

## A Message from Mrs Thrower

Welcome to all our new parents to the Knightsfield Community. It has been an extremely busy term with finally, some trips for all. The pandemic certainly has taken its toll on some of our activities this term but I can assure you that we will do all we can to make this up to our students.



We have welcomed some new playground support due to now having 57 pupils in school. The most ever I believe!

It was great to see some parents back in school for the ARD and the music/awards evening. It is always good to see parents and get to know our families. So please have a lovely Christmas break, stay safe and let's all look forward to an enjoyable 2022!

## Knightsfield Christmas Card 2021

Congratulations to Annan, Year 11, whose excellent eye-catching design was chosen for this year's school Christmas card.



### Congratulations!

Well done to Mr Bidwell for recently completing his training and becoming a Qualified Teacher of the Deaf. Mrs Farenden is making good progress with the course and Mr Puntrello started this year.

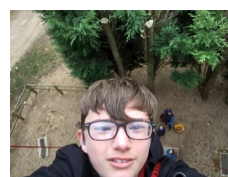
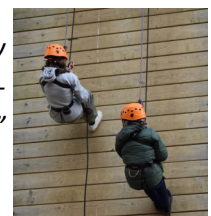
## PGL Trip

At the beginning of October, students from year 6, 7, 8 and 9 joined Mr Bidwell, Miss Parker and myself on a 5 day trip to a PGL activity centre. After a coach journey from school to Lincolnshire, we were immediately faced with tackling a climbing wall. This was the first of many challenges the students took on during the week. Some of the highlights included: rifle shooting (a lot of them were scarily good!), zip wire, giant swing, trapeze/leap of faith, canoeing on a lake, and survival skills. All of the students showed bravery and resilience, and demonstrated parts of the Knightsfield Code of Conduct – 'Never give up' and 'Encourage everyone to join in'. Here is what some of the students had to say about the activities in which they took part:



*"I was scared to fall backwards into the water, but I loved it"* kharnell

*"I was so scared at first but my group cheered me on and I managed to do it—so I did it again!"*  
Izzy



*"I loved trying to climb to the top really quickly. I took this Selfie!"*  
Finlay

The days were all action-packed but during the evenings, after the delicious meals, we were all able to gather together and play cards, listen to music and chill out before getting a good nights sleep. The campfire on the last night was a particular high point and it was great to see everyone enjoy the music, and dance on a woodland stage.

It was a fantastic week and I know that all the adults involved were very proud of how readily all the students took on the challenges with a smile on their face!

## University of Hertfordshire Visits



Over the course of the past term, we have attended the University of Hertfordshire on 3 occasions (years 6/7/8, years 9/10 and years 11/12/13) to enable pupils to find out more about Higher Education pathways. Pupils had the opportunity to have a tour of the university campus (College Lane) to see the facilities. Pupils were quite shocked by how big the campus was and many of them commented that it was like walking round a small town or village.

Pupils also got to meet a number of current university students, both from the UK and overseas. The students talked about their experiences and answered many of the excellent questions posed by our pupils. Students were also given lots of facts and information about university; this included the advantages and disadvantages of going to a university and the range of courses and societies, as well as information on support available. Again, our students asked some brilliant questions to the panel.

### New Careers Platform - Unifrog



This year we have subscribed to the Careers platform Unifrog. All pupils have access to the platform and are able to use it to explore possible careers, colleges, apprenticeships, universities and much more. Pupils are able to access the Unifrog platform from home with their school email address and password. If you have any questions regarding the platform, please contact Mrs Blake ([mblake@knightsfield.herts.sch.uk](mailto:mblake@knightsfield.herts.sch.uk))

### Year 11 Oaklands College Taster Sessions



Our Year 11s have all been thinking about what they want to do next year. To help them decide whether college is an appropriate option, students attended Taster Sessions, in subjects they are interested in, at Oaklands College. Pupils each attended two sessions. We had students experiencing a

wide range of subjects including Computing, Animal Care, Sports Studies. and Electrics. Students are now starting to apply to college having decided on the course they wish to take.

## House News



We have a new House which has been named after the deaf Olympic marathon runner, Melanie Clarke. We were very fortunate to have Melanie visit school again in November and all pupils enjoyed Melanie's presentation and the fitness sessions she ran.

Fittingly, the first House Competition of the year, a football event, was won by Clarke House. Clarke also won the recent Boccia tournament, but it was Cattermole that came first in the House Quiz. It's still early in the year though and there will be lots of other events when maybe it will be either Cattermole or Antrobus that have success.

### Music and Awards Evening



It was a pleasure, last Thursday evening, to be able to hold the annual school Music and Awards event face-to-face. All forms had worked hard during the day, with our music teacher, Mr Flowers, to prepare pieces that they performed for parents.

There was also music from the staff with the choir singing "Lean on Me". The Saxinets, a duo comprising of Mrs Sounni on Saxophone and Mrs Thrower on



clarinet performed 4 short pieces as well as accompanying the staff choir as they sang a Christmas carol medley. All were impressed with Mrs Thrower's clarinet playing, particularly given the fact she has only been learning the instrument for a relatively short time.

Last years Y11s collected their exam certificates and it was good to catch up with those students who had left KS and hear how they were getting on.



**We look forward to seeing all pupils back in school on Tuesday 4th January.**

Thank you to all those who have contributed to this newsletter, particularly Mrs MacDonald for the PGL Trip report and Mrs Blake for the Herts University visits report.