

Message from Mrs Farenden



This newsletter comes at the end of my first term as Acting Headteacher at Knightsfield and a what a busy, fulfilling and wonderful term it has been. I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all our new families and of course our existing ones, it was lovely to see so many of you at our Music and Awards evening last week.

'Dignity, Poise and Confidence'

These words were used by the Ofsted Inspector during their visit to us at the beginning of November and perfectly sum up what a fantastic group of young people we have at Knightsfield who are inspired daily by our wonderful and dedicated staff team, something else that Ofsted acknowledged. We are extremely pleased with the outcome of their visit and to retain our 'Outstanding' status for the school and for staff and students to be recognised for exactly what Knightsfield represents and (my last quote from them!) as said by Ofsted 'This is a truly magical place'.

We also started the autumn term with the opening of our new Forest School area and every class in Years 5-9 receives one Forest School lesson per week. The impact of being outside and learning new skills has already had a noticeable effect on our students and they have enjoyed making some wonderful memories using the natural resources and surrounding area. The students and Mrs Nottage also created a beautiful reflection area to not only commemorate Remembrance Day but also to give our students a quiet space for thought and reflection.



Trips

We have had a busy start to the school year with a variety of trips, including Year 9 visiting RAF Hendon as part of their History WW1 and WW2 topic.

Pupils also visited the Henry Moore Sculpture Gardens as part of project designing a sculpture for our Theatre performance in February.

Year 11 visited the London Central Mosque and Year 8 visited the Sri Guru Singh Sabha Gurdwara in Hitchin, as part of their RE curriculum.



Pantomime

On Monday 9th December Year 5, 6, 7 and 8 went to see Sleeping Beauty at the Campus West Theatre in Welwyn Garden City. They had a brilliant time and it was fantastic seeing the pupils fully engaged, singing, shouting and let's not forget the booing!!

The highlight, had to be the water pistols, towards the end of the performance. A great idea for our own up-and-coming theatre evening....



CAREERS WITH MR BEECH

Maths

The anxiety and low confidence that students can face with maths can usually be overcome by improving fluency in dealing with number, such as basic counting or times tables.

This activity is done in morning form time on a Tuesday and Thursday, but the numbers refresh daily so it could be something your child could be encouraged to do on a daily basis at a home too. As they get better, trying to reach the numbers 1-10 in order increases the level of challenge.

<https://beastacademy.com/all-ten>

We are subscribed to <https://ttrockstars.com/> which is a great resource for improving recall with number facts. If your child does not know their login details do contact Mr Beech.

Careers

'From the Sidelines' aims to educate parents and families on the science behind how our children learn, together with how to create the perfect environment at home in which to support them.

[From the Sidelines](#)

All students in Y7 and above have an account for <https://www.unifrog.org/>. Please feel free to explore this with your child at home.

For older students who may need to start thinking about preparing for their first interview this is a suggested YouTube resource. <https://www.youtube.com/@TheInterviewPracticeChannel>

On Friday 7th February Year 11s will be going to the Generation Welwyn Hatfield Careers Fair where they will get chance to talk to representatives from around 50 employers. They will attend during a designated quiet zone.

Parent opportunity

If any parent has a job which could accommodate a student(s) for work experience or if any parent is interested in coming into the school to run an assembly/talk/workshop or anything of the kind please contact Mr Beech - tbeech@knightsfield.herts.sch.uk



GOODBYES



Sadly, we say goodbye to some members of staff this term notably, Mr Jones our Behaviour Lead who will become a Behaviour Outreach Worker. Mrs Hazel will expertly fill his shoes which will be great for our students who already know Mrs Hazell so well from her role as our Pastoral Lead. She will combine both roles for the spring term whilst we analyse what support is needed in the future.

Miss Williams one of our super Teaching Assistants is also leaving us to become a Behaviour Outreach Worker in her journey to become an Educational Psychologist in the future, we are sorry she is leaving us but wish her lots of success with her new plans.

Mrs Koen is also leaving us to join her family living in Bath which will be lovely for her but we will be sad to see her go and finally Mrs Coleman one of our College Teaching Assistants is leaving to enjoy her long awaited retirement.

We are currently advertising for Teaching Assistants so please do let friends and family know and they are more than welcome to come and visit the school and have an informal chat.

This just leaves me to thank you for all your support for Knightsfield and to wish you and your family a wonderful Christmas and a lovely winter break.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Monday 6th January 2025 - start of term

Tuesday 4th February
Yr8 visit to WGC Synagogue

Friday 7th February
Yr11 Careers Trip

Thursday 13th February
Theatre Performance - all pupils to attend

From everyone at Knightsfield, have a great Christmas break!

