



LEST WE FORGET

Mr Scott-Evans writes:

Remembrance has been a focus for our school community and nation over recent weeks. On Sunday 8th November, the veteran's parade was concluded by a memorial service at St Thomas of Canterbury Church. On the 11th November, all members of our school community gathered on the playground for an Armistice Day Memorial Service.

Euan Inverarity sounded the beginning of the two minute silence with the Last Post and signaled the end with the Reveille. This was a proud moment. Tom Middleton, Peter Angeli, Lola Webb and Amelie Ladlow and Mrs. Sharp were very privileged to represent our school, by attending a service and lay a wreath at Brentwood War Memorial.

Making the Grade?

By now you should have logged on to our VLE to find your son/daughter's current attainment data. I hope that this has proven straight forward and useful for you. We will contact you if we have concerns in any subject, but as the year progresses we will build a stronger picture of where each student is at.



As I said in the last newsletter, the most important columns to look at are the 'behaviour for learning' and 'homework' ones. These will give you the clearest idea of areas of strength and areas for development. If these columns are positive (A, B or C) then you know that your son/daughter is working at the right standard and in our experience the attainment column follows suit!

Some students ask about moving sets when the data are published. Sets are examined all the time to make sure that the right students are in the right sets.

We are reviewing this at the moment and if your son/daughter is due to move, we will contact you first.

If you want to speak to a particular teacher about your son/daughter's progress please use the form on the website to send an enquiry: www.becketkeys.org/contact.php.

You can find out which teachers your child is taught by on the VLE by clicking on the timetable tab.

Christmas Cards

Every year we ask students to help us produce our Christmas Card. We ask students to design an image for the card which will be striking and attractive, whilst also conveying our Christian values and the true meaning of Christmas. This year's theme is 'Immanuel – Christ with Us'. Details of the competition will be sent home via tutors. Designs should be drawn on the paper provided and decorated using felt tips and coloured pencils only.

My preference is not to add text to the card, but a few students have attempted this over the years since we opened. It takes real skill to add text in an attractive way; I would avoid it!

The card is sent out to hundreds of local partners, schools, businesses and churches. It is regarded as a prestigious achievement to be chosen and one which also is rewarded with Book Tokens! Moreover, students are given several copies of their card for them to share with friends and family.

Mr. Scott-Evans
Headteacher

OTHER NEWS

BIBLE READING CHALLENGE: PART 5

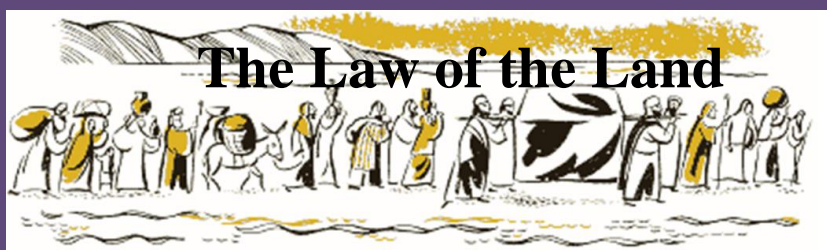


THE LAW AND THE LAND

Now that the Israelites have broken free of their bondage in Egypt, their main objective is to find a home. Land has always been important to the Jewish people, not only because they have wanted a place to call their own, but also because God had promised it to them. It's that quest to reach the Promised Land that animates our next five readings. Sometimes people say, 'The journey is more important than the destination'. Perhaps there is a bit of truth in that for the children of Israel. God did some incredible things while they wander in the desert. We have already seen how he parted the Red Sea and destroyed the Egyptian army. Now we will see God thundering on Mount Sinai and giving the Ten Commandments. He will also part the Jordan River and give the Israelites a tremendous military victory at Jericho. As they enter the Promised Land, the Israelites have momentum on their side.

There is an important theme running through these readings. Any success that Israel had was not due to their large army, effective strategies or good luck. It was the result of their willingness to listen to and obey God. It is as simple as that. It took Moses many years to learn that lesson, but once he finally got it, God really used him. Joshua had the advantage of watching Moses, so he learnt the lesson faster. **Cultivating a willingness and ability to hear the Word of God and put it into action is the key to growth and effectiveness in the Christian life.**

Our readings do give us a hint of dark clouds on the horizon for the chosen people. The golden calf was Israel's first direct experience with idolatry. For the rest of the Old Testament, they struggled with this destructive tendency. In the end, it alienated them from God. However, this also **highlighted their need for a Messiah, a Saviour** and that is what the New Testament is all about!



