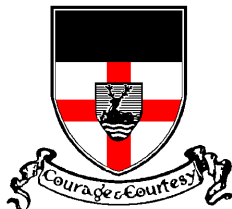


# The Knights Templar School

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## PARENTAL WEEKLY UPDATE – 4<sup>th</sup> December 2014 (also available on our website)

Dear Parents and Carers

Sir Oliver and Mrs Heald visited the school on Monday and had a terrific time being interviewed by some of our students. I also escorted them around the school and we popped into a few lessons. Both Sir Oliver and Mrs Heald were very impressed with the attitudes to learning of the students. The link below shows a picture of Sir Oliver and some of his comments.

<http://www.oliverheald.com/news/sir-oliver-heald-takes-questions-knights-templar-school>

You will also have been aware of a public meeting which took place last Thursday regarding expansion of housing in Baldock. I attach a copy of the link for you to have your say! [http://www.north-herts.gov.uk/news\\_display.htm?id=67543](http://www.north-herts.gov.uk/news_display.htm?id=67543)

I do hope that you will be able to join us on the evening of Monday 15th December at St Mary's Church, for our annual Nine Lessons and Carols service. The service will feature musicians and readers from the school. The service will start at 7.30 and it is expected to be very full, so please do arrive early to avoid disappointment.

As part of our approach to our community cohesion, reflecting British Values and SMSC (Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural) provision, the school will be attending a Carol Service in St Mary's Church on the last day of term. The service will present the Christmas Story through a mixture of sacred and secular readings, as well as listening to our fabulous musicians. This will be the first of a number of opportunities this year for our students to be able to listen to and understand more about the major world religions. More information regarding the logistics of this event will be published later. Parents wishing to apply to withdraw their child from the service on religious grounds should write to Mr P Clayton as soon as possible. Please note that the school will be closing for the Christmas Holidays at 12.00 on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme continues to thrive at KTS. On Monday night, Year 9 students and parents, in a busy school hall, were introduced to the Award and on Wednesday Gold Award presentations took place in the Sixth Form Common Room. Thank you to all staff involved in this significant area of school life.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Regards,  
Tim Litchfield  
Headteacher

*Entry from the Log Book of Frank Hancock, MBE; first Head-teacher of The Knights Templar School, 3rd October, 1940:*

*Owing to the frequency of air raid warnings I have decided to adopt a different system for precautions. On the warning being sounded the school bells will be rung and children will get their coats and hats. They will go back to their classes for work and an adult watcher will wait outside prepared to give a second warning of the presence of hostile air craft in the vicinity. On the second warning children will immediately go to the trenches.*

### Dates for your diary:

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

08/12/2014	Monday	Yr 7 Christmas Theatre Trip (K Band) to Cambridge, p1-p4 Yr 12 & 13 Rehearsal for 6th Form Revue - all day 6th Form Revue, 7pm-9pm - Hall Full Governors' Meeting, 7.00pm-9.00pm
09/12/2014	Tuesday	6th Form Revue, 7pm-9pm - Hall
10/12/2014	Wednesday	Full Governors' Meeting, 7.00pm-9.00pm Sixth Form Dinner Dance, Spirella Building, 7pm-11pm Christmas Fete Setup in Hall after school
11/12/2014	Thursday	GCSE Art/Art Graphics Mock Exam Christmas Fete in Hall during lunchtime, and afterschool (until 6pm)
12/12/2014	Friday	Yr9 PSHCE Day, 9.00am-1.20pm

### CHRISTMAS DINNER DAY

Wednesday 17th December 12.20pm to 14.20pm

Choice of;

Traditional turkey dinner served with trimmings

Vegetarian parcels

Wide selection of festive puddings to choose from.

Main and pudding £3.50

Main only £2.90

Pudding only £1.00

Once again this will be a whole school event on the day so we look forward to seeing you all. There will only be a few sandwiches and salads available on the day as everything else will be hot lunch. For any students who receive Free School Meals, their choice of Christmas dinner will be available to them.

### CHRISTMAS FETE , Thursday, 11th December

The fete will be taking place for pupils during lunchtime and will then be open to parents and friends of the school from 3:20pm.

There will be plenty of stalls, offering Christmas gifts, arts and crafts, Christmas themed games and the opportunity to meet Father Christmas. All money raised will enable pupils to improve our school, through the School Council.

Please do try and come down if you are able to. If you cannot make it, then please encourage your son or daughter to bring some extra money with them next Thursday, so that they can pick up some Christmas gifts and take part in what promises to be a fun afternoon.

Finally, if you do have any unwanted Christmas gifts lying around at home, such as new toiletries, gift packs, candles, chocolates, biscuits, jams, small gadgets, stationary, pairs of socks, hats or gloves, then we would be delighted to receive more donations for our £1 Christmas gift stall. Pupils can bring donations to reception.

