



# Becket Keys Church of England School

7<sup>th</sup> September 2018

**EMMA WAS THE TOP PERFORMING STUDENT THIS YEAR**

**IN THIS ISSUE**

**Mr Scott Evans writes...**

## Welcome back to the new school year!

I hope you have enjoyed a restful summer and enjoyed some special times with friends and family.

Warm greetings to you if you have just joined us. I can assure you that all my experiences with the new Year 7s and Year 12s have been nothing but an utter pleasure!

I have chosen to write for my first newsletter, as I did last year, a brief report on how our Year 11s performed in their GCSEs.

For me, the last few weeks of the summer holiday are dominated by thoughts of exam results. Like the students and their families,

there is a mix of trepidation and excitement.

I was confident this year, that our Year 11s would do well, we knew they were an excellent cohort and we have come out in the top 10-15% of schools for 'value added' and in many measures the top 5% of all schools nationally. This is where we expected to be and I am delighted to congratulate teachers and students in this achievement.

In terms of attainment, once again, we have scored highly. Last year we were in the top 20% of schools for performance in Essex. This year we are 9<sup>th</sup> in the whole of Essex. Obviously, the 4 grammar schools top the attainment chart, but we are the 5<sup>th</sup> best comprehensive school. Of all the schools in the top 40

..... Contd. on Page 2



**BECKET KEYS**  
Church of England School

### Biblical Pause

Spiritual preparation for the new school year. Page 3

### New Becket Keys Staff

Find out more about some of our new staff and the journey that had led them to Becket Keys.

Page 5-7

### Friends of Becket Keys

An introduction to our PTA for new families and details of the Annual Ball.

Page 8

### General Information

Information and a few things to note.

Page 10

### Brentwood Running Club

How to join this popular club held after school every Thursday.

Page 11

.....Contd from Page 1

comprehensives we have the smallest gap between the 'disadvantaged' students and the main cohort. This means that regardless of a student's background and circumstances: he/she will do well here. As you can imagine, I am particularly pleased with this.

41% of our students passed the prestigious English Baccalaureate (National Average is 24%). 13% of our students gained at least 8 GCSEs at grade (7,8,9 – the new A, A\* and super A\*). A few individuals stand out including, Emma Sanders who gained an incredible 8 grade 9s. This must put her in the top 500 students in the country. Ben Cooper gained five 9s and six 8s. Charlie Johnson gained four grade 9s, five grade 8s and 2 grade 7s. Bernice Yeboah gained the highest progress score of 3.2 (which means she scored an average of 3.2 grades higher per subject than students, nationally with same attainment from Primary School).

There are many individual stories of hard work and determination, it is hard to know which ones to pick. My congratulations to everyone.

Our ambition is to provide students with an Outstanding education. Outstanding whenever OfSTED (or others) come to inspect us, and Outstanding progress towards Outstanding grades in exams. Students coming here should be confident that they will get better

exam results than they would, if they went anywhere else.

How do we do it? How do we achieve this objective? Our strategy remains the same. We are first and foremost a Church of England School; we have strong Christian values and teaching. Secondly, we have an expert trust (The Russell Education Trust) who advise us; we listen to their input and adjust our practice in line with the support and guidance we get from their examiners, inspectors and consultants. Finally, we know our students by name; we know their needs and their character. We support and develop them individually, caring for them personally, as if they were a member of our own family.

I am incredibly proud of last year's cohort, not just because their exam results look like they should have come from a grammar school, but also because they have Christian Character, they aspire to be the best that they can be, they listen to advice and they care deeply about other people. They are now the embodiment of our school strategy!

And so, onto Sixth Form. We are confident that this wonderful group of students will excel in our Sixth Form. It was wonderful yesterday and today to see them in their suits and to see them join the founding cohort in the Sixth Form area. With the new Year 7s, resplendent in their uniform, a full school has finally been

established. Students in all 7 year groups!

I am honoured to be the leader and founder of this school. I look forward to this time next year when I will be writing about our first set of A-Level results!

