



December 2018
Issue 1



KNIGHTSFIELD NEWSLETTER

A Message from Mrs Thrower



Well here we are again, the end of another term. What an amazing term that has been. I sincerely hope that you enjoyed the Christmas extravaganza and awards evening last week. The students were truly amazing and I am sure that they showed you some talents that you didn't know they had. That probably goes for the staff too! This is a newsletter with packed information showing what we have already achieved this year, truly a superb show of learning and fun. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous 2019.

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Meet the Teacher - Mr Bidwell

This term, Knightsfield welcomes new deputy head teacher, Mr Bidwell. Year 12 journalist, Donald Mackay, interviewed him so we could find out more:

Why did you choose to join our school?

I came from a school with 1500 students and I didn't even know all their names. I really wanted to work in a smaller school where I could get to know the students and help them as much as I can.

How does Knightsfield compare with your last school?

It is obviously much smaller and because of this, there is a real sense of community where everybody cares for each other and looks after each other.

What were your first impressions of the school?

How friendly the students and the staff were, and how great the facilities in classrooms were.

How did you feel on the first day?

I felt nervous for 3 reasons. 1, I was joining a new school and wanted to make a good first impression. This was the first time I'd joined a new school in 21 years. 2, I was becoming a deputy head for the first time having been head of upper school (Years 9, 10 and 11) at my old school. 3, I was going to be working in a special school for the first time.

Name the 3 things you like most about Knightsfield:

I am so happy that I joined Knightsfield school, that it is difficult to pin it down to 3 things but I will try. Firstly, how friendly all the students are. Secondly, the challenge of a new job and having to learn new things. Thirdly, working closely with students, knowing everyone's name and helping them as much as I can.

What new ideas do you have that you would like to introduce to the school?

I want to have lots more clubs at lunchtime to keep people entertained. I would like to introduce a sports course that students in year 10 and above can take. I'm really looking forward to the whole school reading Wonder together so that we can discuss, as a school, some of the themes. I have lots of other ideas but I don't want to spoil them.

When you are not at school, how do you like spending free time?

I love spending time with my family, I have 2 daughters aged 15 and 13. I am a season ticket holder at Tottenham Hotspur and often go with my oldest daughter. I love walking my dog, a miniature schnauzer called Murphy. I enjoy listening to music, podcasts and audiobooks. I love reading (both fiction and non-fiction). I also enjoy photography and travelling.



This is a picture that Mr Bidwell took in Croatia.



This is a page from the Sunday Times Newspaper which featured a photo taken by Mr Bidwell



This is Mr Bidwell's dog, Murphy.

Year 6

Donald Mackay from Sixth Form interviewed the Year 6s to find out more about their first term.

What do you think of Knightsfield so far?

I am really enjoying Knightsfield because of all the assemblies, they all have different topics and are very interesting.

What lessons do you like most and why?

I like English and Maths because you learn lots and it's enjoyable.

Would you recommend Knightsfield to another person and why?

Yes I would recommend Knightsfield because it's fun, it's safe and helps you learn and have some experience in a mainstream school. The teachers are very helpful as well.



Hudnall Park

Several students from Year 8 to 11 visited Hudnall Park for 3 days. They all took part in outdoor activities such as zip wire, forest games and doing an obstacle course. One student even said it was the best thing ever and they wanted to go again!



Morrison's

Morrison's came and visited. The students took part in an activity which they enjoyed. All students were in groups where they had to work together to build water pipes in a town and make sure that each tank filled with water.



Awards

Attendance Award Runner-up for 2017/18

James Chan

Attendance Award for 2017/18

Noah Tuffs

Citizenship Runner-up

Gisella Walden

Citizenship Winner

Grace Manning

Listening Runner-up

Gisella Walden

Listening Winner

Tia Scholes

Speech Runner-up

Nathan Hunt

Speech Winner

Aannan Ali

English Runner-up

Sophia Kinnaird

English Winner

Enkhula Bayarsaikhan

Maths Runner-up

Aannan Ali

Maths Winner

Haleema Hussain

Science Runner-up

Jenna Cutler

Science Winner

Sophia Kinnaird

Sports Award Runner-up

Tess McGregor

Sports Award Winner

Grace Manning

Governors for Effort Runner-up

Bruno Fonseca

Governors for Effort Winner

Haleema Hussain

Progress Runner-up

Malak Nahar

Progress Winner

Kurran Doal

Learning Leaders

Haleema Hussain

Gisella Walden

Headteacher Award Runners-up

Noah Tuffs

Aannan Ali

Enkhula Bayarsaikhan

Jenna Cutler

Kurran Doal

Headteachers Award Winner

Georgia Rowe

Runner – up Pilot Award

Archie Brisco

Pilot Award Winner

Tess McGregor

GCSE Certificates

GCSE Certificates

Congratulations to the following students on their excellent GCSE results:

