



CHALLENGE!

Mr Scott-Evans writes:

HT Challenge

I am really enjoying going round visiting Year 7 tutor groups at the moment. I have been talking to them about the Head Teacher's Challenge and introducing them to the next Stage.

As you know, the challenge is not something that is 'rewarded' with a prize or a certificate or a badge. The rewards of attempting and completing the challenge are deeper and more foundational. It is about being a better person and living out our school values.

Our seven school values are:

- Respect**
- Responsibility**
- Forgiveness**
- Be Caring**
- Be Fair**
- Be Honest**
- Be Trustworthy**

I have been really impressed with the students' response to the second stage of the challenge! We've had students picking up litter, giving money to charity, learning to do magic tricks and attempting many other elements of the list. Please encourage your son or daughter to attempt Stage 2. For more details look at the family handbook (on the School VLE).

Who should I speak to?

It can be hard sometimes in our growing school to know who to speak to. When we first opened you could pretty much just come to me for everything! However, that does not work anymore! So I thought it would be helpful if I gave a few pointers today.

If the issue you want help with is administrative then the office staff are often best placed to help.

Mrs Tait and Mrs Hale are our receptionists and can assist you on 01277 286600 or office@becketkeys.org.

Our finance team is led by Mrs Chapman, her team are available via 01277 286618.

If the issue is more to do with your son/daughter then it will be better to speak to the form teacher. You can contact them via the school website. www.becketkeys.org/contact.php

If the issue is related to a particular subject then you need to speak to the subject teacher and they can be contacted in the same way.

Occasionally, you may want to get a second opinion on an issue. If this is a subject matter, it should be referred to the head of department.

You can find out who is who on our website.

www.becketkeys.org/staff.php

If it is a pastoral matter and you feel you want a greater level of support than the tutor is providing then you need to go to the head of year.

Year 7: Miss Oliver

Year 8: Mr Harries

Year 9: Mr Wray

Year 10: Miss Gill.

Our senior leadership team are also happy to help.

Mr Hughes: Pastoral Matters
Mrs Trebess: Curriculum
Mrs Sharp: Community and Worship

We are deliberately a small school and so everyone knows everyone and we are all willing to help out and offer support.

If you are still unsure of who to go to, then I suggest you start with the form teacher. He or she will always be happy to point you in the right direction.

I hope that helps!

**Mr Scott-Evans
Headteacher**

OTHER NEWS

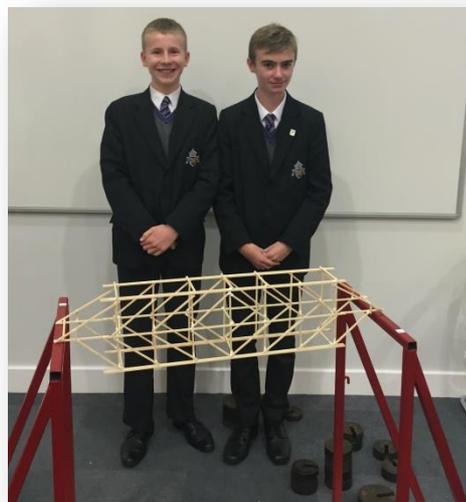
AECOM BRIDGE BUILDING CHALLENGE

On Tuesday 27th November, AECOM held their annual bridge building competition at Anglia Ruskin University. The competition is run to raise the profile of Engineering and the application of scientific skills.

In the first term, a representative from AECOM came into school to start off the competition with our Advanced Science Club. Students were given 24 sticks, 60cm in length and some wood glue and told to design and build a bridge which spanned 72cm. After some careful deliberation over their designs, Tyler and William began to build and finished the bridge over a period of three weeks.

