



## AN INSPECTOR CALLS

### Mr. Scott-Evans writes:

Welcome back! The New Year is a wonderful time to reflect on the year gone by and to make resolutions for the New Year ahead. Reflection is something students and staff practise regularly at Becket Keys. Whether it is in the classroom reflecting upon learning to ensure progress is made or during Collective Worship in a quiet time of prayer and reflection.

This year is set to be a very busy time for the school making the need to continually evaluate and reflect all the more important.

We are excited to be moving ahead quickly with the plans for our Sixth Form, due to open in September 2017. We will be working hard, planning all aspects of the project from the buildings and layout to the subjects offered and the teaching staff we will need. We have high standards to meet if our Sixth Form is going to meet the expectations of the founding students at our 'Outstanding' school.

Recruitment will, as ever, be important this year as we continue to build our specialist teaching staff to meet the needs of our growing school as it moves closer to full capacity. As an exciting, growing, free school, Becket Keys continues to attract applications from high quality teachers. We love to hear from personal recommendations and always take time to review

speculative CVs and offer informal visits to our school for promising applicants. We will start advertising posts for September 2016 soon, so if you know any superb teachers or trainee teachers, please ask them to check our newsletter and website for details of vacancies over the next few months.

Before we have even got started on these exciting projects, the New Year at Becket Keys has brought with it an inspection from the Church of England (SIAMS).

The focus of the SIAMS inspection is to evaluate "distinctively and recognisably Christian institutions". It will centre on the effect that the Christian ethos of the school has on the students here.

The Church of England tells us that the main objective of SIAMS inspection is to evaluate the distinctiveness and effectiveness of the school as a church school and will focus on the following questions:

- How well does the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of all learners?
- What is the impact of collective worship on the school community?
- How effective is the Religious Education?

- How effective are the leadership and management of the school as a church school?

We look forward to welcoming the inspector, Pamela Draycott on Tuesday and Wednesday next week. She will be speaking to various colleagues and visiting Religion and Philosophy lessons and Collective Worship.

Parents can get involved by completing our Parent View questions on the OfSTED website with the SIAMS objectives in mind. [www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/](http://www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/)

You can also write to the inspector by sending an email to [office@becketkeys.org](mailto:office@becketkeys.org)

Finally, you may wish to join us at our weekly prayer meeting on Tuesday at 11.30am.

Parent responses from our open days this year largely praised our Christian ethos and the warm, supportive nature of the school environment here. We are confident that the inspector will see this on her visit here too.

**Mr. Scott-Evans**  
**Headteacher**

# OTHER NEWS

## THE RETURN OF THE BK BIBLE READING CHALLENGE - THE JUDGES

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After an important pause, in order to give sufficient attention to Advent, we now return to our Becket Keys Bible reading challenge. The Book of Judges is a part of the Old Testament that is often overlooked. Genesis and Exodus were new and exciting. The miracle of creation was followed by the adventures of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses and Joshua. And just ahead are the books of 1 and 2 Samuel and 1 and 2 Kings, where we meet two of Israel's greatest kings, David and Solomon.

But hold on, we missed something! What happened to God's people between the time of the Patriarchs and the time of the Kings? That is what the Book of Judges is all about. The people of Israel are in the Promised Land and they have begun to grow and expand into a great nation. The problem, at least from their point of view, is that they do not have a king. The problem, from God's point of view, is that they keep turning away from him to worship idols. Why would they want to worship the Caananite fertility gods (Baal and the Ashtoreths), instead of the one true God who brought them out of Egypt with so many demonstrations of his love and power? For that matter, why do people turn their backs on God today? That is one of the underlying questions for you to ponder in these next five readings.

Because of their idolatry, God allowed the surrounding peoples (Midianites and Philistines) to attack and oppress his people for long periods of time. You can almost hear God saying, 'How many times do we have to go through this before you'll learn?' But even so, when the people finally come to their senses and cry out to God, he gives them special leaders (Judges) to save Israel from the consequences of their sin. Yet, after a few years, they forget God and start the process all over again.

The Book of Judges isn't all gloom and doom, though. It contains the stories of some of the most intriguing characters in the Bible – Deborah, Gideon and Samson. And our readings finish with one of the most romantic stories in the Bible, the Book of Ruth. Sometimes the parts of the Bible that are the least familiar to us give us the greatest insights. That is because we bring no preconceptions; we are able to take a fresh look at what God is saying. Be prepared for something special!

