

Message from Mrs Farenden



This newsletter comes at the end of an extremely busy, fulfilling and wonderful term! 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.

We started the autumn term with a course of fantastic DJ workshops lead by our new Head of House, Troi Lee, who gave our students the opportunity to play, hear and feel the music! This concluded with five hardworking students being selected to perform their own DJ set at the Deaf Rave in London in October – a once-in-a-lifetime experience for our lovely students!

Students have represented the school so eloquently this term whilst participating in Deaf Awareness assemblies at local primary schools. It was a moment of complete pride and joy to hear them talking about their deafness with such confidence.

There have been trips for some year groups this term with students enjoying learning more about holy places of worship. Notably, Year 8 visited the Sikh Gurdwara where staff there commented on the exemplary behaviour of our students and it was fantastic to see them enjoying experiences outside of Knightsfield.

We welcomed a visit from the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Welwyn and Hatfield who were extremely impressed with our wonderful school and all that we provide for our students.

We have welcomed two new teaching assistants this term who have settled well into the Knightsfield community, which is lovely to see. Both have quickly embraced our positive ethos and the strong sense of community that defines our school. They have shown great enthusiasm in supporting our students and have already built positive relationships with staff and pupils alike. Their commitment to fostering an inclusive and nurturing environment reflects the values we hold dear at Knightsfield, and we are delighted to have them as part of our team.

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.



Mayor and Deputy Mayor visit



Music and Awards Evening



Deaf Rave Festival



Deaf Awareness Assembly at Lordship Farm Primary School



Deaf Awareness Assembly at Moss Bury Primary School



GCSE Geography Field Trip

Our amazing Year 11 Geographers braved the rainy weather on their trip to Walton-on-the-Naze on Monday 20th October to collect vital data for their GCSE fieldwork.

They explored the impact of tourism and assessed the effectiveness of coastal management, showing real determination and curiosity throughout the day. From measuring longshore drift to confidently engaging with local residents, they truly made the most of the experience!



Knightsfield School Careers

In October, Y9s visited Serge Hill Project to learn about working with nature and careers linked to gardening. Pupils had a tour of some of the site and we spent time in a polytunnel where we looked at vegetables including tomatoes, chard and chillis. It was one for the senses with students able to smell different herbs and spices, with some keen to taste too!

After a short break where students did some sketches of what they had seen in the morning, it was time to get gardening. Either side of lunch they chose to do some propagation or division which was a chance to get hands on and in some cases a bit muddy or sandy!



Christmas Jumper Day Essex & Herts Air Ambulance

Christmas Jumper Day at Knightsfield School was a wonderful celebration of kindness and giving. Students and staff came together in support of the Essex & Herts Air Ambulance charity, raising much-needed funds and awareness for this incredible life-saving cause. The day was filled with festive fun and laughter, with everyone proudly wearing their brightest Christmas or winter themed jumpers. It truly showcased the strong Knightsfield community spirit that we are so proud of. Thank you to everyone who contributed – your generosity makes a real difference!



Imy Harris

We enjoyed visits from excellent deaf role models this term, including Imy Harris—a talented ceramicist, model, and social media influencer—who truly resonated with our students. Imy shared her personal journey of deafness and cochlear implantation with honesty and confidence, inspiring students to embrace their own identities. Her story highlighted the importance of self-expression and creativity, reinforcing our school's commitment to fostering a positive deaf identity. By showcasing her achievements and the pride she takes in her deafness, Imy reinforced our message at Knightsfield that being deaf is not a limitation but a unique strength, encouraging our students to see themselves as capable, empowered individuals.



Goodbye

Sadly, we are saying goodbye to our lovely cleaner, who is off to enjoy a well-deserved retirement.

We will truly miss his cheerful personality that has brightened our mornings and brought so much joy to the school. His dedication has kept our school spotlessly clean and welcoming every single day, and his positive attitude has been a ray of sunshine for staff and students alike.

While we are sad to see him go, we are incredibly grateful for all he has done for our Knightsfield community. We wish him nothing but happiness and relaxation as he embarks on this exciting new chapter!



Dates for the Diary

Monday 5th January - start of Term

Tuesday 6th January - Luba Mushtuk Dance Workshop

Monday 16th January - National Deaf Swimming Gala

Friday 30th January - Year 8 WGC Synagogue trip

Friday 6th February - Year 11 Careers trip

Monday 9th February - Year 9-11 Sky Studios trip

Thursday 12th February - Theatre Production

Friday 13th February - INSET Day - School Closed

Monday 16th - Friday 20th February- Half Term

From everyone at Knightsfield, have a lovely break and we look forward to seeing you all in January!