



WHAT GOOD IS THAT?

Mr Scott-Evans writes:

In collective worship this week we have been looking once again at the words of St. Andrew to Jesus in the miracle of 'Feeding the 5000'. St. Andrew saw the boy with the packed lunch and said: "There's a young boy here with five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that with this huge crowd?" (New Living Translation).

'But what good is that?' Sadly some of our students are asking themselves this question all too often. Looking at themselves and what they can offer they sometimes feel like they are simply not good enough. Whether it is how academically successful they are, how sporty and creative they are or whether it relates to their physical appearance – they do not feel that they make the grade. So we have been challenging that this week. Through our collective worship sessions we have examined the wonder of this story. How Jesus took the small offering and used it for great things.

We have also considered those of us who think the opposite view. Those students who think too highly of themselves. Those who use their particular edge to gain power over others.

We have talked about how to stand up against this attitude however it manifests itself and to help those who have their own self-esteem and self-worth out of balance.

Both views can be deeply affecting to young people today. The best way is to trust that what we have is sufficient. One of my favourite verses in the Bible is: 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.' (New King James Version). It is only through Christ, as in the miracle story, that what we have really makes any sense. It is not how we perceive it, nor how others perceive it. Neither of these are reliable sources!

Some examples we looked at included: this school and the incredible success and growth we have experienced; our tennis team becoming district champions this week and now off to the County Finals; our Drama students performing so well in Year 10 assessments and the opportunities next year's plays will provide again for this; musicians working hard in choir and orchestra and band to prepare for summer concerts.

In each example, small gifts have been used and multiplied by working together, supporting each other and through faithfully giving our talents to God.

I have been working hard to teach this to our students this week. Please support me by reassuring (or where necessary challenging!) and by encouraging your sons/daughters to try to see things through the eyes of Christ and to trust Him to take their own gifts, talents and most importantly character and to use it for His Glory!

Mr Scott-Evans
Headteacher

OTHER NEWS

LOWER SIXTH STUDENTS VISIT FROM BRENTWOOD SCHOOL

This week we introduced every Year 10 to a Lower 6th student from Brentwood School. As part of our on-going commitment to try to give our oldest students older role models to look up to and learn from, these Year 12s came from Brentwood to speak about life in the 'older years', GCSEs, revision, study leave, 6th form, UCAS applications and so on.

Our thanks to Brentwood for providing us with this wonderful opportunity, their students were put on the spot in a number of sessions, but spoke frankly and honestly to our students. They were great ambassadors for their own school and demonstrated great maturity throughout. In two years' time we aim to have a similar cohort of students that we can take out to visit other new RET schools.



KS3 EXAMS

KS3 exams for Year 7, 8 & 9 will take place over the next two weeks. We have attached the exam timetable with this newsletter and a helpful article, '[Six ways students can prepare for success on the day of an exam](#)', with tips from [Inner Drive](#) about ways students can prepare for success in their exams.

Please make sure that your son/daughter is well equipped for each exam:

- BLACK pen (+spare)
- Clear pencil case
- Subject specific equipment, informed by subject teachers: (e.g. Mathematics: pencil, protractor, compass, calculator, English: highlighters).

Students may bring a bottle of water with the label removed. No Smart watches and mobile phones must be switched off. Please support your son/daughter with revision, punctuality and organisation for the next two weeks.

UNIFORM POLICY REMINDER - SHOES

As we move into the summer months, a reminder of our uniform policy on shoes. For both boys and girls, traditional flat, black shoes must be worn. Lace up shoes (which are preferable to Velcro) should have black laces. No trainers or boots should be worn. Girls should not wear heels, ballet shoes or sandals.

MORE NEWS

BK BIBLE READING CHALLENGE CONTINUES – THE LIVING WORD

Our remaining readings are all about one person – Jesus Christ. Ever since Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden, God has been working out his plan of salvation. So far, most of that plan has involved the people of Israel, the Jewish nation. We have seen how God revealed himself to them through signs and wonders in Egypt, through giving them the Law and then through the message of the Prophets. But, as we finished the Old Testament, we had the sense that something was still missing. God’s people kept turning away from him. They just could not get right with God on their own. That is why he took the dramatic step of sending his own Son, Jesus Christ, to earth. What God had been saying to his people for years and years in a variety of ways, he now said in person (Hebrews 1:1–3). It would be hard to understate the significance of that single event. In fact, the coming of Jesus Christ is the most important moment in all of human history. However, this also introduces the most important question in all of human history, one that every person will eventually have to answer: ‘Who is Jesus?’ (Luke 9:18–27). As you will see immediately you begin your next five readings, the New Testament is very clear on the answer. Jesus is God in the flesh (John 1:14), the promised Messiah who came to earth to save us from our sins (John 1:29–34).

