



FESTIVE SEASON

Mr Scott-Evans writes:

The coming weeks are always some of my favourite in the school year: Christmas!

Working in a school in Advent is wonderful! The excitement and anticipation of this marvellous season are a joy to behold! Younger students are perhaps still a little obsessed with the presents they want to receive, but older, more mature students are more earnest in their search for the real meaning of this festival.

Their journey of faith is as fascinating to me as anything that we do here at Becket Keys. Yes, I am intrigued to see the latest attainment figures in a few weeks' time, but seeing the growing spiritual maturity of students is, for me, the real prize of headship.

For Advent, we will be finding a variety of ways to bring the spirit of Christmas to our school and to engage the students with the deeper meaning and truth of this festival.

On page 2, you can read about our two Friday lunchtime Eucharists in December and our Christmas Eucharist at St Thomas of Canterbury Church on Thursday 17th December. Parents are very welcome to join us at any or all of these services.

Our Inaugural Christmas Science Lecture is also coming up on Tuesday 8th December.

On Thursday 10th December our fabulous choir is singing at The Baytree Centre to share the true message of Christmas with shoppers. No collection, no ambush, just great Christmas Carols sung by students and staff!

On Friday 11th December our Choir sing again at The Bentley Crematorium Open Day.

On Monday 14th December we will hold our own very special Christmas Carol Concert with the Brentwood Imperial Youth Band. Tickets are now available on ScoPay (£4). These will go very quickly so get on-line now!

Wednesday 16th December is the date for our festive Christmas lunch in the beautiful Bistro which will be cooked by Head Chef Dave Ashman and his new Sous Chef James Marsden. See the 'Notices' section for details.

The FoBK Christmas Disco is on Thursday 17th December. Tickets are on sale from the library at lunchtimes for just £5 (including pizza and drink), with a special new VIP chill out area for Year 10s! See page 2.



Following the success of our Christmas Shoebox Appeal, the Charities committee are organising further events during the festive period including: 'Wear Christmas in your hair!' during our Christmas lunch, decorate a teacher's jumper, a Christmas mufti day and Donut sale on Friday 11th December.

May you and your family enjoy a blessed Advent this year. We hope to see you at some of our special events over the festive period.

I shall be watching the students with interest as they engage with the mysteries and messages of Christmas. I hope you too can once again marvel at the incredible good news of Christ coming as a baby all those years ago.

Mr Scott-Evans
Headteacher

OTHER NEWS

PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS

*'Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my saviour.
For you I wait all the long day, because of your goodness, Lord.'*
Psalm 25:5

This coming Sunday, Bentwood will turn on its Christmas lights and St Thomas' Church holds its Christmas Bazaar (10.30am – 2.30pm). This weekend marks the first Sunday in Advent and we wait with eager and joyful hearts for the birth of Jesus. In the busyness of our preparations for Christmas, may we all give ourselves time to prepare ourselves spiritually and not lose sight of the real meaning of Christmas.



All parents, students and staff are welcome to attend short lunchtime Eucharists which will take place on the 4th and 11th December in our Chapel at 1pm. Our Christmas Eucharist, to which you are also welcome, will take place on the 17th December at St Thomas of Canterbury Church from 1.30-2.30pm. We hope you can join us.

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

Places are booking up fast for our Christmas Science lecture. Our choir are also now confirmed as opening the lecture and it promises to be a festive and engaging evening!

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!

Places for the lecture can be booked using the Parents' Evening website: <https://becketkeys.parentseveningsystem.co.uk> or click on the link on the Becket Keys website.



FRIENDS OF BECKET KEYS – ANNUAL STUDENT CHRISTMAS DISCO

THURSDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2015 7PM – 9PM

- ★ **Tickets £5** each including a drink and pizza
- ★ Tickets on sale during **lunchtime in 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!



OTHER NEWS

SOCIAL MEDIA SAFETY

It has been brought to our attention that a number of students in a Chelmsford secondary school have been receiving inappropriate messages via Facebook and Facebook Messenger. These messages are not coming from other students in the school or from individuals who are personally known to those students. They are, however, persistent and have been sent to a number of people. In light of this, we advise you and your son/daughter to block messages and/or 'unfriend' individuals who are unknown.