When the competition came, the bridge was tested against eight other entries from five Essex schools. Masses were hung from the bridge in 1kg increments to determine the weight that the bridge could hold until it collapsed, this was a tense experience for the teams involved! Amazingly we just kept adding masses to our bridge without it collapsing, surpassing the closest teams by a significant margin. In the end the Becket Keys Bridge held 29kg, or for budding scientists, roughly 284 Newtons!

Many congratulations to William Tendler and Tyler Christian for building a bridge that could hold such a huge weight! Let's hope that the Advanced Science Club can keep the trophy for next year. If you would like to join then turn up to W13 on a Monday at 3.30pm. Our next big challenge will be building a robot to compete in another Essex wide competition.



CHARITY EVENTS – COMING UP!

Mufti Day Friday 11th December

Students donate £1 on the day to their form teachers. Please remember your £1! If you can remember not to wear uniform, you can remember to bring in the pound! Usual mufti requirements - hair must still be tied back, regulation jewellery, no onesies, smart casual clothing, appropriate shoes, no hair dye, no strappy tops or short skirts. Mr Scott-Evans will have the final say on what is appropriate.

Donut Sale Friday 11th December

Donut sale at lunchtime. There will be two selling times: 12:50 to 1:05 for Years 9 and 10 and then 1:05 to 1:20 for Years 7 and 8. Donuts will cost 50p.

Decorate a teacher's jumper Tuesday 8th December onwards

Various teachers have agreed to have a t-shirt or jumper decorated with tinsel, baubles and other Christmassy items to wear at school on Christmas lunch day, 16th December (this includes Mr Scott-Evans' infamous Santa jumper). Help decorate the jumpers or t-shirts by donating 20p a time to pin on whatever decorative item takes your fancy from the supply provided.

Wear Christmas in your hair Wednesday 16th December

Wear a novelty Christmas hat to the Christmas Lunch! 50p to be handed to your form tutor and you can decorate your hair with tinsel or whatever you like! Bring in your donation on 16th December with your chosen festive headgear to wear at the Christmas lunch.



OTHER NEWS

YEAR 10 MANDARIN TRIP

Mrs. Zhao took our Year 10 Mandarin students on a trip to London this week. Here are some reports from the students about the day:

Daisy Benson writes: On Wednesday, the Mandarin GCSE students went on a cultural trip with Mrs. Zhao and Mr. Lastauskas. We took the train, completing a translation exercise on board about what we were going to do in London. First we went to the Royal Academy of Arts gallery to admire Ai Weiwei's exhibition. Ai Weiwei is a very famous Chinese artist, with most of his work being in sculpture form with a political or moral meaning. The building was ornate with intricate gold interior design and sculptures dotted around the rooms. My favourite was a representation called "Straight", which was made of thousands of steel rods collected from the ruined buildings in the Sichuan earthquake in 2008. There were 200 tonnes of these steel bars, arranged in a waving pattern with a divide down the middle to show how China's people and country were damaged by the earthquake. The walls surrounding the sculpture were printed in black and white with all of the earthquake victims' names, ages, dates of birth and gender, which was very poignant and brought real meaning to the artwork.



We then walked to Chinatown, which was beautiful. We looked around an authentic Chinese bakery, and tried some delicious sweet pineapple cake. We purchased Chinese treats and teas from the different shops, before having traditional Dim Sum in a Chinese restaurant. We shared rice and spring rolls and spinach filled buns, drinking loose leaf green tea from mugs without handles, like little bowls. When you need the teapot to be refilled, the custom in China is to lift the lid so that it is just resting on top of the pot, as if it were open. Everything was delicious, and we ended up ordering more! It was a wonderful day and we had so much fun whilst also gaining lots of cultural knowledge about China.