The Living Word



51	The Word Became Flesh	John 1:1-1:18	How can you show that you have ‘received’ and ‘believe’ in Jesus?	Father, it’s mind-boggling to think that you came to this earth because you wanted a relationship with me. I do receive and believe in Jesus. Please draw me closer to you today. Amen.
52	Gabriel’s Message	Luke 1:1-1:80	Do you ever feel isolated or discouraged in your attempts to follow God? When and why? What things make you feel that God cares after all?	Father God, it is true that I sometimes do not understand what you are doing in my life. But I believe you have the power to do incredible things through me and I’m ready if you want to use me today. Amen.
53	The Birth of Jesus	Luke 2:1-2-2:40	Would you say that Jesus has transformed your life? Why and how?	Lord Jesus, I worship and praise you today. Please give me the courage and ability to share with others what you have done in my life. Amen.
54	John the Baptist	Luke 3:1-3:20	In what ways could you influence your family members for God’s priorities? Would any of your family patterns have to change in order to do that? How has your family influenced your faith?	Lord God, sometimes I feel like ‘a voice calling in the desert’. But with your help, I will stand up for you in my family, school and community. Amen.
55	Baptism and Temptation	Matthew 3:13-4:17	When do you feel closest to God? When are you most susceptible to temptation? What steps could you take to prepare for the temptations that will come your way this week?	Lord, forgive me for the many times I’ve given in to temptation. With the help of your Word and your Spirit, I want to please you with my words, thoughts and actions today. Amen.

EVEN MORE NEWS

ECO CLUB ROCKET SCIENCE EXPERIMENT



Mrs Sharp writes: On 2nd September 2015, two kilograms of Rocket seed (*Eruca sativa*) travelled from Baikonur, Kazakhstan on the Soyuz 44S rocket to the International Space Station (ISS). The seeds have been stored in microgravity by Tim Peake (the first British ESA astronaut)! The seeds have now returned to earth and Eco Club commenced the Rocket Science experiment on the 27th April.

As space biologists, we received a red and blue packet of seeds and sowed 100 seeds from each packet. We obviously do not know which packet was in space! A

randomisation method was also used when placing the seed trays on the windowsill to make our experiment unbiased and to allow all the rocket seedlings an equal opportunity to grow. By sowing in 8 trays with 25 modules each, we also had 4 replicates of seeds from each colour packet.



The Royal Horticultural Society has provided a measurement chart for recording data over the course of the experiment. Our results will then be entered into an online database, along with result from 10,000 UK schools. These results will then be analysed by professional biostatisticians.

It is exciting for Becket Keys to take part in this experiment. Students are enjoying making suggestions about whether it is the red or blue packet of seeds that has been in space and possible explanations for differences in growth. They have been introduced to a new component of plant growth; the

presence of gravity. They are also continuing to develop their horticultural skills. The results from the experiment will be shared with our school community. **Watch this space!**

YEAR 7 & 8 BRENTWOOD TENNIS CHAMPIONS!

Mr Goldstein writes: This week four students from years 7 and 8 travelled to Brentwood Hard Courts for a district tennis tournament. Representatives were Will McDermott and Louis Stephen for the boys and Jasmine Boyten and Emily Taylor for the girls.

Will and Louis played brilliantly throughout and didn't lose a singles match all afternoon. They then followed this up by beating both Shenfield High School and St. Martin's School in the doubles matches that followed.

Jasmine and Emily continued Becket Keys' streak by winning a couple of singles matches and combining brilliantly to beat St. Martin's in a nail-biting final doubles match.

Once all of the scores were tallied up Becket Keys were announced as Brentwood champions and now advance to the county finals on June 30th! Well done to all four players, not only did you win, but you did so in style!



NOTICES

THEATRE TRIPS

Further to last week's article about upcoming theatre trips, the trip details and reply slip for **Lotty's War** was sent to all Year 8, 9 & 10 parents by email earlier this week.

The details and reply slip for the next trip, **Cats**, open to all year groups; will be sent during the week following the Whitsun Holiday.

ABSENCE REMINDER

Whilst the school recognises that a visit overseas can be of great benefit and brings with it a host of learning opportunities, we are unable to authorise such visits in term time. Taking your son/daughter out of school during term time will be detrimental to his/her educational progress. Moreover, we are obliged to make a referral to the Educational Welfare Service. We ask that you consider this when planning your annual holiday.

The school is only able to authorise term time absence in extenuating circumstances such as a family bereavement, medical appointments and music exams. In these situations the school looks to provide as much support as possible. For these absences, please ask your son/daughter to collect a Leave of Absence form from reception or request a form by emailing office@becketkeys.org.



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VACANCIES

Please see our website for details of all current vacancies:

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

CRICKET NEWS

The Year 8 boys played their first cricket fixture of the season last night and beat **Brentwood County High School** by 7 wickets! The format was 16-16(overs).

Brentwood County High: 89-6 after 16 overs.

Becket Keys: 93-3 after 10 overs.

The boys were a credit to the school and the game was played in great spirit. Not a bad performance either!

Dates for your Diary

Friday 13th May – FoBK Wine Tasting Quiz

Thursday 26th May - Sunday 29 May
Year 8 Madrid Trip

Friday 27th May – Sunday 29 May
Year 7 Bushcraft Trip

Friday 27th May
Year 7 & 8 Day trip to Stubbers

Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June – Whitsun
Holiday

Monday 6th June – First Day Back

Friday 17th June – INSET Day

Monday 20th June – INSET Day

Saturday 2nd July
FoBK Patronal Festival and Picnic