It is believed that the following Facebook profile names, which have been disclosed to us, are highly unlikely to be genuine profiles and therefore the faces and dates of birth associated with the accounts are unlikely to reflect the true identity of the sender: Chloe Packard, David Kingston, Neal Caffery, Neal Spinson, Tiffy Gerhardt, Chloe Powell



Essex Police have been advised of this online activity. We are reminding all students who use social media sites that they should utilise the profile security settings to the highest level to ensure that they do not receive unsolicited messages. Students should take care only to befriend individuals whom they know in person and be very careful about what personal information they share online. We do, from time to time, run social media awareness sessions for parents, so watch this space for details. We will continue to advise students in school about the dangers of misuse of social media and how to stay safe online.

SEVERE WEATHER CONDITIONS

During the winter months severe weather conditions may make it impossible for students and staff to come to school. These conditions are rare and are unlikely to occur every year and our aim is always to keep the school open, however, our priority must be the safety of our students and staff.

When such weather conditions occur we would like parents to be aware of the following routine:



- The school will post details of a school closure on our [Website](#) and on our [Twitter Feed](#) to alert them to the fact that the school will be closed.
- In such circumstances, the decision to remain open or closed will also be emailed to parents using our database of priority contact details. (Please make sure that these are kept up to date)
- Parents may be told their children should not to attend at all or that the school will close early.
- Drivers should not attempt to make the journey to school, if their road conditions are dangerous.
- Please avoid telephoning the school directly so that lines can be kept free for important outgoing calls.
- If bad weather continues, every effort will be made to keep the school running to a normal working routine.
- Parents may collect children early from school, but should inform the school, if they are planning to do this.
- Students may be allowed to use their mobile telephones to contact their parents to keep them informed. School telephones will also be made available for all students on request.
- Notices will be placed around the school and every effort will be made to contact parents about special arrangements such as the cancelling of after school clubs etc.
- In the most extreme conditions, parents can be assured that their children will remain in warm, safe and dry conditions until the situation improves.

SPORTS NEWS

YEAR 8 GIRLS' FOOTBALL

Report by Maria-Eden Smith-Gonzalez & Rebecca Sharp

On the 20th November, the Year 8 Girls' football team played in a tournament at Plume school. There were sixteen teams and four different pools in the tournament. We were due to play Sandon first; however, they had not arrived so we played Shenfield in a friendly, which ended 0-0. We had a strong formation with Stacey Torgbor in goal and Maria-Eden Smith-Gonzalez and Rebecca Sharp in defence. Anna Jackson, Isabella Connelly and Isla Bradley were in midfield and Lucy Molineaux and Elizabeth Endacott taking turns up front.

In the first match, we drew 0-0 against St Martins with Isabella taking some good shots and Lucy creating some good opportunities for the team. In the second match we played Sandon and Rebecca and Maria defended the goal very well. We won 2-0 with Isabella and Anna passing between them and scoring an excellent goal each. In the third game, we played against Moulsham (team 2) and kept up our strong defence, with Stacey saving an outstanding shot by opposing the team's attacker. This followed with Isla making a strong tackle and setting Elizabeth up for a great goal. This made the end score a 1-0 win. Due to our strong defence and team work, we won the whole tournament and did not let in a single goal. We would like to thank Mr Pethers and Mr Jackson for taking us and supporting us.

YEAR 9 GIRLS' FOOTBALL

On Monday 23rd November the Year 9 girls took part in a 5 a side football game held at Becket Keys. Jo Stuckey, Year 10, refereed the games and helped to organise the tournament. The girls played against two other teams in high energy matches, working hard on their defence. Despite a great effort from the girls, they were knocked out in the first round with Brentwood Ursuline School taking the win.

YEAR 7 GIRL'S HOCKEY

Report by Kristin van Heerden

On Wednesday, Becket Keys Year 7 Girls' Hockey team played a match against Sacred Heart. In the first half Becket Keys attempted to make several shots at their goal but none got in. Both teams defended their goals well and were very competitive despite the cold weather. Neither side scored a goal in first half. In the second half however, Becket Keys played very

determinedly and managed to score a goal. No more goals were scored and in the end Becket Keys won 1-0. After the game the opposing teams shook hands and congratulated each other.

