



Expectations surpassed!

Mr Harries writes:

There are many challenges to being a Drama teacher; you need energy, creativity and the ability to get Year 7 boys to create a scene which doesn't involve rolling around on the floor, shooting imaginary guns. But along with the trials and challenges come unparalleled privileges: you get to work with some of the most dynamic, dramatic and creative people on the planet and teach them dynamism, drama and creativity. And at no point is this privilege more pronounced than when directing a show filled with talented, hard-working and incredibly enthusiastic students.

I discovered Becket Keys was a very special school from week one as I walked into my first after school drama club and found over 80 students eagerly awaiting the chance to act and perform! And as we've moved from improvisation workshops, through the auditions and rehearsals and rapidly into this week of performances, I have been blown away time and time again by the passion and dedication of our students.

Oliver! is one of the world's most well-known and best loved musicals. It is almost impossible to read or hear the story of Dickens' famous political novel without humming musical phrases of *Food Glorious Food* or *Consider Yourself*.

With Lionel Bart's added music and levity, *Oliver Twist*'s characters have proven themselves compelling and timeless. But putting on a production of which everyone has had so many experiences and such high expectations, brings about its own pressures for the students. How can you make this feel original and how can you do this justice?



Since October, the students have worked their socks off to achieve something truly special with their own characters; to do something new while keeping the heart of story and its characters in place. And this week marks their incredible success in achieving exactly that. Our audiences have been gobsmacked by the power, life and heartache of Freya and Daisy's Nancy; the aggression and violence of Ollie's Bill Sykes; the beautiful chemistry between Will, Divine, Sophie and Connor's Dodge Twins; the sweetness and innocence of Isla and Jamie's Oliver. The whole cast have worked so hard and played their parts so perfectly.

But what has also impressed me has been how eager, proactive and expert other students have proven themselves to be in backstage roles. Grace Duffy has been amazing, taking control of the sound and Lily Wright has perfected the lighting desk, lighting the show with real understanding and sensitivity.

Kathryn Sheaf and Karl Betts have proven themselves hard-working and intuitive stage managers with an incredible backstage crew (Rob Mahoney, Daisy Mattock, Hannah McCarthy, Amber McKinney, Jodie Saxon, Cara Tait and Connor Williams) taking professional control of scene changes. Anna Townsend has reprised her role as make-up co-ordinator with real flair, creativity and leadership. And I haven't even started with the rest of

the make-up crew, the charity committee for providing refreshments and all the countless students who helped design and build props and sets.

So as I sit and reflect on the challenges and privileges of my job, I find myself overwhelmed by the opportunity I have been given to work with these fantastic students in this amazing community. *Oliver!* has been 6 months of gruelling (pun intended) hard work. But I have watched them all at work this week and realised that it is all totally worth it. And even as the curtains close for the final time on our final performance tonight, I can't help but get excited as I wonder: what's next?

OLIVER!

IN PICTURES.....



Thanks to
Mr Haywood for
the photographs!



OTHER NEWS

What's been going on in the Music Department this term?

We are fortunate to have a number of extra-curricular music activities available for students to enjoy at lunchtime and after school. Whilst rehearsals for 'Oliver!' have taken priority over our after-school clubs, we have still managed to run **Orchestra** (Wednesdays 3.30-4.30pm) and tackled some interesting pieces of music. Here is Mr Kwan taking Orchestra recently in a performance of 'Bare Necessities' from Disney's *The Jungle Book*!



After the Easter holiday we will be happy to welcome any new members to the Orchestra – please see Mr Adams or Mr Kwan for more information. We will be featuring a different music club each week over the next few issues.



Since January, Year 7 have enjoyed getting to grips with the keyboard. They have been studying a variety of pieces and chord progressions and it's lovely to see the enthusiasm shown. These students are trying to play a melody in 'canon' and they have looked at how 'texture' is used in music.

We aim to keep the keyboard suite open as much as possible during break and lunch times for students to practise. If your son/daughter is interested in pursuing private instrumental lessons at Becket Keys please contact our Music Department at peripatetic@becketkeys.org

Congratulations to **Ethan Hornett** who has recently passed Grade 3 Clarinet (Jazz) with merit! If you know anyone who has recently passed a music exam, please let Mr Adams or Mr Kwan know so that we can share in celebrating their success!

