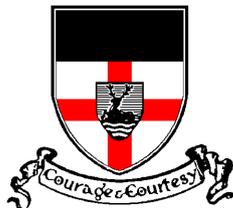


# The Knights Templar School

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



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## PARENTAL WEEKLY UPDATE – 27<sup>th</sup> November 2014 (also available on our website)

Dear Parents and Carers

Many of our Year 11 parents or carers and students would have attended our Sixth Form Open Evening last Thursday evening. It was a very impressive and busy evening indeed with lots of young people starting to make decisions about their post 16 education. I was very impressed with the attitudes of our current Year 12 and 13 students who worked hard in departments to ensure that any questions were answered from a student perspective as well as a school perspective. It was lovely to see so many Year 11 students from other schools across North Herts visiting us as well.

May I thank all our Year 12 and 13 students for giving their time to inform and support others – it was greatly appreciated! I am also most grateful that some previous students, who are currently at University, came back and told of their wonderful experience here at KTS. If any Year 11 student or parent or carer of Year 11 students need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the 6<sup>th</sup> form team or Student Services (01462 620700) who will be pleased to help.

On Tuesday afternoon we had a visit from Jamal Edwards who spoke to our Year 12 students as part of our 'Engaging Minds' programme. He was most inspirational! A multi-millionaire at the age of 22 and a great story to tell! He had so much advice, but I particularly liked his comments about making sure to get 8 hours sleep per night! If you have a second he is certainly worth 'Googling'. Thank you to Mrs Brando for organising a great session.

Also on Tuesday evening we listened to ten of our senior musicians perform some very accomplished instrumental solos in the main hall. The quality of the work is quite astonishing and I do urge you to come to our future concert. Congratulations to all the performers.

We have a staff meeting most mornings and we have regular updates on the success of the sports teams. Their programme of matches and is really quite extensive and I am very proud that we are able to put out so many teams in a wide range of sports. May I thank all parents or carers who attend and support on the touchline and I encourage your support as often as you feel able. (Details of fixtures are regularly updated on the [PE Section](#) of our website).

We have a very busy few weeks as we run towards the Christmas holidays and I know that we can rely on your continued support.

Regards,  
Tim Litchfield  
Headteacher

*Entry from the Log Book of Frank Hancock, MBE; first Head-teacher of The Knights Templar School, 29th May, 1940:*

*The Town Clerk, Mr. F.D Gentle, called this morning. He said the school might be required at once in an emergency, which he specified and I have undertaken to hold myself in readiness to take charge. The staff have all agreed to assist at any time of the day or night.*

### Dates for your diary:

28/11/2014	Friday	Occasional Day - school closed to staff and students
30/11/2014	Sunday	Yr 8 MFL Trip to Cologne Christmas Markets (until 3/12)
01/12/2014	Monday	Year 11 Mock Exams
02/12/2014	Tuesday	Year 11 Mock Exams Year 12 IT Trip Duxford
03/12/2014	Wednesday	Year 11 Mock Exams Scholastic half price Christmas book fair until 17th - Library Gold DofE Expedition Presentations by Yr 13, 7pm-9pm - 6th Form Common Room
04/12/2014	Thursday	Year 11 Mock Exams
05/12/2014	Friday	Last Day of Year 11 Mock Exams
07/12/2014	Sunday	Yr 12 & 13 Rehearsal for 6th Form Revue, 1pm-5pm - Hall

### Christmas Fete – Thursday 11th December

Save the date! The KTS Christmas Fete is taking place on Thursday 11th December at lunchtime and after school until 6pm. As part of our preparations, we are looking for donations of:

- old Christmas trees, fairy lights, tinsel and other decorations to help us turn our school hall into a Winter Wonderland!
- gifts for our £1 Christmas gift stall – for example, new toiletries, gift packs, candles, chocolates, biscuits, jams, small gadgets, stationery, socks, hats, gloves.



If you are able to help out with any donations, please bring them to Mr Sherry in the MFL Office by Friday 5th December.

If you run a small business or have an idea for a stall that you would like to run, there are still some spaces available. Please contact Mr Sherry on [jsherry@ktemplar.herts.sch.uk](mailto:jsherry@ktemplar.herts.sch.uk) for more information.

### Christmas Date For your Diary

This year's Carol Service will take place at St. Mary's Church, Baldock at 7.30pm on Monday, 15th December .