YEAR 8 GIRLS' BASKETBALL

On Thursday, the Year 8 Girls' A team played in a tournament at Shenfield School. There were six teams from three schools. In the first match we played Shenfield A team. They were a strong team with good defenders, however, this did not stop us from scoring with Grace Middleditch receiving an excellent pass from Madison Reid and shooting in the basket. Towards the end Molly Whymark scored a layup and Maria-Eden Smith-Gonzalez scored two.

In the next match we played Becket Keys' B team and had many shots. In the middle of the match, Molly and Madison scored nine baskets between them. In the third match we played St Martin's B team and the match ended in a 14-0 win with some great baskets made by Grace and Maria-Eden scoring two each, with Molly scoring six.

In the fourth match we played Shenfield B team winning 12-6 and in the final match we played St Martin's A team who had a very powerful team. Some excellent shots which were shut down by Madison and Grace. The end score was 8-0 with Molly scoring all of the baskets. At the end it was announced that Becket Keys' A team had won the whole tournament! We were very happy and thankful that Miss Honey and Miss Ellis took us.

'B' Team report by Isabella Connelly

On Thursday, the Year 8 Girls' Basketball B team played a tournament at Shenfield High School. Our first game against St Martin's B team was a close match however; we ended the game with a 6-4 win, with baskets from Anna Jackson, Isabella Connelly and Rebecca Sharp. Our next match was against Becket Keys A team, we played well with some great counter attacks although we were not able to score many baskets and the game ended with a score of 8-2. Our third match was against St Martin's A team who were a strong team with Elizabeth setting up Isabella Connelly for a great basket. The end score was 8-4 to us, with Isabella Connelly scoring every basket. Our next match was against Shenfield A team and we ended with a 10-4 loss. Our baskets came from Anna Jackson receiving a long pass from Isabella Connelly. Our final match was against Shenfield B team. Shenfield gained some good baskets from high balls that we could intercept. The final score was a 12-8 loss however we had some good baskets from Isabella, Rebecca and Anna. We came 6th place in tournament overall.

NOTICES

BIKE LIGHTS

A reminder to students travelling to school by bike that they should ensure they have lights on their bikes during the winter months.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Wednesday 16th December

Tickets for a delicious Christmas lunch with all the trimmings will be on sale in the Bistro from 4th – 11th December for £3.50. Payment will be taken from your son/daughter's Accent catering account using their thumbprint and they will be given a ticket which they will need to hand to catering staff on the day of the Christmas lunch. If your son/daughter wishes to purchase a ticket, please make sure they have enough funds in their catering account. Dietary requirements should be mentioned when purchasing a ticket. On the day, no other food will be on sale in the Bistro or Orangery at lunchtime, so students who are not having the Christmas lunch should bring a packed lunch or they will be able to buy a sandwich at break time on the day.

PE – TRAINER DONATIONS

If a student has forgotten their kit, the PE staff always try to find kit so that the student can still participate in the lesson. They currently have a shortage of trainers which are size 6 or smaller. If your son/daughter has grown out of their trainers and they are still in reasonable condition, the PE department will gratefully receive these. A box will be left at the office until the end of term for any donations. Thank you.



CONTACT DETAILS

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office@becketkeys.org

www.becketkeys.org

VACANCIES

NO VACANCIES

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

vacancies@becketkeys.org

BELOW: The Year 8 Girls' Football Team who won a tournament at Plume School on Tuesday.



Dates for your Diary

2/12/2015	Year 10 Mandarin Trip
4/12/2015	Lunchtime Eucharist
8/12/2015	Christmas Science Lecture (Choir to open)
9/12/2015	Orchestra rehearse at Brentwood Imperial Youth Band Headquarters (6:45 – 8:45)
10/12/2015	Choir singing at the Baytree Centre
11/12/2015	Lunchtime Eucharist
11/12/2015	Choir visit Bentley Crematorium to sing at Open Day
14/12/2015	Christmas Carol Concert with Brentwood Imperial Youth Band
16/12/2015	Christmas Lunch
17/12/2015	Christmas Eucharist
17/12/2015	Christmas Disco
18/12/2015	Last day of term