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

## Admissions

### Year 7-Sept 2019

Now that our Year 7 students are settling in, we are already looking forward to the families who will join us in September 2019.

If you know anyone interested in joining Becket Keys Church of England School, they can visit our website for information and registration for the Open Days and Evenings is via the Eventbrite website:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/d/united-kingdom--brentwood/becket-keys/?q=becket+keys&loc=Brentwood%2C+Essex%2C+UK&lc=1>

The morning sessions are for parents only and students are welcome to attend for a tour and to hear the Headmaster speak during the evening event.

There are limited places available so please book early to avoid disappointment!



## GCSE RESULTS DAY 2018



Photographs by kind permission of Mr. Ian Davidson ©

## BIBLICAL PAUSES

### Spiritual preparation for a new academic year

It has been a short, but busy first week back to school; teachers preparing their classrooms and first lessons, students receiving their new timetables and getting back into the pattern of learning, worship and time with friends. As would be expected, there has been a mixture of emotions from excitement to feeling anxious and worried, but the presence of God gives reassurance and strength. It would be wrong to think everything will be easy, but we can all be strengthened by faith, if we make it central to learning and the way we chose to live our lives.

I have chosen a few passages from the Bible which are useful to memorise and can help our students find confidence in the Lord at any time of the year, but especially at the start of a new academic year. Being ready for a new term is not just about new shoes and having a well-equipped pencil case, being mentally and spiritually prepared is just as, if not more, important.

**When they feel like complaining that the Summer holidays are over. Be thankful...**

*Do everything without grumbling or arguing.* Philippians 2:14



*Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will.*

Thessalonians 5:18

**When they face a new challenge...**

*Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.*

Joshua 1:9

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*

Philippians 4:6

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and he will make your path straight.* Proverbs 3:5-6

**When their workload seems too much...**

*He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall;*

*but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.* Isaiah 40:29-31

**When friendships become rocky...**

*Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful.* Timothy 2:22-24

Trust in the Word of God and plant verses in their hearts and your own. Help our students feel guided and encouraged as we begin a new academic year. Pray for our students continuously. Put any of their worries about school (relationships, friends, grades and homework) into our Lord's hands and thank Him; even in storms.



By doing this, the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard their hearts and minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:7).



## A back to school prayer

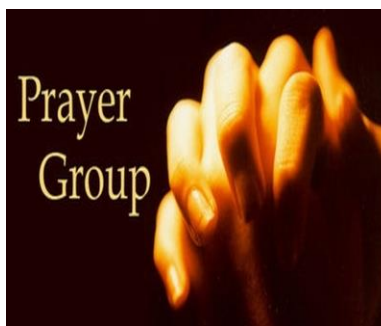
*Gracious God, as the summer begins to fade, new possibilities lie on the horizon.*

*Bless all those who are beginning or returning to their roles as teachers, as well as those who lead and support them in their efforts. May this school year be a time of grace and potential, as they teach, share and challenge others to grow in faith, knowledge and wisdom.*

*Bless our students, along with their parents, as they begin a new school year. May their minds be open to learning and to the wonders of discovery and insight.*

*Gracious God, be with us all as we embark on this new academic year. Amen.*

**Mrs. Sharp**  
Deputy Headteacher



Every week we allocate time to pray for the school and the wider community. Parents, carers, teachers and friends are invited to take time and pray with Mr. Scott-Evans.

11.15am on Tuesday and  
7.50am on Wednesday.

All are welcome.

## Year 8

### HPV Vaccination

**FRIDAY 14<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER**

All Year 8 female students have been given a leaflet and consent form providing further information regarding the HPV Vaccination which is taking place at school next Friday. Please complete the consent form and return to reception by:

**MONDAY 10<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER**

Your daughter can then have the vaccination.

Further details regarding the day will be distributed to the students next week.

## Sports News

### Year 7

### Boys' Football Trials

Monday 10th September  
(afterschool).

Meet promptly at 3:10pm in your Becket Keys PE Kit (football socks, black shorts, purple top) and make sure you have some water.

NO STUDS AS WE WILL USE THE ASTROTURF. Astro trainers are best. Normal trainers will suffice.



