



EXCITING TIMES

Mr. Scott-Evans writes:

I do not remember starting my GCSEs nor choosing my options. I think I just stumbled into it: no support, no help, no advice! Looking back, I did not choose well and I was not well prepared for the journey ahead. No one ever taught me how to study or revise – it was just assumed that somehow at 14 years of age I would be ready. That is not what we want here.

Throughout Year 9 we held meetings for our founding cohort, individual ones, group ones and whole cohort ones. We had careers fair and opened a web portal to offer careers advice (see last week's newsletter). We also carefully presented information in booklets and letters to try to convey all the information parents and students needed.

This week, we held our first ever Year 10 Curriculum Evening. All Year 10 students and their parents crammed into a packed hall to hear school leaders introduce the challenging GCSE courses that will make up our Key Stage 4 offer.

Mrs. Trebess (Assistant Head: Curriculum) introduced the evening and talked through our KS4 approach. She talked about the important role that parents and carers can play in helping students to reach target grades by: providing a quiet space at home to study

away from distractions; monitoring 'Show My Homework' and quality assuring homework completed; being aware of assessment dates and ensuring that students are suitably equipped and prepared in advance of any assessment or examination dates.

She also emphasised the importance of developing study and revision skills right from the beginning of Year 10. Students are expected to take more responsibility for their learning at Key Stage 4 and to be more organised, to plan ahead and organise their time and to read independently around subjects. Mrs. Trebess outlined a range of different revision strategies that might suit different students' learning styles. She also highlighted the impact that just twenty minutes of reading every day can have on academic success and emphasised the importance of excellent attendance.

At Becket Keys we are concerned not just about academic success but also about the emotional and physical well-being of all our students, so the final part of Mrs. Trebess' presentation was dedicated to explaining how students can balance all of this within a healthy lifestyle; with time prioritised for emotional and spiritual development. She even

advised about what foods to eat to boost brain power!

Mr. Hinds (Head of Mathematics), Mr. Peggs (Head of English) and Mr. Macallan (Head of Science) talked through the extensive changes to the Mathematics & English Curriculum. They also explained how each department offers HAS (Help and Support) Time.

Mr. Fenn (Senior Leader for Data and Assessment) then explained a little bit about the minimum target grades that Year 10 students have been set.

After the presentation in the main hall, parents were invited to meet form teachers and visit an exhibition in the Bistro where each subject presented a display. It gave parents and students a chance to speak to subject teachers, heads of department and senior leaders.

It was extremely encouraging to see parents and students making such a positive use of the evening. I was highly impressed by the students' reaction to the GCSE curriculum and the evening as a whole. These are exciting times. I wish that such support had been in place for me when I was at this stage.

Mr. Scott-Evans
Headteacher

OTHER NEWS

Harvest Foodbank Appeal

Harvest celebrations help us to be thankful for the food we enjoy. They also encourage giving and generosity which is inspiring, challenging and practical. It unites our actions with our attitude.

Over 13 million people live below the poverty line in the UK. Every day people in the UK go hungry for reasons ranging from redundancy to receiving an unexpected bill on a low income. Rising costs of food and fuel combined with static income, high unemployment and changes to benefits are causing more and more people to come to Foodbanks for help. Foodbanks help prevent crime, housing loss, family breakdown and mental health problems.



Thank you to all families within our school community who have contributed to this year's Foodbank appeal.

A prayer for the Harvest Foodbank Appeal:

Help us we pray
To recognise the difference between
Satisfaction and smugness,
Being content and being comfortable.
May our expressions of gratitude never
Deafen us to the cries of those in need
And in celebrating your love
May we never forget
That your love reaches others
Through us.
Amen.

A total of **£344.89** has now been collected in memory of Katie Anderson.

Katie's family would like the funds to go to Little Havens Hospice, who we have chosen to support as one of our school charities this year. As many of you will know, Little Havens were a great support to Katie and her family during Katie's life.

http://www.havenshospices.org.uk/little_havens_care



MORE NEWS

MUSIC NEWS



Worship Band

New to Becket Keys this year is the 'Worship Band'. This was set up earlier in the term and has been providing musical accompaniment for daily collective worship in the hall. We meet on a Monday after school in the music department to learn the new hymn for the week. Our repertoire is gradually expanding, having successfully performed 'At The Name of Jesus', 'Lord Jesus Christ (Living Lord)', and 'My Hope is Built on Nothing Less (Cornerstone)'. This week we have been playing a '3 song traditional spiritual'. This is 'Sing, sing, sing', 'When The Saints Go Marching' and 'Swing Low Sweet Chariot'. The students sing each song separately first, then the 4th verse culminates in a mixture of all the songs sung together in a polyphonic texture. The students are split into 3 sections, to sing the 3 different songs at once!

