



BEAUTIFUL PICTURES OF THE JUSTIN WELBY BUILDING. SEE MORE ON TWITTER!

Becket Keys Church of England School

26th January 2018

IN THIS ISSUE

Mr. Scott-Evans writes:

Making the Grade

Your son/daughter's reports use GCSE grades. Whichever year your son or daughter is in – you will see new RET grades based on the new 9 to 1 GCSE system. This change was made last year and gives all students a clearer route to GCSE success and a more accurate sense of 'where they are'. Year 10 and 11 students are now very familiar with this; Year 11 will be the final cohort to ever use the traditional A, B, C style gradings (and they are only left in two subjects: DT and Mandarin – so in fact most will not have any such grades at all). Year 10 are using 9 to 1 in all of their subjects.

It is impossible to 'convert' old national curriculum grades or old GCSE grades to the new system – they are simply not the same. It

takes a lot more work to start to see where a student is against GCSE grades and they can fluctuate as they tackle different topics. For example, they might be excellent at algebra, but weaker in trigonometry.

I know for many parents, 9-1 is still a bit of a mystery so I have set out some 'signposts' here, which I hope will help:

1. The highest grade possible is 9. This is reserved for the very 'best of the best' and it is extremely difficult to achieve. It is well above a traditional A*.
2. The lowest GCSE pass grade is a 1, but we are introducing informal 'Bronze', 'Silver' and 'Gold' grades beneath this, for students who are not yet working at this level.



BECKET KEYS
Church of England School

New Staff Member

Join us in welcoming our new PE teacher Miss North

Page 3

Biblical Pause

'Commit to Succeed' – only God will measure your success.

Page 5

Education Sunday

Details of Education Sunday Church service and 'Bake Off' competition.

Page 6

Apprenticeship Opportunities

A chance to find out more information about Engineering Apprenticeships with Ford.

Page 7

Sports News

Recent results and upcoming matches.

Pages 8 -9

.....Contd. from page 1

3. We would expect a student at the national average level to be starting in Year 7 at around Grade 1 on the GCSE scale, but many of our students are above the national average and so could be as high as a Grade 3. Lower ability students will be on Bronze, Silver or Gold.
4. We know students will move slowly through the grades (there is a big difference between a 2 and a 3) so we are using + and – to show progress within a grade. For example, a student who started the year at a 3, may move to a 3+ and then to a 4-. This would be good progress within a year.
5. We are finding across the Russell Education Trust that it can be hard for students to move through the lower grades. Do not be too perturbed if your son/daughter stays on a Grade 2 or 3 for more than a year.
6. A Grade 5 is the new grade to aim for – like the old 'C' Grade. However, the 5 is higher and harder to achieve than the 'C' was. Therefore, employers, universities and colleges are advised in some circumstances to accept a '4' as a low pass. This new

understanding will emerge over the next few years. At present, a 4 is 'good enough' to claim a pass in English and Mathematics and a student will not be required to resit it.

It is an exciting time to be a secondary school student. The exams are more challenging and more rigorous, however, they will deservedly gain more prestige as employers start to recognise the extra work that must be put in to achieve well with them.

Course work is being cut back and we are moving to a more exam-based system. This does not suit every student; however, many argue that it is more reliable and a more 'level playing field'. In any case, standards must rise to meet the challenges of the new exam and using this new system we are well placed to ensure our students do that right from the first year in our school.

Year 10 and 11 students do not have long to adjust to the new exams. Rote learning key facts to remember in exams is an important skill again. Learning exam rubric and methods and how to apply learned knowledge to exam questions is essential. Students need to be revising regularly and reading back over previous notes. Parents can help by regularly testing students on what they have learned in previous terms. Our friends at 'Inner Drive' have written a useful Blog about effective revision

here:

<https://blog.innerdrive.co.uk/studies/4-the-one-about-spacing-your-learning>. All Year 11s need to be aware of how they should be spacing their revision.

Another important skill for the new exams is proofreading. Students need to get into good habits; checking their work for capital letters, full stops, correct punctuation and spelling. Failure to get the basics right will lose students valuable marks. In some subjects, students will be 'stuck' at Grade 1 for a long time whilst they remember to put capital letters for proper nouns and at the start of sentences. Checking your son/daughter has proofread their homework and looking at it with them will help with this enormously. I have attached to the newsletter the RET 'Rainbow Checking Guide' – perhaps you could print this out and place near your son/daughter's work space at home.