## Meet Some New Becket Keys Staff – Welcome!



**Mr Shields**

### Assistant Headteacher Pastoral

I am local man, brought up and educated in Billericay and, bar attending the University of Brighton, have lived in Essex all my life. My passion has always been sport and physical activity. I have played football to a high amateur level and played club tennis. As I have become older my new sporting endeavour is golf where I am currently a 22 handicap. Outside of competitive sport I have completed other physical challenges such as the Duke of Edinburgh award and the three peaks challenge on two occasions.

I have been teaching ten years, nine of which have been at one school, The James Hornsby School in Laindon, Basildon. I have held many leadership positions including Head of PE, head of house and been part of

the senior leadership team. Outside teaching PE I have been teaching Mathematics and Science as well, something in which I really enjoy.

Teaching is not only my job but my passion, I work hard in school ensuring the best outcomes for every student in my class. However, I do value my time outside of school spending time with my friends and family, watching box sets and reading.



**Mrs Phipps**  
Psychology Teacher

Teaching is my second career but one that I have always strived towards. Family circumstances forced me to leave school at sixteen after achieving my GCEs. I worked in the banking sector in the City, starting as a settlements clerk and eventually progressing on to the trading floor of one of the major European Banks trading within the Repo and Money

Markets. Teaching was never far from my mind and whilst you cannot teach someone how to trade, I took pride in mentoring the younger trainees on the trading floor and helping them build their confidence in their abilities. My banking career afforded me the opportunity to meet a diversity of characters and personalities which stimulated my interest in psychology and sociology. I wanted to understand what creates the behaviour of certain individuals, and how their experiences may have affected them.

Banking as a career, however, did not personally fulfil me and it had always been my aim to return to education to achieve my ambition of teaching. My opportunity to return to education came when my son started at primary school – he thought it was cool that both of us were going to school! Through hard work and determination, I achieved a First Class Honours degree, BSc (Hons) Social Studies, which is a combined psychology and sociology degree. At university I was one of the eldest in my lectures but spending time with individuals who had just completed their A levels confirmed that I would like to teach older teenagers.

I secured a teaching position to begin after I had graduated at a further education college in Essex and studied for my teaching qualification whilst working full-

time. I have taught A-level psychology and sociology for the last seven years and thoroughly enjoyed every aspect of my career so far in teaching; at Becket Keys I will be solely teaching psychology. It is not just the academic success of those I teach that matters to me but also helping them to grow into confident and independent individuals who believe in themselves and their abilities. As a subject, Psychology opens up the minds of young people to the world around them and can be applied to many different careers and pathways. I consider it a privilege to work with young people in developing their understanding as they begin their journeys into adulthood. Furthermore, throughout my teaching career I have been a personal tutor providing guidance on university applications and career pathways. Moreover, as a personal tutor, students learn early on that they can approach me at any time for help and guidance both academically and pastorally.

Spare time is rare as a working mum, and therefore it is spent with family and friends. I am a lifelong West Ham supporter, which if nothing else has taught me loyalty and humility! Whilst I was not unhappy at my previous employment, I recognised that I am ready for a new challenge at an outstanding institution. I have already been made to feel very welcome by the staff and students that I have met so far and look forward to building strong and supportive

relationships with parents, staff and students and upholding the Christian ethos of the school.



### Miss McClenaghan English Teacher

My A-Levels were in Religious Studies, English Literature and Sociology. English always being my favourite subject at school, I decided to study it at degree level.

Whilst having lived in Essex for most of my life, I moved away from home to study English at the University of Leicester. A city in which I now call my second home (did you know in 2015 King Richard III was found buried underneath a car parking lot in Leicester?). My degree was fascinating, allowing me to study some of the earliest literature recorded, written in Old English, all the way through to 21<sup>st</sup> Century Global Fiction.

After graduating, I moved back to Essex and began working as a graduate in London. However, my career in London was short-lived. I knew exactly what I *really* wanted to do – to teach English. Leaving a secure job in London to

train as a teacher was initially a very daunting decision! This experience was a great lesson in knowing the importance of pursuing goals and embarking on challenges.