## ROTARY CLUB DEBATING COMPETITION

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Two teams took part in the Rotary club debating competition last night, facing opposition from 5 other schools, including last year's winners, Brentwood School. The 'Red' team composed of Chair Ella Crowley, main speaker Alice Keely, Vote of thanks Jamie Wilson and reserve Euan Inverarity, entertained the audience with a speech titled 'I wonder if aliens ever say 'Do you believe in humans?'. Meanwhile the 'Blue' team, with Kathryn Sheaf as Chair, Peter Angeli as main speaker and Archie Mowatt as Vote of thanks, posed the question whether talent is learnt or genetic with their speech 'Some are born great...'

Many congratulations to the Red team who won the competition, with Alice Keely winning best speaker! Kathryn Sheaf also got a special mention from the Rotary chairman for her great performance stepping in at the last minute, whilst other audience members complimented Archie Mowatt and Peter Angeli from the same team on their fantastic performance. Alice's speech in particular was animated, entertaining and clearly presented and she was a worthy winner of best speaker. Both teams performed exceptionally well and showed the huge talent for public speaking.



The Red team are through to the next round on 21<sup>st</sup> January at Brentwood Council Chambers at 7pm, all welcome! New members are always welcome to Debating and Philosophy club, see Mrs Ahlner/Miss Sandiford.

# MORE NEWS

## YEAR 7 MANDARIN DAY

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Thank you to those who have paid £10 towards our Mandarin Day, however, only half of the parents in Year 7 have done so. Whilst we are preparing to cancel the event, we would like to remind those who have not contributed that the deadline is Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January. We do not like to ask for contributions, especially at this time of year, but this event costs too much money for the school to fund without your help.



Please send in your donations (cash or cheque to Becket Keys CoE School) in an envelope with your son/daughter's name on the front to reception by Tuesday next week. In the event of cancellation, donations will be returned via form tutors. It will be such a shame to cancel as we have planned for an exciting day where students can experience an engaging and exciting introduction to Chinese culture to support their Mandarin studies.

## FOOD TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT

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Did you have a clear out over Christmas? Do you have unwanted kitchen equipment cluttering up your cupboards? The Food Technology department would love to take it off your hands! As a growing school with Food Technology as a popular option choice, any and all donations would be gratefully accepted. From saucepans to blenders, kettles to cake tins, pasta machines to plates. Please leave donations in the school office or local collection could be arranged for large quantities.

## ENVIRONMENTAL FUND

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We are always delighted when families join our Environmental Fund and contribute towards improving our facilities. We understand some banks prefer you to set up your own standing orders, so if you want to donate our bank details are at: Lloyds Bank PLC Account No. 22407760 Sort Code. 30 98 62, please use your son/daughter's name in the description. We are happy to accept one-off donations or standing orders. Please email [payments@becketkeys.org](mailto:payments@becketkeys.org) to tell us if you are going to donate, or to ask us for a standard standing order form.



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- ***Are you interested in training to teach?***
- ***We are the top performing School Led Initial Teacher Training provider in Essex.***
- ***Come along to our Train to Teach Information Evening on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at The Billericay School 5.30-8pm. School Road, Billericay CM12 9LH***
- ***To find out more about us visit [www.billericayscitt.com](http://www.billericayscitt.com)***



## NOTICES

### FINANCE EMAIL ADDRESS

The Becket Keys Finance Department have a new dedicated email account for parents. If you have any queries about trips, payments or catering accounts please email:  
[payments@becketkeys.org](mailto:payments@becketkeys.org).

### CATERING ACCOUNTS

Please make sure you keep your son/daughter's catering account topped up at [www.scopay.com](http://www.scopay.com). This is now more important than ever because unfortunately reception can no longer lend money to students for lunches as this money is not always paid back. Instead we have activated an overdraft facility of £2.00 which can be repaid by SCOpay. Your son/daughter will be told at the till if the balance is low, or if you are in your overdraft. We are working on a solution to email balances to parents, but this is still in the development stage with our software provider. If you have any queries please contact [payments@becketkeys.org](mailto:payments@becketkeys.org).

### CONTACT DETAILS

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## VACANCIES

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

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

### Dates for your Diary

18/01/16	Parental Workshops
28/01/16	Year 7 Mandarin Day
04/02/16	Year 10 Subject Consultation Evening
05/02/16	FoBK Quiz Night
12/02/16	Last day of term – Lent Holiday
22/02/16	First day back
23/02/16	Year 7 Subject Consultation Evening

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**@Becket Keys**