

## A Message from Mrs Thrower

Welcome to our Autumn Term Newsletter. I am sure you will agree that it has been a very different year, and one that most would not like to repeat in their lifetimes. However, there have been some good things to come out of this difficult time; I always like to look on the bright side.

We have certainly had time to notice the things around us that we normally take for granted and we now relish those special moments when we get to spend time with our families and friends, albeit in a park or outdoor space. I know that I have enjoyed sitting with a book or doing some exercise that is not on a golf course. Something I felt I never had time for before.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support. For the hardworking staff who have been relentless in their passion for the school to continue as normal as possible, and for the pupils with their continued focus and caring nature towards their friends and peers. I would also like to thank the parents who embraced our alternative academic review day which had a mixture of IT infrastructure issues, and thank the majority who stated that it went well.

My message to you this Christmas is similar to that from Josh's speech on Radio 4 on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December. There has been darkness but the light will always win through. There is a clear light at the end of the tunnel with the vaccine, so let's hope that isn't too long before we can have some semblance of normality in our lives.

Have a good Christmas break and look forward to a renewed 2021.



## Knightsfield Christmas Card 2020

Congratulations to Izzy, Year 7, whose colourful and eye-catching design was chosen for this year's school Christmas card.



## Christmas Preparations

On a recent visit to St John the Evangelist Church, a group of Year 8 pupils were given the responsibility of getting the crib figures in place, for Christmas. It was a job which required a lot of care and concentration, but they were up for the task and the figures were moved safely, from where they were stored, to where they needed to be.

## Radio 4 Star

Josh, Year 8, did a fantastic job, representing the school on a recent edition of the BBC Radio 4 programme, Sunday Worship, which came from Welwyn. Josh said he felt worried and nervous before he did the recording but felt happy once he had completed it. Josh talked about how he felt about the lockdown and what it was like to get back to school.



## Collection for the Homeless

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the very successful collection held by Knightsfield, for the homeless. A group of Year 8s went with Mrs Thrower to deliver the items to Digswell Parish Church, for distribution. As you can see from the above photo, pupils had lots of full bags to take over, so our contribution will hopefully make a difference to a number of homeless people.

## Apprenticeship Awareness Assembly

Years 10, 11 and 12 had a very interesting presentation from a representative from ASK, the Apprenticeship Support & Knowledge for schools and colleges programme (part of Amazing Apprenticeships). Everyone learnt more about what an Apprenticeship involves and about the wide range of organisations that run them. Despite the session being delivered remotely, pupils participated well and enjoyed the event.



## New Starters and Leavers

It was sad not to be able to say a proper goodbye to those in Y11 and Y13 who left Knightsfield in July. However, it was lovely to be able to properly welcome all our new starters in September. Here are some of the comments of the Year 6 pupils after their first term with us:

- Knightsfield is good because it is much quieter and more fun than primary school.
- I like not being the only pupil who is deaf.
- Favourite lessons so far are maths, German and PE.

We were all sorry to see Mrs Jarman leave earlier this month and we wish her well with the exciting project she has planned. Mrs Broomfield



(pictured), has recently joined the office. She is getting to know everyone and has quickly settled in. Mrs Broomfield says that, in a good way, she feels like she's been here much longer than just a few weeks!

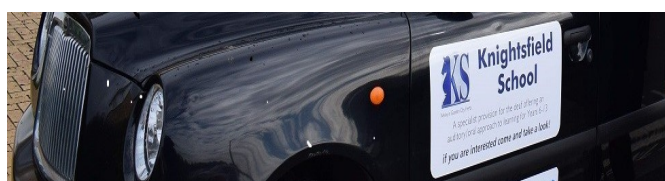
## Post-16 Update

All our Year 12s have settled quickly into the routine of attending Oaklands alongside school, responding well to the challenges presented by the transition to college. All are enjoying their courses which include Motor Vehicles, Sport and IT. Here is what Grace has to say about the Equine course she attends:

I am really enjoying college so far because I have made so many friends on my course which is really fun. I am learning some new skills on the yard. My favourite horse is called Guinness. I help take the horses out to the field first thing in the morning for exercise, then feed and groom the horses. The work is quite hard but I always try my best. I hope to continue onto the Animal Care course at Oaklands next year. Then I would like to work with animals.

## School Taxi - Student review!

Our Post-16 Motor Vehicle Students have helped with some routine maintenance work on the outside of the school taxi, as well as travelling in it between college and school each week. When asked to review the vehicle, the positives were that it is spacious and safe with a good turning circle. On the down-side, they feel it's a little under-powered!



**Thank you to the following Post-16 students who have helped put this newsletter together: Bruno, Jamie, Nathan and Grace**