Serena Baron-Servini
Ilesha Connolly
Jenna Cutler
Imane Gana
Iona Kelso
Donald Mackay
Samantha Mellor
Georgia Rowe

Fil Kamps

Fil Kamps is a deaf English footballer who is a motivational speaker and has been for several years. He did motivational speaking alongside football for a few years, but sadly had to retire from football because of an injury at the end of the 2018 season. He came to Knightsfield to give an assembly on his journey and how he managed to achieve his dream of becoming a footballer. Students then were able to have football training sessions which they all enjoyed taking part in.



Raymond Antrobus

Pupils had the privilege of meeting Raymond Antrobus who is a deaf poet. He presented an assembly to the students which included a few of his poems and he also included his own personal story. He assisted our older pupils in creating poems for themselves. It was quite moving for many pupils as Raymond spoke about his personal experiences of being deaf. It was very enjoyable for our pupils.



Grant Shapps MP

Grant Shapps MP (for Welwyn and Hatfield). He came to Knightsfield and had a tour around the school, before visiting the Year 6s. The Year 6s were delighted to give him a tour of their classroom and we look forward to when he visits again.



Upcoming Dates

- Year 6 & 7 Roald Dahl Museum Trip:
10th January
- Theatre Week: 8th-14th
February
- Theatre Week Show:
14th February
- Holocaust Memorial
Day: 28th January

High Sheriff and Mayor Visit

The High Sheriff of Hertfordshire and the Mayor of Welwyn Garden City came and visited Knightsfield School. They were shown around the school before talking to students who take part in volunteering and they liked hearing about the school's involvement with the Digswell Community Gardening Project.



Computacenter

Year 10 and 11 visited Computacenter on Monday 26th November. The students enjoyed learning about careers, interview practice, apprenticeships and networking.



Stanstead Airport

Year 9, 10 and 11 students had a very interesting day with Ryanair at Stansted Airport, investigating the many different career opportunities that could be on offer to them.



Wonder

We have recently started reading Wonder by R.J. Palacio. The whole school are reading it during assembly and form time. We hope to complete it by the end of the year and we look forward to discussing some of the main themes in school.

"It's what you've done with your time, how you've chosen to spend your days, and whom you've touched this year. That, to me, is the greatest measure of success."
R.J. Palacio, Wonder

Useful Links

BBC Bitesize

This website has useful information for subjects at any level (KS2, GCSE) and can help if your child is struggling with a certain subject.

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize>

Linguascope

This website will help students practise languages to boost their knowledge for German lessons.

<https://www.linguascope.com/>

Study Wise

This website can help students doing GCSE subjects because it has lots of revision websites as well as revision guides you can buy.

<https://studywise.co.uk/gcse-revision/>

My Maths

This website you can play maths games

and also be set online tests and homework by your tutor to gain your knowledge.

<https://www.mymaths.co.uk/>

As well as having subjects to gain your academic knowledge there are also some useful websites and apps to help students with mental health.



Kooth

This is a website where students can talk to someone anonymously about anything, whether that be to with insecurities, exam stress and they'll give you advice and support.

<https://kooth.com/>

Headspace

This is an app which helps you to meditate and to have a calm mind

<https://www.headspace.com/>

Woebot

This is an app where you can anonymously talk to a robot about any issues that people are facing and it is available 24/7.





Sports Report

Boccia

Knightsfield School students went to a Boccia festival and really enjoyed it. They also went to Gosling sports park on the 16th of October and they came 2nd. There was another event on the 26th of October hosted by Knightsfield and we won that event.

Sports Leaders

On the 22nd of December, Year 10, 11 and 6 visited Harwood Hill primary school and did sporting activities with Year 4 pupils. They developed their leadership skills by doing this activity.



Meet the Newsletter Team

Samantha Mellor - Editor
Donald Mackay - Interviewer
Imane Gana - Photographer
Jenna Cutler - Reporter

If you would like to contact us with any stories or write an article for the next newsletter our email address is:

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