



## ENRICHMENT DAY

### Mr. Scott-Evans writes:

We returned after the All Saints' Holiday on Tuesday to an excellent enrichment day. I was pleased to see students from Years 7, 8 and 10 at work on the day and to hear very positive reports from Year 9, who were out on a field trip.

### Year 7:

Students in Year 7 enjoyed a day of historical enquiry. The highlight of which was working with the curators from Chelmsford Museum. The archaeology work with the museum gave a strong chronological message to our students and helped them to develop investigative skills. In other sessions they used iPads and their art skills to produce a movie about a historical find and a personal coat of arms.

### Year 8:

Well-being was the theme for Year 8 as they learned about body image, practiced first aid skills and encountered the concept of mindfulness. It was an interesting day which touched on many important issues for this year group, not least thinking through the impact of the media and social networking on their self esteem.

### Year 9:

Epping Forest was the destination for our third years as they set off on a Geography Field Trip. Their fantastic learning in this subject meant

that the study centre staff were extremely impressed and somewhat surprised at what the students knew. The staff had to rapidly adjust the day that was planned as they went along, to accommodate the exceptional levels that our students have already attained.

The students were a real credit to the school and particularly to our Geography teachers. (More details on page 2).

### Year 10:

Year 10 were treated to a fantastic STEM (Science Technology Engineering & Mathematics) day with the Bloodhound Supersonic Car (SSC) Team. The Bloodhound car will travel well over the speed of sound and will in fact cover a mile in less than 4 seconds. It is an engineering marvel. Our students were able to hear first hand from the scientists and engineers who are working on this incredible project.

Year 10 also created their own rocket cars and raced them against each other in the Carey Building. The fastest team will have their names enscribed on the Bloodhound SSC.

And finally... We will be issuing current attainment grades to our VLE for parents to log on and see in the next few days. Students in KS3 will have their grades in the usual national curriculum format which you are familiar with. Please be aware that grades will sometimes go down particularly at the start of the year when new topics are often introduced. The most important grades to check are the behaviour for learning (BFL) and homework grades. If these are As, Bs or Cs then your son/daughter is working hard and their teachers are happy.

Year 10 students will be getting feedback in the form of GCSE grades this time. This will take some getting used to. Obviously, some grades will be quite low – it is the beginning of the course! But on the whole we are extremely pleased with where students are at. Again the most important grades to look at are the BFL and homework grades.

Teachers will be in touch if there are issues that need working on. However, if nothing is said then you can assume all is well.

Mr. Scott-Evans

Headteacher

# OTHER NEWS

## YEAR 9 GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

As part of our Enrichment Day on Tuesday, Year 9 students spent the day in Epping Forest putting their Geography knowledge to the test with some exciting practical applications of the work they had been doing in lessons.

Students had the opportunity to revise some core skills such as orienteering and grid-referencing and were then taught how to complete in-depth site surveys, using a range of specialised equipment including quadrats, lux meters and clinometers. It was a pleasure, as always, to see our students working so collaboratively and independently together.



While the students orienteered and navigated their way through the forest, there were really impressive moments of leadership and teamwork on show and it was especially pleasing to see the students fill in any “dead time” with their own independent learning (at one point, the Epping Forest group leader was incredibly taken aback to see that all of our students had automatically and

independently completed their worksheets while they waited for him to return with some equipment).

Students gained a deeper understanding and respect for environmental surveillance and conservation, with many of them discussing GCSE opportunities on the return journey.



# MORE NEWS

**TWO MINUTE SILENCE – 11<sup>TH</sup> November**



We will be holding a two minute silence with prayers on Wednesday 11th November at 11am. Parents and friends of the school are welcome to join us on the playground. Euan (Year 8 ) will play the last post and prayers will be read by students. Poppies are being sold this week and next week during Tutor Time. The tins will be kept in reception during the rest of the time so that students can donate at anytime.

## ECO-CLUB NEWS

Below is a recent press release about an exciting project which our Eco-club students are involved with!