We play on a rota, so different students get the opportunity to perform each day. If you know someone who would be interested in playing for daily Worship, our set up is as follows:

- a pianist (melody/ melody & chord part)
- a keyboard player (chords)
- a lead electric guitarist (to play the melody)
- a rhythm guitarist (chords)
- a bass guitar player (bass line)

Thank you to Mr. Hiscock who has been helping by playing the Euphonium for some sessions, adding the nice warm tone of a brass instrument into the mix. We are currently in search of a drummer to add a rhythm section if possible. Rehearsals are Monday after school in R2 – see Mrs. Sands or Miss Crank to register interest.

Christmas Shoebox Appeal

This week during tutor time, students have been hearing about Operation Christmas Child which is run by the charity, Samaritan's Purse. Becket Keys' students are being asked to make up Christmas shoeboxes to be sent to disadvantaged children all over the world who are affected by war, poverty, famine, disease and natural disasters - <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>



We are aiming to collect a minimum of 200 shoeboxes from students, staff, consultants, the site team, the catering team, governors and parents.

Students have all received a leaflet about how to make up a shoebox and have been asked to bring it back to the school office by **Monday 9th November**. If a student can't manage to provide a whole box, then they can bring a small donation to their form. Once £18 is raised, the form can create their own virtual shoebox online! Alternatively, students could bring in some items that could go into a shoebox and we'll make some up at school.

We do hope every student gets involved. Here is a step by step guide to making up a Christmas Shoebox:

- Grab a shoebox and cover it with Christmas paper
- Choose boy OR girl
- Choose age group: 2 to 4 OR 5 to 9 OR 10 to 14
- What do YOU think they would love to receive? Buy the gifts! (But do check the suggested list first) https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/how-to-pack-a-shoebox/#gift_suggest
- Include a £3.00 donation per shoe box to cover operational costs
- Fill in the label and stick it on
- Say a prayer for the child who will receive the box
- Feel great: you have made someone's Christmas very very special

SPORTS NEWS

Year 9 Girls' Basketball

Becket Keys 23 St Martins 30

The Year 9 Girls enjoyed their first basketball fixture this year against a strong side from St Martins. The girls started strongly, taking a 2 point lead at the end of the first quarter and a 4 point lead at the half-time break. This was the result of a combination of strong defence, particularly from Divine Okwuosa, who blocked superbly, and moving the ball around to create options on offence. Sydney Macauley kept driving to the basket to commit defenders and Cleo Cooke hit some great jump shots to keep the pressure on. The game was still tight at the end of the third quarter, with St Martins 2 points up. Unfortunately, the depth on the St Martins bench allowed them to be fresh in the fourth quarter and seal the win. The girls would love some support from more players in their games. Check out the extra-curricular timetable if you are interested!

PE NOTICES

Basketball

The school is running morning basketball sessions from 7.15-8.15am as follows:

Monday morning – Girls

Wednesday morning – Year 7 Boys

Thursday morning – Year 8 Boys

Friday morning – Year 9 and 10 Boys

There are many students already demonstrating great commitment to basketball by attending these sessions. Due to upcoming matches we would like to see more students attending so we can select teams, particularly for Year 7 and 8 boys.

Cross Country

The PE department would like to congratulate all students who ran the cross country this week for their house, particularly those who showed great resilience and determination to achieve a personal best. We are also very proud of those students who participated with the honest attitude we expect of students in the school. Please keep a close eye on the newsletter for the results in the coming weeks!

Thank you to all students and staff who gave up their time to marshal the races.

Year 9 Boys' Football

Becket Keys 3 BCHS 1

The Year 9 Boys' football team won for the second time in 3 games, putting in a fantastic performance against a good side from BCHS. Becket Keys welcomed back Freddie Mattock, who put in an instrumental display in midfield, scoring two goals. The first gave Becket Keys the lead at the break, deservedly so after a half of controlled possession from the home side. The second of these came just after BCHS scored a minute after half-time. This kept the lead and psychological edge for Becket Keys at an important time.

The game was end to end after that, with Becket Keys soaking up pressure and trying to hit back on the counter attack. With ten minutes to go, Daniel Ogunleye chased what seemed to be a lost cause on the touchline, with the ball seemingly destined to go out of play. But he got there just in time to flick it back into play, right to the feet of Freddie Mattock, who drove forward. The boys traded passes before the ball sat up on the edge of the box on the right-hand side. Daniel unleashed an unstoppable drive right into the top left-hand corner of the net. The ball was hit so cleanly that it did not spin on its 30 yard journey past the goalkeeper. This seemed to peg BCHS back and spurred Becket Keys on once more, as they were able to keep the game tight and compact, restricting the passing game of their opponents.

The team displayed great temperament and psychological strength of character in a testing, competitive atmosphere and were a credit to the school.

BK Super League

Last chance to register for the BK Super League! If you want to take part, you must sign up by 12pm on Saturday 17th (tomorrow). Registration is easy and free to do. Participants must visit www.schoolsfl.com and register with an email address and password. They will then be invited to select their team. Once team selection is complete, they must join the BK Super League. By clicking on 'My Leagues' and searching for it using the PIN 8454014, they can send a join request which will be sent to Mr. Pethers, who will accept them into the league. Every Wednesday lunchtime, students will have the opportunity to meet and discuss team selection and results from the past week.