#### Sir Oliver Impressed by NK Reporter

Sir Oliver Heald MP was taken with the grilling he received from Milly Green, Y12, in recent visit. The MP for North East Hertfordshire tweeted: "Took questions from the 6th Formers at @KT\_school. Paxman has competition!" Milly Green is a senior and valued member of the NewsKnight team. [Click here for link.](#)

#### Sir Oliver Heald at KTS

Sir Oliver Heald MP attended the Knights Templar School to revisit the state-of-the-art VI Form Block he opened last year and accept a role as special guest speaker at the school's Commemoration Evening in January. He met with Mr Litchfield who gave him a grand tour of the new building to see students at work.

"Knights Templar is a wonderful school," said the honourable member for North East Hertfordshire. "The teaching staff are excellent and the students achieve good results." He also added that if he were in charge he would "change very little" apart from the "lack of cash" needed for new buildings - so we must be doing something right!  
Reporter: Milly Green, NewsKnight



#### NewsKnight Launches [Podcast Channel](#)

Podcast editor, Bill Bowkett, provides three incisive reports to set in motion <https://soundcloud.com/newsknight> His reports include DofE leader John Glover MBE receiving his award from the Queen, a celebration of the 75 Anniversary Gala Dinner and Bill also reveals the school's strength in an unusual sport: water polo.

### Year 7 Theatre Trip – Around the World in 80 days

We are very much looking forward to the trip next week. Student will be out of lessons P1-4 on the day of their trip. Please see below for details:

T Band and S Band will be going on the trip on Monday 8th December.

K Band will be going on the trip on Tuesday 9th December.

Please contact the Drama Department if you have any questions.

### Gold DofE:

Our Yr13 participants who are nearly at the end of their Gold DofE career gave their Expedition Presentations at an event on Monday evening. This was a good night which many honest and thoroughly entertaining accounts about their efforts in the mountains of Snowdonia at the end of October were given and we are on course for a very good 'crop' of Golds early next year. Plenty of Palace visits to come and parents and participants should be very proud of their achievements!

The new group of gold starters in Yr12 are just about sorted, but if there are any latecomers, they need to [contact Mr Glover](#) immediately so they can be enrolled! Lists can be checked by [clicking here](#).

### Bronze DofE:

Our Yr10 participants are now entering their final stages of their Awards and all who handed their Record Books in recently should get these back on Friday (but in one or two cases this may be delayed until early next week) and the completed pages (denoted by Mr Glover's signature in red at the bottom of the relevant pages) now need to be uploaded to their eDofE accounts as soon as possible. Any pupil who did not hand their book in need to get these to Mr Glover on Monday or Tuesday lunchtimes (second half) in the DofE Office.

We also had a large turnout for the new Yr9 starters on Monday evening and the lists of pupils in each of the three groups of candidates – those with a full participation place and those on the first and second reserve lists – are now [available on the website](#). If any parent who has paid for the scheme and who has a child on any of the lists but in particular the reserve lists and who now wishes to withdraw them from the scheme needs to contact [Mr Glover](#) so that we can facilitate this. The deadline is the end of term! WE hope that all of this group are now looking hard for activities which will count towards the scheme which they can begin – for DofE purposes – on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015. Best of luck to all you people!!

### Calculator Check

The Maths Department carried out a calculator check a few weeks ago and the table below shows the numbers of pupils in each year group that didn't have one in the lesson.



Year	7	8	9	10	11
Number without a calculator	15	27	39	30	15



Perhaps Santa could pop one in their stockings this Christmas!!  
Maths Department sells them for £5.50 if Santa needs a helping hand.

### Knights Templar in the news

## Knights Templar students get multimillionaire's advice



Students at a Baldock school were given top tips on how to succeed by a multimillionaire visitor.

Pupils at the Knights Templar School heard how 24-year-old entrepreneur Jamal Edwards made his fortune by creating amateur rap videos for his YouTube channel in 2007. At 15, Jamal launched his online music channel, SBTV, in which he filmed friends such as Dizzy Rascal and Tinchy Strider rapping to camera.

Within months, SBTV grew as the go-to channel for upcoming artists, launching the career of acts like Ed Sheeran.

The 24-year-old told pupils he accredits his success with taking 'calculated risks.'

He said: "You should always take a risk, as long as it doesn't kill you."

■ Top advice: Jamal Edwards, who said his biggest inspiration is his mother Brenda, an X Factor star.

## **Basketball**

Knights Templar took on nationally renowned St. Columba's College from St Albans in their first match of the Senior County league last Thursday.