If you have any concerns about your son/daughter's grades or if you are confused about anything that I have written today, please contact us via the website: <https://www.becketkeys.org/contact.php> or send an email to office@becketkeys.org.

Together, I am confident we can ensure all our students make the grades they deserve.

Best regards

Mr. Scott-Evans
Headteacher

Meet our New Teacher

Miss North - PE



Thank you for the fantastic opportunity to work at Becket Keys School as part of its thriving PE department.

From a very young age, I have been passionate about playing sport and living a healthy, active lifestyle and I have played a variety of sports to a very high standard.

I undertook a 4-year degree in Secondary PE teaching with QTS status at The University of Bedfordshire. During my time at University, I completed a number of teaching placements and gained a number of coaching qualifications in a range of sports. I was taught by experienced and hugely inspirational tutors who really helped develop my passion to encourage sport for all, lifelong participation and dedication to my subject, PE.

I am a founding member of Phoenix Flames netball club in

London and have been part of the coaching and development team. Phoenix Flames started out 6 years ago as a 5-member squad and we now have over 6 different teams, including two youth teams. Each team has gained a number of promotions and Phoenix Flames won the London Borough of Waltham Forest club of Year in 2015. I greatly enjoy promoting and encouraging participation at all levels alongside training and playing myself.

When I was 7, I joined St Peters' and Pauls' church choir in which I have sung and performed in a variety of cathedrals, from St Pauls in London to Notre Dame in Paris. I am now part of the chamber choir and I continue to practise and perform whenever possible.

Travel is another important element in my life. I have spent time in Africa, America, Australia, New Zealand and Asia. The opportunity to travel has really broadened my mind and motivated me.

I have really enjoyed my first few weeks at Becket Key and have been made to feel welcome by both staff and students. I am looking forward to continuously developing and improving my practice in such a supportive, caring community where a Christian ethos is the foundation of everything.

Miss North
PE Teacher



LAUNCH EVENT

We are the new independent parent carer forum for families of children and young people with disabilities and additional needs aged 0-25 across the whole of Essex.

Are you a parent carer of a child or young person aged 0-25 with additional needs or disabilities?

Do you believe families' voices should be heard to ensure services in Essex meet the needs of our children and young people?

Then, come along to our Launch event and discover how together we can help shape the future for our families.

PLACES MUST BE BOOKED AND ARE LIMITED, SO PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU BOOK EARLY

EMAIL: hello.essexfamilyforum@gmail.com

TELEPHONE: 07742958003 / 07707110592

www.essexfamilyforum.org

7th February 2018

10am – 2pm

Essex County Cricket Ground, New Writtle Street, Chelmsford, CM2 0PG

Refreshments & Lunch will be provided

Year 7 – Mandarin Day



The Mandarin department is organising a Mandarin Day for the Year 7 students. The students will be able to taste Chinese food, try their hand at calligraphy, and enjoy the art, culture and science of China.

The school has invited some external Chinese experts to offer various workshops for our Year 7 students to have a taste of China on Thursday, 8th February. This welcomes the Year of the Dog.

As stated in the letter sent to all the Year 7 parents, we need £10.75 per head voluntary donation to fund the day. If you wish your child to be able to experience this fantastic day and to enhance their learning, please make your donation via ScoPay as soon as possible.



Numeracy Challenge

Which of these years is a prime number:

2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020?

We are happy for parents and students to try and work out the numeracy challenge. You can send your solution to Mr. Tyson on twitter [@BKS_MATHS](https://twitter.com/BKS_MATHS)

Year 8 Madrid Trip



If your son/daughter is interested in an opportunity to join this fantastic Year 8 trip, please email:

payments@becketkeys.org

24th – 27th May 2018

The cost of this trip is £648 and we would require payment in full by Friday 9th March 2018. Any Year 8 student wishing to attend would need to be in possession of a valid passport.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who have supported our Year 8 student Hannah Davis in her journey to raise money to sponsor Great Ormond Street Hospital - a charity close to her heart.

The battle that Hannah and her family are currently enduring is undoubtedly taxing, but your support has clearly given Hannah the lift she needs as she continues to flourish at Becket Keys. Your continued kindness towards this cause is bringing positivity and love to a brave little boy, Tony, and his family.