I began working as a Teaching Assistant at a secondary school in Harold Hill and applied to a Graduate Teacher Training course, including gaining a PGCE in Secondary Education at University College London. The following academic year, I began my teacher training year and trained at two local secondary schools. Next, I aim to complete a part-time master's alongside teaching.

I am fortunate to be joining Becket Keys at the early stages of my teaching career and am very much looking forward to the year ahead.



### Mrs Asher Head of Food

Born in London, raised in Enfield with a great passion for food. I came into food teaching after being inspired by my A level Food Teacher who was called Mrs



Cook! After training at The Polytechnic of the Southbank, I was approached by the school that I had completed teaching practice in for my first full time post. From here, I moved to Essex to live and work, gradually completing the training required to run a department. I was very excited to be offered a head of department post in Romford. Having a family allowed me to expand my career and hobby choices as I had the opportunity to try out various other options as I returned to work when my children went to secondary school. This included supply teaching at Headley Walter school, kitchen manager at a local cookery school, volunteering at a community garden, training as a yoga teacher in India, and a day as a reception teacher (never again!) but then returned to my first love of teaching Food Technology in various part time teaching posts. I just can't resist the Food alchemy of bringing together a

set of separate ingredients and watching the great sense of pride on students faces when they produce something that is edible and creative. I am looking forward to helping to continue to grow a passion for food that is already evident at Becket Keys.



## Mrs Rubery Mathematics Teacher

My name is Stacey Rubery and I am very excited to be joining the Mathematics department. Born and raised in Swansea, I have now settled in Brentwood. I completed my PGCE in Mathematics at

King's College London and have taught in three schools in North, South and East London holding the position of Head of Department and Assistant Principal over this time.

Following the birth of my two children, I have stepped away from working full time as Assistant Principal at an East London Academy and have been working part time as a curriculum advisor, writing school timetables for a number of schools across London and Essex. During this time I have also worked for the Institute of Education delivering their NPQML and NPQSL leadership programmes, completed part time supply work for understaffed senior leadership teams and marked exam papers from KS2 to A level. As my children have got older, I am ready to get back into the classroom, having really missed being part of a school community and getting back to what I love most-teaching Mathematics!

I feel very fortunate to be continuing my career at Becket Keys part time, but with my full commitment to the students and the staff team.

Please get the **free Studybugs app** for reporting your child's absence due to illness.

<https://studybugs.com>



Report sickness, receive guidance, help improve children's health  
See what illnesses are going around  
Secure system, all communications encrypted

## Staff Vacancy Facilities Manager

We are looking for an experienced Site/Facilities Manager to join our team. Full details available on the website:

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



## Student Achievement

### Poppy Dadson 10AC



Poppy has had a fantastic summer competing at some amazing venues and shows with her Shetland Pony, Merkisayre Sea Duble including Badminton Horse Trials and Royal Windsor Horse Show.

Her biggest achievement to date is winning the first qualifier for London Olympia Horse Show in June and securing a place at this world famous equestrian event in December where she will be racing with ten other young jockeys.

She is extremely proud of Duble who has exceeded all her expectations and they have been an amazing combination this year with plenty of 1st place Rosettes.

Congratulations Poppy & Duble!



## Friends of Becket Keys

*The Friends of Becket Keys*

### Annual Ball

*The Banqueting Suite – Stock Brook Manor*

**Saturday 24th November 2018**

7:30pm - 12:45am

*Drinks reception, 4 course dinner with wine & beer*

*Free bar from 10:30 pm to 12:30am (house spirits, wine & beer)*

*Games, raffle & auction with fantastic prizes*

*Live band*

*Ticket Price £70 per person*

Friends of Becket Keys are our hard working PTA, please see the attached letter with information about the organisation.

One social event not to be missed is the Annual Ball, which will be held on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November in the Banqueting Suite at Stock Brook Manor. Last year, 150 people enjoyed a fantastic evening! It was a night not to be missed with guests enjoying a lovely drinks reception, a delicious dinner, and the opportunity to win some very generous prizes.