### Year 10 Vaccine forms

There are still a number of outstanding vaccine consent forms with 63 out of a possible 208 pupils having returned theirs. We do need them all back and copies of the form are on the school web site, or from Mrs Mance, Medical Student Services. Forms can be returned to the red drop box outside the medical room or given to their form tutor.

### The Knights Templar School Presents.....75 Years !

As part of our 75th anniversary celebrations, Knights Templar is hosting a Gala Performance at the Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage on Friday 27th February 2015. This will be an evening performance.

Featuring acting, dance, gymnastics and music, the concert will take you back over 75 years since the school's opening in 1939. It will definitely be a show not to be missed and tickets are already on sale from the theatre box office or online: [www.gordon-craig.co.uk](http://www.gordon-craig.co.uk)

### Edinburgh Arts Trip – Years 10-13

This is a reminder that the deadline for the trip to Edinburgh next summer is Thursday 27th November. However, some letters have only just been given out, so we have extended the deadline until next Wednesday, 3rd December. Reply slips should be returned to the Drama Department Post Box by DSA. Please email or speak to Mr Sills if you have any questions.

### News from the Music Department



The music department would like to thank Adam Dixon in Year 12 for designing and painting our fabulous new "music mural" outside classroom K2.

Adam spent many hours creating this display, and we are very grateful to him.

15 students sat their Trinity instrumental grade this week and we look forward to receiving the results in due course.

Our AS and A2 Music students performed in a solo recital evening on Tuesday. Well done to all the students who played so well, and to Bob Cummins for accompanying on the piano.

### **Year 7 Theatre Trip to see 'Around The World in 80 Days'**

The information given out in the letter was incorrect. Please note the new arrangements:

Students in T Band and S Band will attend the trip on Monday 8th December.

Students in K Band will attend the trip on Tuesday 9th December.

### **News from the Library**

- Library Christmas Craft Activity Week
- Scholastic HALF PRICE Book Fair
- Book Buzz books have arrived
- New Staff News

Read about all this and more on the [library news page](#) of the school website.

### **Understanding Teens....**

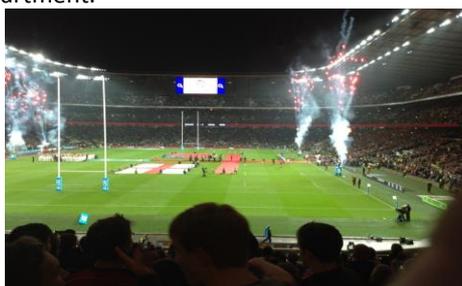
Did you ever wish that you could understand your teen better? See [here](#) for details of a FREE 6-week course on "Understanding Teens, The Ground Rules and the Gross Stuff (the parent/teenager relationship and why it's tough being a teenager)"

### **Year 9 and 10 Combined Rugby**

The year 9 and 10 joined to form a combined team to play a developmental fixture against an inexperienced Fearnhill team. The fixture was one sided throughout with the game being changed at half time to a training match due to the one sided nature in Knight's Templar's favour. Tries before half time were as follows: Will Marshall 2, Bradley Pitman 1, Marcus Crowther 2,, Karanvir Dhillon 1, Kai Chapman 2, Josh Parkhouse 1. Joe fantom converted 7 tries.

### **KTS visits Twickenham**

On Saturday 22nd November, 34 pupils from KTS travelled via minibus to Twickenham stadium to watch the England rugby team take on Samoa. The pupils were impeccably behaved throughout the trip and even got caught up in the raucous atmosphere by joining 80,000 fellow England supporters in spine tingling renditions of 'swing low, sweet chariot'. The pupils cheered the England team on to a comfortable and returned to KTS at 11.30pm having had a fun and tiresome day out with the PE department.



KTS pupils stand as they await the much anticipated entrance of England and Samoa

### **November Success**

Every November millions of men grow moustaches for the prostate cancer charity Movember and for the sixth year running Mr. Vallier was one of them. This year he was joined by Mr. Pilgrim and Mr. Barrows. To aid his fundraising this year Mr. Vallier set up a raffle, with a £10 prize. Newsknight caught up with successful winner Louie Goldscheider. "Mr Vallier is making a great effort," he said, "and we should all support him." Mr Vallier has raised in excess of £200 this year which is more than ever before. This charity is close to Mr. Vallier's heart as two of his relatives have been affected by this cruel cancer.



