from Monday next week.

Our new Year 7 students had the opportunity to sign up for a fantastic range of extra-curricular activities last Friday at our Freshers' Fair. There is such a lot on offer! I would like all students to sign up and attend at least one (hopefully more) extra-curricular activity, so please do encourage your child to do so. The research says that the more they do, the more successful they are! The timetable of clubs and activities is currently being updated and will be available on our website <http://www.ktemplar.herts.sch.uk/Extra-Curricular-Activities/>

You will be aware that one of my strategies is to raise the aspirations of all students. We do this in a number of ways and so as part of our Engaging Minds programme, I was delighted to welcome Darren Gough (England Cricket and Strictly Come Dancing star) into the school on Tuesday this week. Darren spent some time coaching the cricket students, was interviewed by our Newsknight team and was a real inspiration to us all. The students immediately warmed to Darren, who as well as guiding the students on an individual basis, also bowled one or two fast deliveries. Considering he has been retired for some years now, I would not have liked facing him when he was at full speed!!



Kind Regards,

Tim Litchfield
Headteacher

Dates for your diary:

18/09/2015	Friday	Yr 11, 12 & 13 Art/Art Graphics Life Drawing, DS - all day
19/09/2015	Saturday	
20/09/2015	Sunday	
21/09/2015	Monday	International Day of Peace
22/09/2015	Tuesday	
23/09/2015	Wednesday	Yr 9-13 Visit to The Royal Opera House, Marriage of Figaro, all day Yr 11 GCSE Drama Development Workshop 1, 3.30pm-5.30pm, DS/DSA DofE Presentation Evening, 7.00pm-10.00pm, Hall
24/09/2015	Thursday	Yr 11, 12 & 13 Art/Art Graphics Workshop, Art Dept, all day Blood Donation Session @ Community Centre, all day TBC 6th Form trip to see 'Nell Gwynn' at The Globe, 4pm-11pm
25/09/2015	Friday	MacMillan Coffee Morning (Extended Break & Non-Uniform)

More great pictures from Darren Gough's visit to KTS



Catering Pod arrives

We are very pleased to announce the opening of a new catering pod at the school, designed to provide an alternative catering outlet to staff and students, and to alleviate pressure on our very congested dining hall. To the extent possible, it will provide the same range of food that is available in the main canteen either as finger food or in snack pots. We have relocated a number of picnic tables to that area to provide some seating for students and we hope to develop the area further with additional seating and canopies overhead in due course.

Initially, the pod will be open at break and lunch times for use by our older students from year 10 upwards, with years 7,8,9 continuing to use the main dining hall with significantly less congestion. The pod will be cashless and will use the thumb print biometric technology for payment that has been used so successfully in the main dining hall for some time. We would like to thank our partners at Herts Catering for their investment in this facility which promises to provide a much improved catering experience for the whole school.

Can we please take this opportunity to remind parents of the importance of paying for catering services using our on-line [WisePay facility](#), accessed via the school website. WisePay enables student accounts to be topped up remotely without the need to bring cash into school. It also prevents your child from having to queue twice for their lunch – once to use the cash loader machine to top-up their account and then again to pay for their food at the tills. An added benefit to parents is that you can also check on-line to see what food your child has purchased.

We look forward to offering a more efficient catering operation as a result of these initiatives.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

KTS is supporting Macmillan Coffee morning on Friday 25th September. All students and staff will be raising money for Macmillan by donating £2 on the day. We will show support by wearing our own clothes and enjoying cake together on field at break time.



Miss Theobald is aiming to provide half the cakes for students and staff with her team of bakers and decorators. We would also like to invite you and the students to donate a batch of 12 cakes or biscuits for the day, to ensure that every member of the school has the opportunity to participate in this very worthy cause together. Cake donations are welcomed on the Friday morning in the dining hall. Please ensure that the container you provide has a clearly named lid and base (to ensure it is returned correctly) or is disposable.



Students can sign up to help decorate the cakes made in school on Wednesday and Thursday lunchtimes to further show their support. Thank you for supporting Macmillan this year with us.”

Drama GCSE Development Workshop

All year 11 Drama GCSE students are expected at the first Drama Development Workshop on Wednesday 23rd September, 3.30-5.30pm. This is an opportunity for our GCSE students to complete some revision exercises immediately before they start their Unit 2 assessment work. The students will work with their Drama teachers in the Drama Studio to cover key areas of study and assessment requirements.

Life drawing, Friday September 18th

This is a wonderful opportunity for young artists to develop and improve their drawing and observation skills whilst exploring different techniques and media.

Drawing the human form has a long and illustrious past, think of Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci and Rembrandt etc.

The requested contribution of only £5 enables us to engage a professional life model for the day, helping us to fulfil our aim of offering the best possible learning experience to our students.

Look out for examples of work from our life drawing day in a future issue.

Photography in Camden Town

On Monday 28th September, Year 12 Photography students will venture into exciting, eclectic Camden, to capture the essence of the place as part of their project 'Concealed & Revealed'.

A selection of images from the day will be available later, on KTS website.

Library News

To welcome our new Year 7 pupils the library service, in conjunction with the English Department, will be presenting our new students with a copy of a book of their choice. A selection of books will be examined in detail, discussed and reviewed as part of their English lessons. At the end of the lesson the pupil can order a copy of the book that inspired them.



Reading regularly has been proven to reduce stress, produce higher exam results and develop children's creativity and language. We hope to encourage all Knights Templar pupils to develop a love of reading and benefit from the positive effects it can bring.