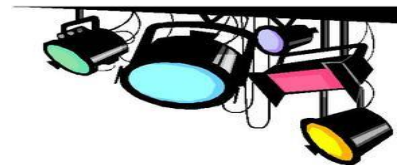
Becket Keys Got T★lent!

Its time...to face...the music!

Do you have a hidden talent? Next term we shall be auditioning for BKG T 2015. If you want to share your talent then the stage is yours! We are looking for all sorts of talent; from solo artists to groups, to sports and comical, whatever the talent, we want to celebrate it at our live show on **Tuesday 23rd June**. It may seem a while away, but once auditions are out of the way, rehearsals will be coming thick and fast.

The winner of BKG T 2015 will be invited to perform at this year's patronal festival and our speech and awards evening. So over the Easter period start 'getting your act together' as sign up forms will be handed out during form time after the holiday period. If you don't want to audition, we still want you to be part of this event. There will be jobs needed to be carried out in order for all this to come together; from lighting crew to sound crew, from set designers to camera crew, from hosts to hospitality. If you have skills that match the job, we want you too! Sign up forms for these roles will also be distributed.

And finally...one lucky student will be invited to join our judges' panel. If you think you have a bit of Simon Cowell in you or maybe see yourself as more of an Amanda Holden, then please apply for this role by writing no more than one side of A4 paper on why you think you should be a judge. Please hand applications to Mr London.



SPORTS NEWS

Year 7B Netball V Moulsham

The Year 7B team, consisting of Olivia Haggerty, Emmi Deal, Lola Webb, Millie Double, Louise White, Elizabeth Endacott, Anna Jackson and Isabella Connelly, played really well this week! The girls have really developed their attacking play and we created many shooting opportunities. Anna and Emmi were consistently moving and running rings around their defenders in the shooting circle while Louise, Lola, Millie and Olivia worked hard to move the ball along the court as quickly as possible! Isabella and Elizabeth were also confident in defence and were able to put the opposing shooters off with some good leans! The final score was a 12-2 win to Becket Keys – well done girls!



Year 9 Netball v Moulsham

The girls turned up to the game and looked like a team that meant business with their new netball dresses. The first quarter required the girls to be straight into the game mentally as Moulsham came out strong scoring 7 goals to Becket Keys 3. The umpiring was very strict and on many occasions, Becket Keys got caught out when obstructing the opponent's passes and shots. After a team talk during the 2 minute quarter break, the girls refocused and started playing to the best of their capabilities. Some quick passing from Farran Deal, Roisin Datta, Daisy Mattock and Cara Tait in the Centre 3rd enabled Becket Keys to start creating more shooting opportunities. Grace Duffy and Charlotte Todd also produced some excellent movement and demonstrated great teamwork in the attacking circle, allowing us to start to catch up with Moulsham and to wear down the goal deficit! At half time the score was Becket Keys 11-12 Moulsham.

In the second half Becket Keys took advantage of Moulsham's substitutions and upped the ante.

During the second half of the game Becket Keys managed to score another 11 goals while great defensive work from Uchechi Nze and Amelia Hall kept Moulsham to just 4 more goals during that period.

The final score was 22-16 to Becket Keys. It was a fantastic game and the girls really demonstrated they are a team to be reckoned with!

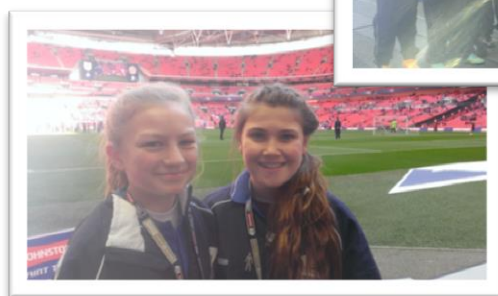


Year 9 Boys' Basketball V Brentwood County High

Last Friday the boys competed against Brentwood County High in a fantastic basketball match. We took a squad of 12 who rotated frequently throughout the game and the boys displayed some fantastic teamwork and sportsmanship. The game was close to start with, the score being 12-10 to Becket Keys after the first quarter. The boys kept their focus and stuck to their game plan that they had been working on in training – with Ryan Gamble and Alex Savage calling the plays and all the boys ensuring they were moving to create space.

