

# The Knights Templar School

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## PARENTAL WEEKLY UPDATE – 7<sup>th</sup> January 2016 (available on our website)

Dear Parents and Carers

A very Happy New Year to you all!

May I draw your attention to a period of **consultation on our [Admissions Code](#)**. The governors welcome your views on whether or not to introduce *aptitude tests* for up to 10% of the students into year 7. Essentially, any students living in the Priority area would automatically get a place at KTS and does not need to even consider entering for the test. If there are any places left over (there are 210 places in each year group), then the places are currently allocated to parents who apply and live closest to the school. The 'up to 10%' aptitude test would apply to any places left **after** the allocation of places from the Priority Area.

For example:

- 203 places allocated to students living in the priority area
- 7 places will be allocated to students applying through the aptitude test.

For further information and how to respond to the consultation, please see the school website

May I remind parents of our **Year 9** students that the **GCSE Options Evening** is scheduled for Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January. The full schedule for the evening will be published shortly, but there will be two talks scheduled at 6.15 and 7.00. There will also be an opportunity to visit departments from 6.30 until 8.30. Please look out for further information on this evening over the next few days.

Please may I draw your attention to the school guidelines on haircuts. Clear guidelines are given in the school planner in the '**school uniform – additional notes**' section, on the [school website](#) and in the school behaviour policy. This is particularly relevant to boys. If you are in any doubt regarding the school guidelines please do consult the relevant Head of Year or Mr Clayton.

Father Christmas has clearly been busy delivering **Apple Watches or similar android devices** at Christmas. These devices are clearly very desirable and very expensive. As you know, we cannot be held responsible for loss, theft or breakage and we are constantly reviewing our portable devices policy. Therefore, at this time such **devices are not allowed in school**. Please ensure that your child does not bring them into school. I have asked Mr Clayton to confiscate such devices. They will not be given back to students if they are confiscated, but parents will be asked to come and collect them. I appreciate your support on this please.

Related to the above technology based point, please may I draw your attention to the piece below from Mr Farina, our E-Safety lead.

*You may have heard on the news over the Christmas holidays how the Education Secretary, the Right Honourable Nicky Morgan MP has expressed her department's growing concerns regarding children remaining safe online. A useful pamphlet has been issued which all parents, regardless of their child's age, should read. It can be downloaded from our [e-safety page on the school website](#). It is labelled 'Help your children keep safe online'.*

*This page contains many other useful articles regarding e-safety and is constantly updated with the latest news concerning this important area.*

At KTS we take e-safety very seriously. We have recently updated our e-safety policy and have introduced user-agreements which all students need to respect. Our IT department delivers specific lessons regarding e-safety and these are backed up by assemblies and displays. However, it is a rapidly changing area and as technology develops so does the potential for it to be misused. We want our students to be computer literate, ready for their lives ahead which will certainly be heavily affected by new technologies, but they need to learn to apply our school motto to this as well as to all other spheres: have the **Courage** to explore and develop your good use of new technologies but do so in a spirit of **Courtesy** to all other users.

Mr Farina  
Assistant Headteacher i/c e-safety

Please may I also remind you that students should not be picked up in the coach turning circle. There are signs up which indicate this. There is significant risk to our students and the punctuality of the coaches if cars are parked and picking up there. Again, I would appreciate your support with this.

Finally, I hope that you have the dates for the whole school show, '**Fiddler on the Roof**' in your diary. The dates are January 26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> and further information can be found on the [school website](#). I know the tickets will sell quickly, so please do book early!

Kind Regards,  
**Tim Litchfield**  
Headteacher

#### Dates for your diary:

Thursday	7.1.16	Yr 12 GCSE Resit Results Commemoration Evening, Hall, 7pm
Sunday	10.1.16	School Production Rehearsal, 10am-5pm
Monday	11.1.16	Yr 7-11 Academic Reviews in registration this week Yr 11,12,13 Senior Indoor Hockey Tournament, Sports Hall, 3.30-5.30pm
Tuesday	12.1.16	Yr 9 PSHCE Day Gold DofE Planning Session, 6.45pm-9.15pm, T16
Wednesday	13.1.16	Yr 10 Meningitis/DTP Vaccinations, all day K7 Yr 8 House Matches, all morning
Thursday	14.1.16	Yr 9 House Matches, all morning Peregrine Theatre G&T Drama Workshop (some Yr 10-13 students) Yr 7-11 Girls' Futsal District Tournament, Highfield School, 2.50-6pm Yr 11 Parents' Evening

#### Parents' Evening Reminder

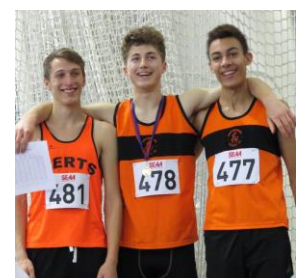
The Year 11 Parents' Evening is on **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January** and the online booking system closes on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January at 11pm**. Please ensure that appointments are booked and students are expected to attend, wearing full school uniform.