21	The Law and the Land	Exodus 19:1-20:21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the things that improve or erode your relationship with God? Which of the commandments would you like to work on this week? 	Lord, I really want to know you better. Please help me care about the things that are important to you. Thank you that you love and forgive me when I fail. Amen.
22	The Golden Calf	Exodus 32:1-34:35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How would you describe your relationship with God at this time? What things pull you away from God? What things draw you closer? 	O God, we both know how quickly I give in to sin. Please forgive me, and help me to draw closer to you today. Amen.
23	Joshua Succeeds Moses	Joshua 1:1-1:18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which challenge fits you best at this time: to find a spiritual mentor or be a spiritual mentor? Why and how will you do that? 	Father, thank you for the people who have influenced me to follow you. Please help me to keep growing and show me how I can help others grow too. Amen.
24	Crossing the Jordan	Joshua 3:1-4:24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which is the bigger need in your life now: greater knowledge of God's Word or greater passion for God? How could you begin to meet that need? 	Lord Jesus, thank you for the times in my life when you have met me in a special way. Keep me hungry for your Word and passionate to know you better. Amen.
25	The Fall of Jericho	Joshua 5:13-6:27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is there any 'unfinished business' in your life that is hampering your relationship with God? What is it and how could you begin to deal with it this week? 	Father, I do not claim to understand everything about you, but I do believe you are the Lord and I want to follow you. Amen.

MORE NEWS

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD – SHOEBOX APPEAL



A **HUGE** thank you to all students who made up a shoebox and donated to this appeal. We donated 110 shoeboxes to the appeal, which were collected from school on Thursday, ready to be shipped around the world!



BECKET KEYS CHRISTMAS SCIENCE LECTURE – TUESDAY 8TH DECEMBER 6:15 – 7:30PM

Families are invited to this unique opportunity to learn about the science behind the latest land speed record attempt. Mike Ford, STEM Ambassador and Chartered Engineer will be talking about his latest project working alongside Bloodhound SSC, the Land Speed Record Team who are designing and building the first 1000 mph car. For further information, see the flyer attached with this newsletter. Everyone Welcome!

FREE TRIAL VIOLIN LESSON

If you are interested in learning the violin, we have a new violin teacher, Miss Harriette Platt coming into school on **Tuesday 17th November**. On this day, Miss Platt is offering a free trial lesson for those who might like to start learning. She will bring violins for students to try. If interested, please contact Mrs Sands.



BUDE TRIP – YEAR 9

It's great to see a surge in sign-ups for the Bude trip after the meeting on Tuesday. Just a polite reminder, the payment deadline is **Friday 20th November**.

EVENTS AT ANGLIA RUSKIN UNIVERSITY

Families may be interested in attending these free events at Anglia Ruskin University. On **Sunday 29 November**, PhysicsFest is a family fun day inspired by experiments! 2015 is the UNESCO International Year of Light and so this year, PhysicsFest will host loads of hands-on experiments about Vibrations and Waves. For more information, see here <http://www.anglia.ac.uk/community-engagement/physicsfest-2015>

On **18th November** it is the Gepp & Son Solicitors Annual Schools Legal Debate which may be of interest to any student interested in a career in the legal profession. There will be a debate between sixth form and college students with a panel of judges from the legal field. The event starts at 6pm and no booking is required. For more information, see here: <http://www.geppandsons.co.uk/schools-legal-debate>

FRIENDS OF BECKET KEYS – ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DISCO

Tuesday 17th December 2015 7pm – 9pm

- ★ **Tickets £5** each including a drink and pizza
- £ Tickets on sale during **lunchtime at the library**
- 🎵 Separate **VIP chill out lounge for Year 10s**
- 📷 **Photo shoot** including props for a wacky photo & get it printed for £1
- ★ **Christmas jumper** competition, with the winner of the wackiest jumper announced at the end of the night!



SPORTS NEWS

CROSS COUNTRY

Mr Fenn writes:

Year 8 & 9 Girls

We took 10 girls in this category and out of 150 runners we showed that we were competitive. All of our runners finished within the top 100. Grace Burrell came 7th and should get a call up to represent the mid-Essex region, which is a fantastic achievement! Isla Bradley was next in, followed by Ellie Martin and Lauren Hill. Our second team consisted of Lauren Pamenter, Isabella Connelly, Abigail Carey, Mia Ballantyne, Molly Whymark and Tegan Utting-Minnis. The girls were fantastic and should feel proud to have represented the school, especially Molly and Tegan who made their cross country debuts. Well done!