Some particular highlights from the game included a great jump shot by Frank Parish with a fantastic assist from Remi O'Brien. Also, Tom Middleton drove towards the basket and at the last minute made a 'Magic Johnson' pass to Malakai Brann who confidently scored. Scott Davison, Luke Payne, Oscar Warriner and Malakai Brann worked tirelessly to make interceptions and to turn these into some fast breaks when BCHS did have attacking opportunities. Tom Middleton, Ethan Hornett, Ed Peace and Ryan Gamble confidently scored some great lay ups with Josh Rees sneaking his in during the last minute of the game! The overall score was BKS 49 – BCHS 27.

MORE SPORTS



Ball Boys and Girls at Wembley!

Another fantastic day was spent at Wembley on Sunday for the Johnstone's Paint Trophy final between Bristol City and Walsall. Mr Fenn and Miss Webb took 15 students and we were all treated like VIPs, having access to the pitch all day and being only metres from the players and managers. Our students were a credit to the school and commended once again for their conduct and effectiveness! Everyone had a great day and it was another unforgettable experience!

Summer Sports Clubs 2015

After the Easter break there is a change to our sports extra-curricular timetable! We encourage all students to join at least one sports club no matter what your experience or ability! All clubs are open to all (except squad tennis) - we look forward to seeing some new and familiar faces!

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Pre School	Basketball Academy <i>Sports Hall</i> 7.15-8.15am	Running Club <i>Astro</i> 7.45-8.15		Swimming Academy <i>Brentwood Centre</i> 6.30-7.30am	Basketball Academy <i>Sports Hall</i> 7.15-8.15am
Lunch	Sprint Workshop <i>Astro</i> Cheerleading <i>Main Hall</i>	Y8 Cricket Nets <i>Sports Hall</i> TUP Rounders <i>Field</i>	Y9 Cricket Nets <i>Sports Hall</i>	Y7 Cricket Nets <i>Sports Hall</i>	TUP Tennis <i>Tennis Courts</i> TUP Rounders <i>Field</i>
After School	Y7 Athletics Y8&9 Boys' Cricket Y8&9 Rounders	Girls' Cricket Squad Tennis	Y8&9 Athletics Y7 Boys' Cricket Y7 Rounders	Girls' Football	Y7 Girls Hockey

NOTICES

Girls' Kilts

A reminder that girls' kilts should be 'on the knee'. We have noticed a few girls have grown considerably over the last few months and they are now wearing kilts that are too short. We will be checking this over the next few weeks and sending cards home to girls who need a new kilt!

Absence in Exceptional Circumstances

Parents wishing to apply for consideration for their son/daughter to be granted absence in exceptional circumstance need to give the school at least one month to deal with the request. Requests that come with less time than this are more likely to be unauthorised. All leave of absence requests (not medical) must have a Leave of Absence form completed in advance. Forms can be collected from Reception.

Food Technology

Please remember an apron and plastic container if you are cooking at school!

Catering Accounts

Please ensure these are kept topped up. Lunch tickets are only available as a last resort and should not be used regularly.

CONTACT DETAILS

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VACANCIES

WE ARE NOW RECRUITING!

Check our website for details:

www.becketkeys.org/vacancies.php

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Our uniform supplier is Smarty Pants in Ongar. SmartyPants will create custom length kilts at no extra cost, so if your daughter needs a different waist size or length to the standard kilt sizes, they can be made to the appropriate size. You will need to go into the shop for a fitting, rather than buying the standard sizes from the website.

<http://www.smartypantsschoolwear.com/>



Dates for your Diary

30th March - 10th April Easter Holiday

13th April Back to school (Gold Week)

14th April FOBK meeting

20th – 24th April Bikeability

23rd April Year 8 Girls' HPV Vaccinations

You can keep up to date with a daily tweet from Becket Keys by following us on Twitter @BecketKeys