#### All that Jazz...

Congratulations to Andrew Gonis in Year 9 who achieved a merit in his Grade 6 Jazz Piano exam at the end of last term.

#### Pole Vaulting in Cardiff

Over the Christmas break, Oscar Jopp, 11 Knights, took part in an Indoor pole vault training event at Cardiff National indoor athletics stadium. Watch this clip on YouTube to see how it went: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pMRhivyPIE0>  
Our congratulations to Oscar who achieved 4<sup>th</sup> position in South of England Combined Events, including 6 personal bests.



### **Hats off!**

Congratulations to Daniel Crawford of 7 Hine who has been awarded a scholarship with Top Hat Stage School against over 200 other children.

### **Fiddler on the Roof – ticket information**

This year's school production is very close! We hope you will all be able to support the show, which will be performed on Tuesday 26th, Wednesday 27th, Thursday 28th and Friday 29th January. The performances officially start at 7pm, but we have planned some pre-show entertainment that will start at 6.45. Doors open from 6.30pm and the PA Bar will be open.

Tickets will be on sale from Monday 11th January. £8 Adults and £5 concessions. Students can purchase tickets in the school dining hall at lunchtimes or break. Tickets can be reserved by emailing [DramaBoxOffice@ktemplar.herts.sch.uk](mailto:DramaBoxOffice@ktemplar.herts.sch.uk) and stating clearly how many of which type of ticket you require and for which performance night. Once reservations are confirmed, you can pay on the door or on Wisepay. If paying on Wisepay, please email a reservation and wait for confirmation before paying.

For parents of cast members and students involved, please refer to the rehearsal schedule that is available on the [School Production page](#) of the school website.

We look forward to seeing you at the show!

### **Year 10 Vaccine Day**

Next Wednesday 13th January, the new Vaccine Team will be in school to give the Diptheria, Tetanus, Polio and Meningitis ACWY vaccines. The pupils come to K7 at a time given to them by their Form Tutors during their lesson time and so the school day may be a little disrupted.

The Diptheria, Tetanus and Polio vaccines are boosters ( an extra dose)as your child would have had a first vaccines when they were younger and the Meningitis ACWY (we used to only give Meningitis C vaccine in school )is particularly to help protect against 4 types of Meningitis when they leave school to go to college or enter the workplace.

If you haven't returned the consent form yet, please do send it in, and encourage your child to have these free vaccines.

Mrs Mance, School Medical Officer  
Library News - January 2016

### **Library News:**

THANK YOU! Sales from the Scholastic Christmas Book Fair in December totalled more than £800, which was a fantastic result. Thank you to all those parents, pupils and staff who supported this initiative and purchased from the Fair. It was also beneficial to have the opportunity to talk to parents at the Christmas Fair. We are now able to select new titles for the Library from the commission earned. More importantly, lots of children had books as presents and this will ensure that they have had the opportunity to read for pleasure, feed their curiosity and improve their literacy (reading and comprehension) skills.

### **Future events in the School Library Calendar :**

Thursday 3rd March 2016 – World Book Day and Book Fair from David's Bookshop in the School Library.

Wednesday 17th March 2016 - NORTH HERTS SECONDARY SCHOOLS BOOK & AUTHOR EVENT at Hitchin Girls School. Visiting author Nikki Sheehan (Who framed Klaris Cliff?). Pupils from Years 7 – 10 will be invited to participate in this unique and community based initiative.

More details about these events to follow via the school website and via the Parental Bulletin.

A Happy New Year to our parents and carers.

Mrs Evans, Ms Rogers, Mrs Martin and Mrs Boddy.

### **Fencing achievement**

We are very proud to inform you that Dylan Daniel (8 Knights) has been selected to represent England at an under 15 International fencing tournament in Paris in February 2016.

In the sport of fencing the earliest opportunity to represent your country is at the U15 level. Dylan's achievement is especially notable as he is only 12 yrs old and actually competes in the U13 year group and will still be in the U13 group in the coming 2016 season. In order to qualify for selection into the England under 15 squad he had to amass points from qualifying tournaments throughout the year in competition against far more experienced and older fencers. During the season he won 4 silver medals and a bronze, so selection to the England team capped a truly outstanding and successful 2015 season.

Well done Dylan!

### **KTS Club 7 Parents Quiz – Friday February 5th, 7.30-10.00**

Calling all Parents! Is your middle name Einstein? Hawking? Newton? Then this event is for you! Our new parent group KTSclub7 invites you to form a team for its upcoming Quiz Night, which is to be held on Friday February 5th, from 7.30pm until 10.00pm in the school Hall. You can form a team of up to 8 brainiacs. The cost is £5.00 per head. The PA Bar will be open all evening offering liquid refreshment. Look out for letters in the next two weeks so that you can book your ticket. Don't know anyone? No hassle...you can join a team on the night.