Report and pictures Ben Buky and Harry Pearce

## Sixth Form News:

### 24 year old millionaire entrepreneur inspires KTS students

Year 12 students were treated to an inspirational speech on Tuesday by millionaire entrepreneur, Jamal Edwards. Jamal told students the story of his rise to fame and fortune, focusing mainly on the launch and rise of his online music channel, SBTV. Within months, SBTV grew as the go-to channel for upcoming artists, outgrowing its grime beginnings and launching the career of acts such as Ed Sheeran. Eight years on and 130 million YouTube hits later, SBTV has earned the Simon Cowell seal of approval and 24-year-old Jamal heads his own major label imprint and is the face of Google Chrome. Jamal encouraged the students to follow his own recipe for success; 'take calculated risks, work hard and stay true to friends and family'. We would like to thank Jamal for taking time out of his incredibly busy schedule to visit our students. A special thanks also to Ms Brando for booking such a highly sought after public speaker!



The young millionaire, Jamal Edwards with Ms Brando and students this week

### Sixth Form Open Evening- a huge success!

The Knights Templar Sixth Form open evening was a huge success with both staff and students pulling out all the stops to showcase the tremendous academic and extra-curricular opportunities available through studying at our sixth form. We were inundated with positive messages from visiting parents and we would like to thank all those who took the time to visit us on Thursday 20th November. Please see below for just a few quotes from visitors who took the time to feedback about the evening:

'Thank you for organising an excellent, informative and fun evening.'

'We had an idea of what to expect but this certainly exceeded our expectations. The students and staff really showed the school to its best that night.'

'Drama was EXCELLENT!'

'All in all, Thursday was an excellent evening for KTS'

### Sixth form mentors

We would like to take the time to thank all of the sixth form mentors who have assisted younger pupils in the main school. The year 12 and 13 mentors have shown huge enthusiasm for helping younger pupils and have effectively used their own experiences to provide guidance and advice to a large number of young people. We currently have over 40 trained mentors, 25 of which are actively working with students throughout the school in a range of different capacities- this is a very positive initiative and we hope to increase the scale of the programme after the holiday period. Thank you to all of the mentors who have been involved so far this year.

### County call-up for KTS midfield dynamo

Congratulations to Matthew Reynolds (Yr12) who has recently been selected for the U18 Bedfordshire County football squad. Matthew's development as a footballer has been very impressive- he has been a key feature of the KTS Senior squad throughout this season, as well as the Biggleswade Town U18 team. Matthew has even broken through to the Biggleswade Town 1st team who are currently playing at a very good standard of non-league football. This latest achievement with the Bedfordshire County squad is excellent recognition of Matthew's progress and we wish him all the best for his season with the team.



Matthew swings in a corner for KTS

### **Sixth formers visit Twickenham**

There were a number of sixth form students who took the opportunity to visit Twickenham and watch the England rugby team end their losing streak with a comfortable win over Samoa on a cold and rainy night in South West London. Many of the sixth formers that were in attendance on the school trip are keen rugby players, both in and out of school and they all enjoyed the experience of watching England's finest in action at such an incredible stadium. There were over 80,000 supporters in attendance that evening, making it a fantastic atmosphere and experience for the KTS rugby stars to enjoy.



Nick Bell and Alex Bowles (yr12) waiting for kick off

### **Final 'Dinner Dance' preparations are put in place**

Members of the Sixth Form Council have been hugely busy putting the final preparations in place for the Sixth Form Dinner Dance on Wednesday 10th December. The students involved with the organisation of this event have spent hours liaising with; bands, DJs, catering staff and the event managers at the Spirella Ballroom to ensure that this night is one to remember! Tickets are still available at a cost of £35- this will include a 3 course meal (options shown below), live band and DJ entertainment and admission to the Spirella building. Full payment, menu choices and table selections must be given to Mrs Gray by Tues 2nd December. Don't miss out!

#### **Starters:**

Japanese chicken goujons  
Rio Prawn Cocktail, passion fruit sauce  
Spinach and Pecorino cheese tart, vine cherry tomato, herbs and oil (V)

#### **Mains:**

Corn fed chicken breast, sautéed vegetables and fondant potato  
Vegetable Wellington (V)

#### **Dessert:**

Apple crumble, custard  
Sticky toffee pudding  
Winter berries cheesecake