This year, the event will be even bigger and we are delighted to announce that we have a fantastic live band, 'City Sounds'. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jye5hcbsPmQ> This contemporary pop, dance and soul band is made up of some of the UK's most exciting professional musicians and are renowned for their energetic stage presence and extraordinary musical talent. We look forward to having them to entertain us! Tables can be booked for 8, 10 or 12 people. However, do not worry if you have a smaller group attending as tables can be shared. We also have a ladies table. All are welcome!

Tickets are £70.00 per person.

A deposit of £25.00 per person is required at the time of booking and the balance is required by the end of October. You can pay by cash, cheque or bank transfer. For more information or to book tickets contact [fobk@becketkeys.org](mailto:fobk@becketkeys.org)

## General Information & Notices from the Head Teacher

### School Run

Please do not drive into Sawyers Hall Lane! I am sure a few of you have made that decision for yourselves already, but in case any of you are still driving in, please refrain from doing so. The road is dangerous and busy outside the school. Please drop your children off elsewhere and ask them to walk the last bit. Similarly, when picking up, perhaps ask them to walk to a local car park (Brentwood Centre or Sainsbury's) or Doddinghurst Road or Shenfield Road where there are plenty of places to park with no restrictions.

If you really do have to drive into Sawyers Hall Lane, please at least avoid the final part of the road and drop off further up near Burland Road. Even the laziest teenager can walk from there!



### Bikes

Students riding bikes must wear a helmet and we recommend a bright yellow vest or jacket too. Students will need a padlock to secure their bike in our secure area. It is great to see so many students cycling at the moment.

Remember! No scooters or skateboards please.

### Holidays & Appointments

Please make every effort to avoid unnecessary holidays and appointments during term time. Holidays will not be authorised and all absence **must** be authorised. Parents have been fined by the courts for not following this advice. Your son/daughter will get higher grades if they attend well!

### Uniform

The students look excellent in their new uniform, thank you for supporting our school policies so closely. We know it is important to all of us to see our students looking smart in their uniform at all times.

Remember that all girls should have a reversed collar on their blouse and not wear other types of shirt.

Please see the website if you need more details about the school dress code.

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



### Gaming



Help your son/daughter do better at school by managing their use of social media and gaming. There is a clear link between success at school and a limited amount of time wasted on these addictive time zappers.



Please make sure that ALL items of uniform and PE Kit are named. There are many items that we are unable to return as we do not know whom they belong to.

Lost Property can be collected from Reception.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### YEAR 8 HPV VACCINATION

FRIDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

\*

### OPEN EVENTS FOR NEW STUDENTS

MORNING 9.00am – 11.15am

EVENING 5.00pm – 8.00pm

WEDNESDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

WEDNESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER

\*

### SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENT

TUESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

\*

### ALL SAINTS HOLIDAY

MONDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER –

FRIDAY 26 OCTOBER

\*

### INSET DAY

MONDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER



### Becket Keys School Satellite Running Club

Bookings are now open for a place in our popular after school running club.

Organised by Brentwood Running Club for one hour after school each Thursday afternoon starting 13th September.

There is a small fee of £2 per session to cover the time given by qualified coaches from Brentwood Running Club.

Try out by paying £12 for the first 6 weeks or £26 for the whole term.

Payment by bank transfer to Brentwood Running Club, sort code 09-01-51, account no. 73777309.

Please use BK followed by student's name as reference.

Please direct any queries to the Youth Section of the Brentwood Running Club web site.

<https://thriftgreentrotters.co.uk/juniors/>

Melvyn Cooper - Brentwood Running Club Youth Coach

## Becket Keys

## Church of England School

Sawyers Hall Lane  
Brentwood, Essex  
CM15 9DA  
01277 286600

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

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

Twitter: [@BecketKeys](https://twitter.com/BecketKeys)

[@BecketKeys6th](https://twitter.com/BecketKeys6th)

[@MrScottEvans](https://twitter.com/MrScottEvans)