MORE SPORTS NEWS

Year 7 Boys' Rugby

Moulsham 5 Becket Keys 14

The Year 7 boys played their first rugby game on Thursday against Moulsham. Many of the team were playing their first ever rugby game. The game was treated as a learning experience for both teams, with stoppages and explanations by both teachers when appropriate. The Becket Keys' students did the school proud, as they were able to play respectfully, be honest when they had made a mistake and when learning points were highlighted; they took responsibility for their development by learning from mistakes quickly. The team also showed great character when they went a try down.

Zekel Brann scored and converted 2 excellent tries, including a magnificent run for the second to take the game away from Moulsham midway through the second half. Joshua Humphreys and Archie Van Klink put in some great tackles to keep the Moulsham attack at bay. Edward Clarke and Joseph Eaton led the Becket Keys' forwards, by supporting quickly at the breakdown. Sam Donovan also made some great breaks on the wing for Becket Keys. The boys enjoyed the game immensely and are looking to build on this learning experience in their first season together. Many thanks to Moulsham for still playing the fixture when they had Ofsted inspectors at their school!

World Cup Rugby

Pictured are **Oscar Warriner** (10 WW) and **Edward Peace** (10 PP) as they took on flag bearing duties for Romania and South Africa at recent Rugby World Cup matches at the Olympic Park Stadium. They did so well walking out in front of 55,000 fans and television crews from around the world. It will be an experience that will stay with them for life. Both boys play rugby at Old Brentwoods Acorns RFC. Congratulations boys!



Year 7 Girls' Football Report by Lucy Taylor 7PP

Becket Keys 2 Shenfield 4

Becket Keys Year 7 girls performed with a positive attitude as they played against Shenfield Year 7 girls in a football match. In the first half of the game, we were playing confidently and always helping each other out. After the first half the score was 1-1, with our goal being scored by Maria Gamble.

As we got into the second half, we were feeling more determined than before and gave it our all. Unfortunately, we lost the game and the score was 4-2 to Shenfield. Niyi Olulode scored our second goal. We congratulated Shenfield and now hopefully we will continue to improve, ready for next time.

Year 7 Girls' B Team Netball Rally

Becket Keys	0	Hylands	2
Becket Keys	0	St Martins B	5
Becket Key	1	William De Ferres	1

The Year 7 B team really enjoyed their first experience of a netball rally. The girls worked hard and really developed their skill as the games went on. Work intensity was high throughout all the games and the girls' team work skills really shone through. Despite the little training the girls had they were able to follow the rules well and were able to demonstrate some great skills. Throughout the matches the girls solidly improved with Lara King scoring a goal in our last game. The girls didn't make it through to the semi-finals but they enjoyed their first game and are looking forward to competing in more matches.



NOTICES

Lost Property

We are still holding a large number of items including glasses, locker keys, coats, school shoes and trainers in lost property. Please ask your son/daughter to reclaim their property by enquiring at Reception. There are also a number of lost sports kit items in the PE cupboard (including a huge number of hoodies). If your son/daughter has lost an item of PE kit, they should check with PE staff first, before checking at the office.

Textbooks

If you have ordered a textbook and made payment online via Scopay, please ask your son/daughter to collect the book from their subject teacher.

Free School Meals

Free School Meal families need to register for the 2015/16 school year in order for their son/daughter to continue receiving free lunches. Please go to www.myfreeschoolmeals.com and complete your details, then email the school at office@becketkeys.org to let us know when this is completed. This is particularly important for those in Year 7 as the uniform grant will be based on this information.

Sports Equipment

Do you have any fitness equipment that is currently gathering dust in your garage? Would you be willing to donate it to the school? The PE Department would welcome any donations of fitness equipment including free weights, resistance bands, skipping ropes, exercise bikes, cross trainers and rowing machines. Please contact Miss Honey via the school website if this is something you could help with.



CONTACT DETAILS

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VACANCIES

Cleaners required

Positions are available to join our experienced and established cleaning team based at Becket Keys.

Shifts available are Monday to Friday 0630-0830 and 1530-1830 both at hourly rate of £6.80.

If interested, please contact Birkin Cleaning Services on 01707322228, Job Ref – Becket Keys or email John Bennett at:
johnbennett@birkinservices.co.uk

Volunteer Science Technician

Please see the information attached with this newsletter regarding an exciting opportunity to volunteer in our Science Department, assisting our Science Technicians.

Dates for your Diary

22/10/2015	All Saints Eucharist (1:30pm) (St Thomas' Church)
23/10/2015	Inset Day (no students)
26/10/2015	All Saints Holiday
02/11/2015	Inset Day (no students)
03/11/2015	First day back
03/11/2015	Year 9 Geography Field Trip
10/11/2015	Trips Meetings: 6 – 6.45 Y7 Bushcraft 6.45 – 7.30 Y8 Madrid 7.30 – 8.15 Y9 Bude