Georgia Thompson writes: The exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts had 11 separate parts, each displaying a different form of Ai Weiwei's art work. The 3 parts of the exhibition that stood out most were the 3 pictures of Ai Weiwei dropping a Han Dynasty urn, "Straight" and S.A.C.R.E.D. The 3 pictures challenge tradition and the urn's values and also evoke the wreckage of historic buildings and antiques ruined by the Cultural Revolution. They suggest that money isn't the answer to everything in life. Straight, was made out of metal rods of different colours and sizes, from schools and other buildings destroyed by the Sichuan earthquake in 2008. The names of the school children that died in the earthquake were on the wall. The last part, S.A.C.R.E.D, showed the daily routine of Ai Weiwei's life while he was under house arrest for 81 days, through 6 scaled-down models. Overall, it was very interesting to see Ai Weiwei's artwork and learn about the meaning behind it.



Elizabeth Hayes reports: Our first stop was the art gallery we looked at the creative wonders of Chinese artist Ai Weiwei. The abstract art went from bicycle chandeliers to miniature scenes in miniature houses. We finished admiring his imaginative art and set off to China Town. Here we had a delicious and authentic 'dim sum' including prawn dumplings, marinated baby squid, egg-fried rice, and many more Chinese delicacies, washed down with the famous green tea. We also went to the bakery where Mrs. Zhao introduced us to pineapple cake, which strangely has no pineapple but looks like one!



Lisa Yeh reports:

The art gallery was very interesting, although the artwork was very strange compared to other artworks that I have seen. The artwork was made of old junk and turned into something more interesting.

I enjoyed the trip to China Town where we ate traditional Chinese food including dumplings and some dishes that were new to me. The trip showed us a lot about Chinese culture and how you think about China.

MORE NEWS

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.

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!



SPORTS NEWS

YEAR 7 GIRLS' FOOTBALL

Match report by Niyi Olulode, 7HS

On Wednesday 2nd December the Becket Keys' girls' football team (Ella Middleditch, Ella Brook, Niyi Olulode, Lola Pearce, Maria Gamble, Lucy Taylor and Megan Clements) represented the school at a 5-a-side football tournament. This took place at Shenfield Secondary School. Their first match was against Shenfield School. This ended with the score at 0-0. All of the schools tied and a penalty shootout took place. The three chosen were: Ella Middleditch and Ella Brook followed by Niyi Olulode. The goalkeeper, Lola Pearce, managed to save all of the opponent's shots however; the three girls were not able to score, so it was down to Lucy Taylor. Luckily she scored! This means Becket Keys are through to the semi-finals.

In the semi-finals the team played St. Martins. A goal was scored by Niyi Olulode, but St. Martins managed to slip two goals in. Becket Keys did not qualify for the finals but ranked 4th, which was still a good achievement.

EXTRA –CURRICULAR CLUBS

A reminder to students: please be aware that all extra-curricular clubs will remain on unless it is has been specifically cancelled.

It has come to the attention of PE staff that some students are not attending practice unless their specific team coach is available. Unfortunately, due to fixture commitments, not all staff can attend all practices. If the practice is being covered by another member of the PE staff, all students should still attend. This is important for the success of Sports at Becket Keys.

FIXTURES

Recently, PE staff have experienced high numbers of students not attending pre-planned fixtures.

Please can parents ensure that they check e-mails regularly and encourage students to be responsible for letting staff know as soon as possible if they are unable to make a fixture. Thank you for your support.

MATCH REPORTS NEXT WEEK

To follow next week a bumper PE section including trampoline, boys' and girls' football tournaments and basketball results.

DONATIONS

Following the PE department notice last week about their appeal for donations of pairs of trainers, a huge THANK YOU to Mrs. Ball for the bumper crop of trainers she donated. The PE department is very grateful.

In case you didn't see the notice last week, here it is again:

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 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 very much.

Sports and gym equipment also gratefully received and will be fully checked by the school before use.

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 7th – 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.



CONTACT DETAILS

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Brentwood
Essex
CM15 9DA

01277 286600

office@becketkeys.org

www.becketkeys.org

VACANCIES

NO VACANCIES

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

vacancies@becketkeys.org

Dates for your Diary

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
04/01/2016	First day back