Year 8 & 9 Boys

Mid-Essex champions! We took 10 boys in this category and again approximately 150 students were running. Luke Savage finished 3rd, Harry Howard finished 12th, Daniel Ogunleye 13th and Jacob MacDonnell 18th. Our team total was 48, six better than KEGS and a good number ahead of Brentwood School meaning that we won the event! The boys are over the moon to have won this event. Luke will get his first call up to the mid-Essex team which he should celebrate. Harry and Daniel will be reserves for the event and should also be very pleased with this achievement, particularly Harry who is a year younger than a lot of the competitors. Will Davey (debut), Jack Buckland, Ben Cooper, Oliver Legon, Harrison Powell and Bobby Bailey should all be proud of their performances too. Our second team would have come ahead of several schools' first teams!



Year 10 Girls

With lots of schools only bringing 1 or 2 girls to enter this event or none at all, we showed other schools how it should be done by bringing our full team, plus an extra runner! This I believe is testament to the excellent character and work ethic of

our students. They feel proud to represent the school and happy to take on a challenge, no matter how difficult it might be. The girls showed resilience and determination during the race and relief at the end. Catherine Barker ran a fantastic race and finished 10th meaning she will be given a reserve place at mid-Essex level. Catherine deserves significant credit for this as she has trained hard for a long time now and has narrowly missed out on selection over the past 3 years. This shows that hard work can pay off!

Daisy Benson came in next overtaking someone right at the end with a great sprint finish, followed by Claire Ransley, Paige Parnell, and Bethan Peters, who all achieved personal goals today, well done! Speaking to the girls after the race they were proud of their efforts and deservedly so. They have agreed to run together and train more regularly so they can improve further. Really proud of you girls!

Year 10 Boys

Running against Year 10, Year 11 and 6th formers was always going to be a tough ask. Our boys were not

daunted by the occasion, in fact one student remarked, 'Bring it on!' Alex Savage overtook George Chubb mid-way through the race to win amongst our boys. Next was George Chubb, then George Elliot (debut). Will Stroud was fit for this race and ran well to come in next.

Brandon had a strong second half of the race to come in next, then Max Brown (debut) and Harry Elliot (debut). Well done to all these boys for competing well against lots of older boys or should I say, men!

A big thank you to Mr Whymark and Mrs Barker for marshalling today; this helped the whole event run smoothly.



MORE SPORTS NEWS

ROWING

Year 7 Girls

Four Year 7 girls came to the indoor rowing event on Wednesday. All the girls had little experience of rowing machines but this definitely did not show. First came the individual race with all girls, including Maria Gamble, Molly Uwins, Ella Brooks and Ella Middleditch, showing a brilliant effort. The girls had to row as many meters as they could in two minutes and they put in all their effort with Molly Uwins rowing a fantastic distance. No medals were won, but there was still the team event to complete.

The girls had to row 2012 meters as a team and showed fantastic team work. The girls had a quick practice before the race and then they were off! The team managed to win the team race despite their minimal experience, showing what fantastic athletes they are. With a rowing machine to train on, who knows how brilliant they could be!

Year 8 Boys

Johnny Wyndham, Louis Stephen, Harrison Cole and George Tubby showed a fantastic effort at the indoor rowing event. The boys performed brilliantly despite their minimal previous experience really demonstrating the qualities of Becket Keys students.

For the individual event the boys had to row for three minutes covering as much distance as they could. The team really came together to show each other support helping the boys to push themselves even harder. Louis Stephen came 1st in the individual event which was a great achievement. Well done!

Next came the team event where the boys worked together well producing a brilliant time. The boys came 2nd by less than a second, but definitely deserve massive congratulations. With some training, the Year 8 boys could be even more fantastic.

BASKETBALL

Year 7 Girls Basketball

Becket Keys 48 Brentwood County High 19

The Year 7 girls enjoyed their first Basketball fixture this year against a great side; Brentwood County High School. Playing for Becket Keys were: Ella Brook, Maria Gamble, Ella Middleditch, Nancy Parish, Molly Uwins, Amelia Walker and Hannah Lawrence.

The girls were strong throughout the entire match and a string of successful shots in the final quarter by Ella Brook ensured the girls a win. For the duration of this game, the players demonstrated truly outstanding character. A massive 'Well done and Thank you' to the whole team.

SWIMMING

Year 7 Swimming Gala

The Year 7 girls have completed their first Swimming Gala for Becket Keys. Seven teams entered and our girls competed brilliantly.