After a dominating debut match by the seniors in the District league, the squad of mainly Year 10 & 11 students, along with 3 sixth form players were looking to compete in a match that was always going to be challenging. This appeared the case at the start with a display of great defensive effort but this didn't last for the entirety of the first quarter. The comeback looked as though it was on throughout the second, but by the start of the third it was evident that the opposition's lead would only continue to grow. The squad fought hard, and went down with pride with a final score of 101-61. Top 3 Point Scorers: Nick Allin – 30 points, Ibukunoluwa Odumade – 14 points, Reno Edwards – 5 points.

New (or returning!) players who can supplement the squad are always welcome to training on Wednesday lunchtimes with Mr White & Mr Chantrell (Article by Ibukunoluwa Odumade-Year 11)

On Wednesday the year 7 & 8 boys basketball team played Fearnhill at KTS. The game ended 38-12 to KTS. Top scorers were Amman Munir and Kent Sagers.

## **Hockey**

The year 8 girls hockey team played John Henry Newman School last Thursday and successfully won the match 1-0. Alice Winzer scored the winning goal.

## **Washing Up**

Washing up must happen at least 3 times a day in most households. What a perfect opportunity for the students to practice these vital life skills regularly. Washing up individually and part of a team is a very important activity that must happen in all Food Technology practical lessons however this essential skill is missing from some students. Miss Theobald would like all parents to encourage all your children to do the washing up at least once a week (not including using the dishwasher). Clearing away rubbish, using the correct equipment for washing, scouring and drying utensils and tidying equipment away again are all skills that should be done in the correct order and are necessary to complete food practical lessons on time. Please try to motivate a reward for this if your child has done their work exceptionally well or if they complete it in under 10 minutes? The quicker the students are at washing up the more time there is to make delicious treats! Washing up used to be a family post-dinner activity, the only issue being who washed and who dried!!

Thank you for your support.

## **Geography Workshop - Year 9 G&T visit from the British Geological Survey Team**

On Thursday the 27th of November, 9Ka and 9Ta took part in a workshop run by two members of the British Geological Survey team. The following report was written by John Goward and Max Angel in year 9:

"Lee and Helen told us all about the volcanic eruptions that have continued to occur since 1995 at Soufriere Hills volcano, found on the Caribbean island of Montserrat. The volcanic hazards are still present from one of three volcanoes on the island (Soufriere hills), the other two magma mounds being dormant for over 500,000 years. The Emerald Island volcanoes are fascinating for geologists due to their pyroclastic flows and explosive lava domes.

We were split into 3 teams, the scientists, local people and the local government team, and had to decide how we would react if another eruption were to happen on the island. Using maps, photographs and information sheets we could imagine what it would be like to live there and at what point we would choose to evacuate our homes. It was very interesting, and we really enjoyed it."



## **Christmas Card Competition**

The winner of the Knights Templar School official Christmas card design competition was Amy Swain - 11 Templar. Amy receives the £50 prize and her fabulous design will be printed and available to buy through school and at the Christmas Fete.

The runners up, who also produced some excellent designs were: Lia Groves - 10 Templar, Abi Sunderland - 8 Hancock and Anna Wallis - 7 Hine. There were almost 50 entries altogether; well done to all the participants!

## Sixth Form News:

### Current student profile- Carys Langsdale

Carys is currently studying Physics, Maths and Geography in the KTS sixth form but one of her greatest achievements is her thriving business that she has built over the last year. Her business involves designing handcrafted pictures that are made up entirely of words (as shown below). Carys' creativity and ability to market her product have resulted in her being shortlisted for the 'Shell Grand Ideas Award 2014'. She has also been interviewed about her thriving business on BBC 3 Counties Radio and received press coverage in local newspapers.

With the festive period fast approaching, why not visit Carys' website at [www.carysl.co.uk](http://www.carysl.co.uk) and put in your own request for a personalised gift to give to a loved one this Christmas?



### Sixth Form Revue

Tickets for the Sixth Form Revue are still on sale for the price of £4. Don't miss out on watching the 6th form actors put their own hysterical twist on life at KTS and make fun of the teaching staff in a series of comical sketches. Performances are on Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th December at 7pm.

### This week's KTS graduate profile- Matt Judges

Matt studied Biology, Maths and History at A Level, acquiring an impressive number of UCAS points to earn himself a place at Swansea University to study Economics. While Matt was a conscientious worker in the classroom, he also proved to be a gifted athlete winning senior district titles with the football, basketball and athletics teams. Matt encapsulates the type of well-rounded student that we strive to produce in the KTS sixth form and we would like to congratulate him on all his hard work.

### Nick Allin shines in county basketball fixture

Despite the KTS senior basketball team losing to the incredibly talented St Columba's College, Nick Allin proved why he is such a highly thought of player by scoring 31 points in this tough county fixture. The school from St Albans were always going to be a difficult team to beat but Nick's epic performance kept the KTS boys in the game and left the opposition wondering just how they were supposed to stop him! We hope that this is a sign of things to come from Nick as he continues to improve as a very talented young basketball player.