



### A Message from Mrs Thrower



As we get to the end of another term I feel that I am starting to repeat myself. What another fantastic term we have had. Knightsfield have attained bronze medals in both swimming and Boccia. I hope that you have all read the articles on our website.

I am sure that you all enjoyed the brilliant "Knights Inn" play last month. The effort and passion put into the play by all was superb. For those who donated to the NDCS that evening, thank you. Sarah raised another £150 that evening to go towards her target of £1800.

Pupils all really enjoyed the "Get Work Ready" careers day, during National Careers week and you will be able to read a comprehensive report later in this newsletter.

You all will know by now that Ms. Haydon left us at half term. We have a truly brilliant English department at the moment with Mrs. Dawson taking over Ms. Haydon's classes and Ms. Lovejoy, whom many of you know already.

We have secured a new Head of English from September, who is extremely excited to be joining us, more information to follow next term.

Sport Relief week was an excitement of exercise on the bikes and rowing machine, included a brilliant netball match to end the week and a talk and skills-set practical from Jack Haddock, a member of the England Deaf Rugby Team.

Enjoy our Spring newsletter and the Easter break. I look forward to telling you some more exciting news in the summer.

### Theatre Week and Show



A highlight of the term, was Theatre Week. All pupils and staff worked incredibly hard to bring Ms Lovejoy's fantastic script to life. The week before the performance pupils were busy, not just rehearsing, but also producing films to show and helping make props, posters and costumes. The show, The Knights Inn, went brilliantly on the night and was very much enjoyed by the audience of parents, friends and Trustees.



Notable performances, of which there were many, were recognised in our Knightsfield Oscar Awards, held the following day. It was a great way to finish off what had been a very successful week.

### U19 National Deaf Swimming Finals

Following trials a group was selected to represent Knightsfield in the National Deaf Swimming Finals. We were pleased that a pupil from Monk's Walk also joined the team. All were excited at the prospect of competing at the Olympic pool and it turned out to be a fantastic day. All members of the squad worked really well, both individually and as a team and were rewarded with a well-deserved 3rd place and were awarded bronze medals and certificates. Haleema, from year 10, said the races where they competed as a group were great fun, and the pool was amazing.



### Boccia Regional Finals



There was more sporting enjoyment and success when our team progressed to the U18 Boccia Regional Finals, which took place in Harlow, in February. A great performance meant they came third, winning bronze medals. Once again the team work was great, with all supporting each other, which helped to make this excellent result possible. Harry from year 8, enjoyed it because Boccia is something different, that he hadn't played until recently. Noah, also year 8, said he was nervous but thought the experience was great.

## Sports Relief Day



All pupils were involved in the events held for Sports Relief Day, which took place last Friday. There was no excuse for pupils and staff alike not taking exercise, during the week leading up to the event,

with the bikes and rowing machines set up in our activity room! On the day itself an exciting netball match, which saw staff and year 11s competing, was watched by all. It was close and the result only decided by a tense penalty shoot out.

We then had an inspirational talk from Jack Haddock, who talked about his experiences of playing rugby for the Deaf England team and his route to becoming an international player. All staff and pupils then had an instructive and fun rugby skills taster session.



## ELSA Careers Day

The theme for the Careers Day, held this term, was "Get ready for Work". There were representatives from a range of local companies including John Lewis, construction company Wilmott Dixon and Waitrose, who helped to run the day.



Pupils started by working in small groups to produce an animal from newspaper and Sellotape. A good test of team working ability!

Throughout the day pupils participated in a range of activities, through which they learnt how to apply for a job and what to expect at an interview. There were activities to interest everyone - based on running a department store to constructing a bridge.



A number of pupils commented on learning about the importance of body language and posture in an interview. Jay, Year 10 commented on how everyone worked together and listened to each other. Chloe, one of our Post 16 students said she would feel more confident in interviews as a result of the day. So a very worthwhile event where much was learnt, through enjoyable and engaging activities.

## Empowering Girls Clubbercise Event

Girls from year 7 to 10 attended a Clubbercise event at The Nobel School in Stevenage as part of the Department of Education initiative aimed at raising self-esteem for girls through exercise. Here is a description of the event from Gisella, Year 9 : When we arrived at The Nobel School, we met the other girls and all felt quite shy. We all went to the hall to meet the dance instructor and were given make-up to put on which glowed in the dark. The effect was enchanting, and all the girls looked so different dancing in the glowing disco lights.



## Constructing a Hawker Hurricane



On the last Monday of term we had visitors in from Sci-hi Education and Panshanger airfield. They brought with them a 1:3 scale Hawker Hurricane in 46 pieces! It was the job of the pupils to reconstruct the model,

whilst learning about the function of the different parts of the plane. Informative demonstrations were carried out to help explain the basic scientific principles involved in flight, including gravity and airflow. It was a really interesting activity to take part in, through which pupils learnt about flight whilst at the same time producing a fantastic model.

## Finding out more about JDRF

Also in the last week of term we had a visit from three people who work for the Charity JDRF, which raises money for research into the causes and potential cures

for Type 1 diabetes. Working in House groups pupils took part in activities enabling them to learn about the symptoms and biology of the condition, as well as hearing about what its like to have Type 1 diabetes and how to monitor blood glucose levels. There was then a quiz where all showed they had been listening carefully. Then at the end there was the opportunity for pupils to present a cheque for the money that was raised when we all participated in the JDRF Sunflower Challenge and other games and activities last summer.



## And finally.....Goodbye Miss Simmons

We are all sorry that Miss Simmons is leaving us, but wish her all the best in her new job. She will be missed by us all, particularly the P16 students she supports.