### PRESS RELEASE - 3/11/2015

#### Becket Keys to grow seeds from space!



Eco-club students at Becket Keys Church of England School are preparing to become space biologists and embark on a voyage of discovery by growing seeds that have been into space.

In September, 2kg of rocket seeds were flown to the International Space Station (ISS) on Soyuz 44S where they will spend several months in microgravity before returning to Earth in March 2016. The seeds have been sent as part of Rocket Science, an educational project launched by the RHS Campaign for School Gardening and the UK Space Agency.

Becket Keys will be one of up to 10,000 schools to receive a packet of 100 seeds from space, which they will grow alongside seeds that haven't been to space and measure the differences over seven weeks. The students won't know which seed packet contains which seeds until all results have been collected by the RHS Campaign for School Gardening and analysed by professional biostatisticians.

The out-of-this-world, nationwide science experiment will enable the students to think more about how we could preserve human life on another planet in the future, what astronauts need to survive long-term missions in space and the difficulties surrounding growing fresh food in challenging climates.

Mrs Pead, Science Technician, says: "We are very excited to be taking part in Rocket Science. This experiment is a fantastic way of teaching our students to think more scientifically and share their findings with the whole community".

Rocket Science is just one educational project from a programme developed by the UK Space Agency to celebrate British ESA astronaut Tim Peake's Principia mission to the ISS and inspire young people to look into careers in STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) subjects, including horticulture.

Follow the project on Twitter: @RHSSchools #RocketScience.

## CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL

A reminder that our shoeboxes are due be collected from school next week, so students must ensure that they bring their finished shoeboxes and £3 admin donations to school by:

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November**

The admin donation covers the costs of shipping the shoebox around the world. The admin donation can also be made online here:

<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/follow-your-box-donation/>

If the admin donation is made online, a barcode is provided which can be added to your shoebox so that you can track it to its final destination!

Any suitable items for shoeboxes can also be donated to Reception so that additional shoeboxes can be made up by the school.

To date we have received **49** completed shoeboxes. Thank you everyone for your support! There will be some very happy children this Christmas time in some of the poorest parts of the world.



## NOTICES

### Year 9 Parents' Evening

Parents and Year 9 students are invited to attend a subject consultation evening on 18<sup>th</sup> November. Students should attend in full school uniform and be ready to discuss their recent report grades. Parents will be able to book appointments to see teachers online, using the portal from our website.

Teachers have already booked appointments with the students they most need to see, however, if you feel that you should have had an appointment with a teacher and did not get one – please contact the teacher via our website.

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

### UNIFORM MATTERS

#### 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. For more details please check the website:

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

#### 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.



### CONTACT DETAILS

Becket Keys CofE School  
Sawyers Hall Lane  
Brentwood  
Essex  
CM15 9DA

01277 286600

[office@becketkeys.org](mailto:office@becketkeys.org)

[www.becketkeys.org](http://www.becketkeys.org)

## VACANCIES

### No Vacancies

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

[vacancies@becketkeys.org](mailto:vacancies@becketkeys.org)

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

With our last newsletter, we sent you information about an **NHS Primary Care Careers Fair** on Saturday 14 November 2015. Please note, this has been postponed until 2016. We shall forward further details when we receive them.

In the meantime, students interested in careers in healthcare can look at the following websites:

[www.epic-wd.org.uk](http://www.epic-wd.org.uk)

<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/about/careers-nhs>

[http://eoe.hee.nhs.uk/files/2014/08/FOR-USE-ON-WEB-2903561-HEE-GP-Brochure-v3\\_0-Accessible.pdf](http://eoe.hee.nhs.uk/files/2014/08/FOR-USE-ON-WEB-2903561-HEE-GP-Brochure-v3_0-Accessible.pdf)

### Dates for your Diary

10/11/2015	Trips Meetings: 6 – 6.45 Y7 Bushcraft 6.45 – 7.30 Y8 Madrid 7.30 – 8.15 Y9 Bude
18/11/2015	Year 9 Subject Consultation Evening
24/11/2015	Year 9 Guided Choices Evening
18/12/2015	Last day of term