As we prepare for our whole school fundraising Penalty shoot-out next week, you can continue to donate to Tony's cause via the JustGiving page set up by Mr. Savage;

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/hannahdavis23>

Thank you and God bless,

Mr. Pethers
Head of Year 8



COMMIT TO SUCCEED

*"Commit your work to the Lord,
and then your plans will
succeed" (Proverbs 16:3).*

God is *for* your success in life; he created you for a purpose and wants you to succeed. It is God, your Creator, who will measure your success in life, and no one else.

Knowing God is *for* you will change your whole perspective on life. It means you do not need to be afraid of God, because God is *for* you. Jesus said, "I did not come into the world to condemn it, but to save it." In effect, Jesus is saying, "I did not come to scold you; I came to save you." If God is for us, who can be against us?

Proverbs, as a literary form, communicate general life principles and not exact promises. In other words, we can generally expect God to bless the things we do when we operate according to His ways in dependence upon Him. However, this does not mean we will always find things easy, whether preparing for exams or being successful in an interview. Instead, we can expect God to fulfil His promise of Romans 8:28, "We know that in

*Commit your
work to the Lord,
and then your
plans will succeed.*

PROVERBS 16:3 NLT



all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

This proverb is similar in context to Psalm 1:1–3:

*"Blessed is the one
who does not walk in step with the
wicked
or stand in the way that sinners
take
or sit in the company of mockers,
but whose delight is in the law of
the Lord,
and who meditates on his law day
and night.
That person is like a tree planted by
streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither—
whatever they do prospers."*

When we commit our ways and our work to the Lord, He will bless our efforts according to His perfect will in ways beyond our understanding. We should serve the Lord faithfully and then leave

the results to Him. Though we will still face times of difficulty, we can trust that God is working for His ultimate good, and ours, through our efforts to please Him in our daily lives.

How can we commit our ways and our work to the Lord? Below are seven key ideas to apply every day, so that you can be a witness for God and receive His blessing:

Start working enthusiastically.

Understand who you really work for.

Concentrate on building your character.

Care about the people you work with

Exceed what is expected of you

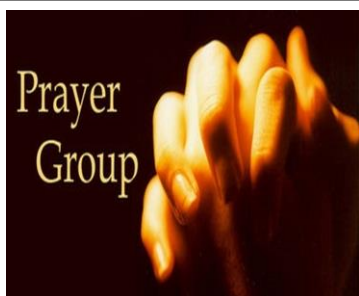
Expand Your Skills to SUCCEED

Dedicate your work to be used for God's purposes.

Dedicate your schoolwork or career to be used for God's purposes. Whatever you want God to bless, you give to him first. Dedicate it, consecrate it, hallow it, and then God will bless it. The blessings that God pours out in your life, in your time at school or work, in your family, and in your health, all come because of Jesus Christ. In the words of Ephesians 1:3:

"Let us give thanks to God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! For in our union with Christ he has blessed us by giving us every spiritual blessing in the heavenly world."

Mrs. E. Sharp
Deputy Headteacher



There is time for the wider school community to come and pray with Mr Scott-Evans Tuesdays 11:15am and Wednesdays 7:50am.

A warm welcome to all!

Education Sunday

28th January 2018 at 10.00am

Our annual church service to celebrate Education Sunday will take place at St Thomas' Church this Sunday, 28th January 2018. Education Sunday is a national day of prayer and celebration for everyone involved in the world of education. It is our chance to offer thanks and prayers for the life and work of Becket Keys, St. Thomas' Infant and Junior School, Jigsaw Pre School and all people associated with them.

Students will need to wear their school uniform and gather at 9.40 for a 10am start. Full details have been emailed to all families.



28th January 2018 St Thomas' Great British Bake Off and cake sale

Baking competition open to all.
Bake whatever cake or biscuit you like.
Free entry

Pre-school,
Infant School,
Junior School,
Senior School and
Adult categories

All entries will be
sold as part of
the cake sale after
judging

**If the competition isn't for you,
please either donate to the cake sale or
buy some of the cakes in aid of
church funds**



Information Evening Ford Engineering Apprenticeships



Are you thinking about a career in Engineering?

We would like to invite you to an information evening for potential Engineering Apprenticeship applicants and their families at the Ford Dunton Technical Centre in Basildon, Essex.

Date: Thursday 8th February 2018

Time: Doors open at 6.30pm with presentations to commence at 7.00pm

If you are interested in finding out more about Ford Engineering Apprenticeships, particularly if you would be interested in joining us in 2018 and would like to attend this event, then please email apprteam@ford.co.uk to register your interest before 5pm on Monday 5th February 2018

A Ford Apprenticeship gives so much more than a standard qualification. It leads to a rewarding, challenging career in the automotive industry and an opportunity to earn while you learn.