Swimming for Becket Keys were: Alice Bennett, Ella Brook, Isabelle Tillbrook, Rosie Brooks, Abigail Catton, Megan Clements, Fern Curtis-Brown, Rhiannon Brame, Millie Double, Ellie Martin, Abi Carey, Beaux Hinwood-Young, Alice Keely, Rebecca Stroud, Rachael Davison and Grace Burrell. The girls swam their races in two heats. Congratulations to Alice Bennett, Ella Brook, Millie Double, Rebecca Stroud, Rosie Brooks, Abi Carey and Ellie Martin for winning their individual races. A special 'Thank you' also to Bethan Peters for being an outstanding student leader at this event. Becket Keys finished 6th with 99 points.

PE NOTICES

CROSS COUNTRY

Students who are in the cross country team, on the fringes or students who aspire to run for the school at some stage, should aim to do one or a combination of the following:

- Attend the running club on Tuesday mornings, 7.45-8.15
- Compete at parkRun at South Weald or other local parkRuns. This is a free, marshalled, semi-competitive event open to all on Saturday mornings. Parents, you may be interested in this as well. www.parkrun.org.uk
- Join a recognised running club – Chelmsford AC, Havering and Mayesbrook AC, Basildon AC, Thurrock Harriers AC
- Run in your own time, with family members or with friends

We want cross country and long distance running to go from strength to strength, the more training we do, the more success we will have. We are looking for more cross country competitions throughout the year, if you are aware of any that we do not enter, please let me know.

SWIMMING SESSIONS AT THE BRENTWOOD CENTRE

Are you interested in competing for the school at swimming? Do you want to get better at swimming? If the answer is yes to those questions, read on! Brentwood swimming club have kindly offered a session to Becket Keys students on Thursday mornings before school at The Brentwood Centre. Sessions are from 6.30am to 7.30 am and are coached by the Brentwood swimming team staff. They have kindly offered our students their first session free as a taster to see if it is right for them. After the first session, it is £45 per term (for hire of the pool and overheads), or pro-rata for anyone starting part way through the term.

Anyone who is interested in this great opportunity, please contact Jon Gold at the following email address: chairman@brentwoodswimmingclub.co.uk



SPORTS CLUBS

The PE Department are working extremely hard to ensure that we deliver clubs that every pupil can enjoy. These clubs are running, but now we need you to attend!

Have you tried basketball club before school? This is your opportunity to be taught by a trained coach which is fully funded by the school. You can develop your skills, have fun and be involved with matches played against other schools. Have you tried our turn up and play clubs at lunch including basketball, netball and cheerleading? Are you currently attending an after school club including football, rugby and trampolining? If not it is a great time to start. Come along to get some great coaching all for free!

NOTICES

UNIFORM MATTERS

We remind parents of our uniform code:

<https://www.becketkeys.org/uniform.php>

In particular, please note:

Girls' Kilts

Some girls are in need of a new kilt! Whilst it may still fit them around the waist, the length is no longer correct. We would like to remind our girls that their kilts should be knee length.

Winter Coats

Our school coat can be purchased from SmartyPants. It is compulsory for Year 7 students. All other students must wear a smart black coat with no colours or large logos.

Girls' Hair & Earrings

Our school policy is clear and should be re-read by students who are thinking of getting a haircut. It puts the school in a difficult situation when students do not follow our protocol. No extreme hairstyles, no hair dye. Also, please remember that girls are only allowed one small gold/silver stud in each ear.

LOST PROPERTY

If your son or daughter has lost something, they should check lost property as soon as they realise the item is missing. We have a very large number of coats, pencil cases, umbrellas, glasses and KEYS, both front door keys and locker keys! We go to great efforts to make sure items which are NAMED are returned to students, if found. Items generally do not go missing permanently and usually turn up, but if they are unnamed, we cannot return them and students must check with the office.



CONTACT DETAILS

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VACANCIES

No Vacancies

There are currently no vacancies, but CVs are welcome at any time.

vacancies@becketkeys.org

Our new recruitment round for teachers will start around Christmas time.

Dates for your Diary

18/11/2015	Year 9 Subject Consultation Evening
24/11/2015	Year 9 Guided Choices Evening
2/12/2015	Year 10 Mandarin Trip
8/12/2015	Christmas Science Lecture
10/12/2015	Choir singing at the Baytree Centre
14/12/2015	Christmas Carol Concert with Brentwood Imperial Youth Band
17/12/2015	Christmas Disco
18/12/2015	Choir singing at Ravenscourt Retirement Home
18/12/2015	Last day of term