Mrs Evans

Mrs Rogers

School Librarians

Year 11 Business Studies

On Monday of next week Mr Vallier's class have Mr Hilditch from Satchells visiting the school to be interviewed as part of their controlled assessment.

It is an excellent opportunity for them to gain first hand knowledge of the business that they can then use in their work. Students should remember to bring a copy of your questions to ask.

Year 10 Business Studies

On Wednesday and Thursday next week Mr Vallier's new business classes have the opportunity to pitch their business ideas to an elite group of 'dragons'. The students have been working this week on their products and for homework need to organise their pitches ready for the den next week!

Year 7 Photograph Orders

Would parents of Year 7's please remember to return all Tempest photo packs to student services ASAP if you would like to place an order.

Deadline for return is Friday 25th September please.

BCG Vaccination

All Year 7's should be bringing home a letter on Friday which is about the BCG vaccine for Tuberculosis. Please check their bags if one is not given to you. If your child doesn't have one then ask them to collect another from Mrs Mance or ask their Form tutor for another. A copy of the Consent Form and letter will be on the Medical Matters page under 'Parents' on the school web site.

The BCG vaccine has changed in recent years in that it is only offered to at 'risk groups' rather than a whole Year group. Please read the letter to see if this applies to your child and return the form to Mrs Mance in her Red Drop Box outside the Medical Room, near Student Services.

Thank you

Mrs Jane Mance

Medical Student Services



Get back to Fitness at Knights Sports Centre and we will give you 20% off your membership for the rest of the year!*

Speak to a member of the team today on 01462 631300

*terms and conditions apply

Where are they now.....

Rhodes' News

You may remember that we recently shared news of the success of ex-student David Rhodes and we are pleased to give you further updates this week.

Rhodes and Birdy performed their duet in [Radio 1's Live Lounge](#) this week, and he also sang a cover of Ellie Goulding's "Love Me Like You Do". Both are available on BBC iPlayer.

Rhodes' debut album "Wishes" is out this Friday, 18th September.

Sixth Form News

Mock interviews, letters of application and UCAS

Our year 13 students have a number of important deadlines to remember and tasks to complete over the next few weeks. We have set students a deadline of Friday 9th October to complete their letters of application and CV for the 'mock interviews', due to take place on Thursday 15th October. This process will provide students with the opportunity to practice their interview technique and receive invaluable feedback from a variety of externally hired interviewers, with vast amounts of experience in this area.

Students should be using this process to assist them with the writing of their UCAS personal statement. Many students have already handed in first drafts and received feedback on their efforts so far. This is a hugely crucial part of the application process and we urge all students to complete their first drafts ASAP, for their tutors to review.



A reminder that Thursday 15th October is also the deadline for the submission of UCAS applications for potential Oxbridge, Medicine and Vet Medicine candidates.

Senior rugby squad shows potential in their opening game

Despite a defeat against the very experienced Samuel Whitbread School, the senior rugby squad took great pride and encouragement from excellent individual performances and a fantastic collective effort, in their opening game of the season. Injury and illness had a heavy impact on the personnel available for KTS in this match and this no doubt influenced the result. However, impressive performances from all of the boys sparked enthusiasm amongst the coaches and players who are looking forward to improving and challenging themselves throughout this very busy season.

KTS and Biggleswade United FC- working in partnership



The senior football squad have had an excellent 2 weeks of training to start the season, utilising our link with Biggleswade United FC and reaping the benefits of having UEFA Pro License coaches lead our 90 minute training sessions. Led by the Spanish trio of Fran Constancio, Abraham Selma and Cristian Colas, the senior team have demonstrated impressive effort levels in their opening training sessions and benefitted massively from the expertise of our coaches from the continent!

The boys have two crucial fixtures next week; on Wednesday they face a stern home test in the National Cup against Sharnbrook and Friday they take on local rivals Fearnhill in the District competition. We would love to see as many supporters there as possible!

Biggleswade United are still recruiting for their U16 and U18 teams for this season- check out their website for more details! <http://www.biggleswadeunited.com>

Mentoring gets underway at KTS

Last Friday saw the start of our mentor training for sixth form students who are looking to improve their own skills and give something back to the KTS community. An incredible turn-out of over 100 students proved the dedication and commitment to the school that our students possess. This week's training will involve students looking at rules and guidelines associated with mentoring, as well as discovering techniques to help them engage with their mentees. This week's session will take place in the sixth form common room at the start of lunch and students should be ready to start their mentoring process within the next 2 weeks.

KTS Graduate Profile- Neil Blyth

You could be forgiven for thinking that Neil's grades of A*A* for Maths and Further Maths together with an A grade for Physics, paints the picture of a pure academic who diligently commits himself to his studies with little care or regard for other distractions. However, Neil expertly balanced his commitments in the classroom with an extensive programme of extra-curricular sport. He captained the senior football team in his last year at KTS, winning the senior title on 2 occasions. His endeavours on the football pitch saw him compete in; 3 district finals, county and national competitions, matches against the Watford FC Development Centre, as well as on tour to Holland in his final year at KTS. Neil also competed for Baldock Town Men's team outside of school and I believe that his competitive, sporting spirit was a large part of what motivated and drove him to achieve so well in such challenging A Level subjects. Neil will take up his place to study Mathematics at Warwick which is a truly impressive achievement. I am confident that Warwick will benefit greatly from Neil's academic and sporting talents- well done Neil!