The Ford Higher Apprenticeship leads to a BEng (Hons) at the University of Greenwich (Medway Campus). These exciting degree based Apprenticeships opportunities are based at Dagenham and Dunton.

The Ford Advanced Apprenticeship leads to NVQ & BTEC Level 3 at CEME and Havering College. These exciting Advanced Apprenticeships opportunities are also based at Dagenham & Dunton.

Please note the following application criteria for the Higher Apprenticeship:

Minimum of 5 GCSEs to include Mathematics Grade B (Grade 6 from 2017) or above. Physics or Double Science Grade C or above and English Grade C or above (2017 Grade 4 or above)

For further information on all Ford Apprenticeship, positions please visit www.ford.co.uk/careers

Ford is committed to diversity and equality of opportunity for all and is opposed to any forms of less favourable treatment or harassment on the basis of gender, marital status, civil partnership status, parental status, race, ethnic origin, colour, national origin, nationality, disability, sexual orientation, religion/belief, gender reassignment, age and those with caring responsibilities.



Sports News

Cross Country



We had a number of students compete in the Essex County Schools Cross Country Championships in very muddy conditions at Hylands Park last week.

Maddie Barker (pictured) and Catherine Barker were both involved. Maddie had an excellent run in the Year 8/9 girls' race, finishing 5th (first home for mid-Essex) and qualifying for the English Schools' Cross Country Championships to be held in Leeds on 17th March.

Catherine came 18th in the senior girls, year 12/13, race and both girls qualified to compete for Essex in the southeast schools inter counties cross-country race on 3 February in Newbury, Berkshire.

Huge congratulations are also due to Grace Burrell who came 6th and has also qualified for England Schools' Cross Country! That makes a total of three girls selected from Becket Keys! Grace

qualified from a very competitive race, even whilst hampered by injury. Great job!

Other students who were competing were:

Luke Savage came 22nd

Jacob Macdonnell came 32nd

Dan Morris came 38th

Year 8 Boys' Football



The Year 8 Boys Football team were playing against Moulsham High School on Monday.

Great passion and talent was shown throughout the game which finished with a win!

Becket Keys	2
Moulsham High School	1

Upcoming Fixtures

MONDAY 29TH JANUARY

Year 9 Basketball V Shenfield (A)

TUESDAY 30TH JANUARY

Year 7 Rugby Tournament
(at Chelmsford RFC)

WEDNESDAY 31ST JANUARY

Boys' and Girls' Swimming Gala
(at Brentwood School)
Year 7 Basketball v St Martin's (h)
Year 12 Football v St Martin's (a)

THURSDAY 1ST FEBRUARY

Year 8 Rugby Tournament
(at Chelmsford RFC)
Year 10 Basketball v KEGS (h)
Year 9 Football v Plume (h)

MONDAY 5TH FEBRUARY

Year 9 Girls' Basketball V Hylands (h)
Years 7 Basketball V SJP (a)

TUESDAY 6TH FEBRUARY

Year 11 Netball V Moulsham (h)
Years 7 and 8
Girls' Indoor Athletics Tournament
(at Shenfield)

WEDNESDAY 7TH FEBRUARY

Year 8 Basketball V Hylands (a)
Years 7 and 8
Netball v Brentwood (h)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

YEAR 9, 10 & 11

UKMT MATHS CHALLENGE

THURSDAY 1ST FEBRUARY

*

YEAR 11

JEKYLL & HYDE THEATRE TRIP

THURSDAY 1ST FEBRUARY

*

YEAR 7

MANDARIN DAY

THURSDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 2018

*

LENT HOLIDAY

MONDAY 12TH FEBRUARY

– FRIDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 2018

*

INSET DAY

MONDAY 19TH FEBRUARY 2018

*

LENT LUNCHTIME EUCHARISTS

FROM FRIDAY 23RD FEBRUARY

*

VACANCIES

Head of Geography

Due to the promotion of our current Head of Department, an exciting opportunity has arisen for an experienced teacher to lead this forward ambitious team.

Lead Exam Invigilator & Exam Invigilators

If you have excellent organisational and communication skills, are flexible, reliable and punctual and have the ability to work as part of a team of invigilators then complete an application form for one of these posts. Previous experience of exams invigilation is required for the Lead Invigilator Post.

Check the website for more details and an application form. <https://www.becketkeys.org/vacancies.php>

Becket Keys

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