### **Change of plans – please note**

Year 11 Art and Art Graphics students – Please note that circumstances beyond our control compel rescheduling of the forthcoming visit to the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge on Tuesday 19th January. Hoping it will still be in January, we'll let you know the alternative date as soon as possible.



### **Counterpoint Chamber Choir provide musical 'send-off' on last day of term**

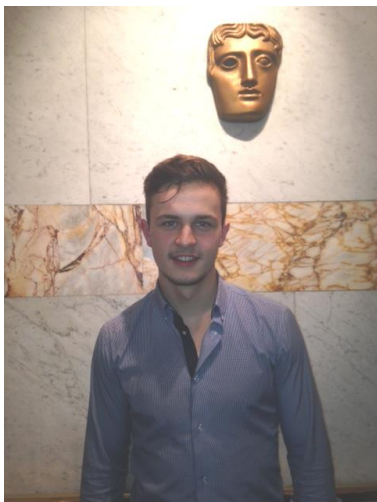
The Senior Counterpoint Chamber Choir have worked tirelessly throughout this year, rehearsing and designing musical programmes for a number of concerts, without the supervision of teaching staff and their performance at St Mary's Church on the last day of term was truly fantastic. The choir contributed to the festive occasion with their own brand of fun, up-beat and celebratory music. We would like to thank all those involved with this student-led initiative and congratulate them on their performance during the final day Christmas service.





### Head Boy stars in film role

In the final week of last term, Barney Taylor (Head Boy- Year 13) attended a screening of a new short film 'Poppy' at BAFTA in Piccadilly. Barney was cast as one of the four lead characters in February 2015 and the film is due for release in 2016. The film follows the story of a family, whose life is suddenly torn apart by war, portraying a powerful and moving message about the situation in the Middle East, namely Gaza. 'Poppy', directed by Rick Platt, is set to be released at prestigious film festivals, such as 'Sundance' in the coming months; the cast and crew are hopeful that this important message will be noticed and recognised at these festivals. We would like to congratulate Barney on this tremendous achievement and wish him the best of luck when the film is released.



### Head Girl receives university scholarship



On Friday 4th of December Lucy Merrell (Head Girl- Year 13) travelled to the University of Leeds for an interview, hoping to secure a place on the highly competitive Sport and Exercise Science course. The interview activities provided a rigorous assessment of Lucy's ability to work well in a range of environments such as; completing a timed written response regarding research in the field of Sports Science, a practical group communication task and a one-on-one interview with a senior member of the academic teaching staff.

Over the holiday period, Lucy received a letter from the university confirming that she had performed brilliantly on the day, securing not only her place on the course but the offer of 'The Head of School Excellence Scholarship'. This highly sought after funding equating to £1000 is only awarded to students who demonstrate exceptional levels of intelligence, academic performance and enthusiasm in their chosen field of study. Congratulations to Lucy on this very impressive achievement!

### **KTS representation at Rotary Club Christmas concert**

Helen Inman (Deputy Head Girl- Year 13) proudly represented The Knights Templar Sixth Form at The Baldock Rotary Club's Christmas Concert on Thursday 17th December. Helen was asked to deliver a reading at the concert and did so with her usual high levels of confidence and eloquence. The school was also represented by Carmen Gilbert who performed a wonderful piano solo that 'wowed' those in attendance. This is the first time that the school and sixth form have been represented at this event and as a result of Helen and Carmen's excellent work, the Rotary Club have requested representation from KTS at future concerts. Well done to Helen and Carmen for their contribution to the local community during the festive period.



### **Sixth form funds donated to hospice**

Next Wednesday, Mrs Hopkins (Head of Sixth Form) will accompany Barney Taylor and Lucy Merrell (Head Boy & Girl) to the Keech Hospice in Luton to donate £1000 raised from sixth form events. Mrs Hopkins and the students will also have the chance to participate in some activities with staff and residents of the hospice and receive a tour of the facilities to see how our donation will be put to good use. We would like to thank all students involved in the organisation of last term's sixth form events and raising such a substantial sum of money.

### **KTS students receive yet more unconditional offers!**

Congratulations to Tyler Cook who received an unconditional offer to study Architecture at Birmingham City University. We are very proud of Tyler for securing an offer of this nature on such competitive courses at a notoriously popular institution.



### **More musical accolades for KTS student**

Ben Goldscheider decided to take a very well-earned 2 week rest from his music over the Christmas period but the start of 2016 now provides an incredibly busy schedule for the young music phenomenon. Ben has once again reached the semi-finals of the BBC Radio 2 Young Brass Soloist of the year competition and in addition to this, will be spending much of next week in Berlin, performing with some of the best young musicians in Europe. This weekend, Ben will be performing in the semi-finals of The Eastbourne International Music Competition. We would like to wish Ben the best of luck with his latest musical challenges and adventures!