



Becket Keys Church of England School

19TH December 2018

IN THIS ISSUE

Mr. Scott-Evans writes:

It has been another amazing term at Becket Keys Church of England School. I would like to start this newsletter by passing on my thanks to all of you for your support and encouragement.

I have really enjoyed leading the school through these first two terms – notably, the first time we have ever been complete with students in each year group.

I would like to thank all our staff who have been working incredibly hard again this term. The mocks (Year 11 and 13) have gone extremely well and students are going to benefit hugely when we return after Christmas from all the insights our staff have gained from these. Other assessments have also been completed this term and interim reports will be published after Christmas so you

can see how your son/daughter is getting on.

In sport, music, drama, arts, languages and right across the curriculum students are learning rapidly and effectively – it is a joy to walk around our school and see the hard work that goes on every day. With this in mind, I thought it would be good to end the year with a small round up of some of the things of which we are most proud.

Therefore, I contacted all of our Heads of Department and Heads of Year asking them for their 'best bits' and 'highlights' and here are some of the things they came up with.

Food:

Year 10 students made "Bake Off" style "Showstopper Cakes!"

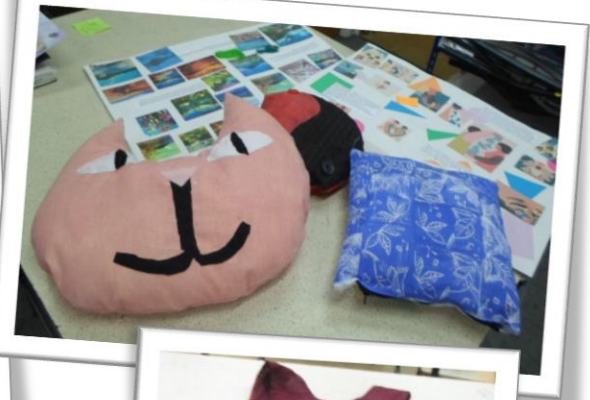
Based on a theme of their choice.

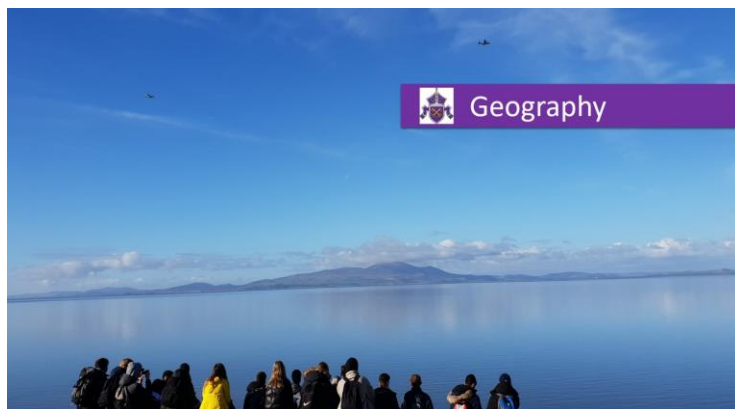


Year 11 students have completed their mock NEA 1 coursework, food scientists in action!

Art & Textiles:

Y11 have completed their mock practical exams over the last few days. There are many superb examples of wonderful work.





Geography:

This term in Geography, the 6th Form students attended a memorable and rewarding trip to the Lake District National Park to undertake their fieldwork investigations. This was an excellent chance to recap and embed their learning and to gather primary data for the individual projects.

The Sixth Formers have since been working hard on writing up their findings which accounts for 20% of their A-Level Geography grade.

Year 8:

Instead of Secret Santa this year, the whole of Year 8 have been designing and making Christmas Cards for younger students at Grove House and St Thomas' Infant School.



A selection of Year 8 students then presented these cards to the students in an assembly at both schools

Mathematics:

In Years 7, 9 and 10 we have been looking at statistics and using graphs to analyse data. Year 12 and 13 have been exploring further trigonometry and calculus. All year groups have been making good use of mathswatch.vle this term, with many students making good progress towards their own personal targets. Well done to anyone who has managed to increase their usage over these few busy weeks!

Mrs Rubery has been running a "Cypher Club" open to all year groups; regular attendees have been competing against each other in a Kakuro competition!

Psychology:

Year 12 students have begun their psychological journey studying the methods employed to research and analyse behaviour. Since September, the Year 13 students have considered the various explanations for aggression, deepened their existing understanding of issues and debates, and more recently returned to research methods to complete their knowledge on this topic.



BECKET KEYS
Church of England School

Drama



In drama, we have been exploring Pantomime with Year 7, 'Oh yes we have.' Whilst Year 10 gain the confidence and ability to perform the GCSE set text 'DNA' to the Year 11 GCSE drama students. In extracurricular, we have been practising the skills of role-play, improvisation and characterisation.



Year 9:

In Year 9, we have decided to collect money this year to donate to Brentwood foodbank for Christmas instead of the typical 'secret santa' gifts that many schools do. We decided that this was a better way to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas by helping out those in our local community who really need it.

We have been getting excited about the build-up to Christmas with our final two festive times of

Collective Worship outlining the story of Christmas and gWW performed their assembly on what Christmas means to many people in the school community.

Dan Peters and Maddie Barker deserve a special mention, as their hard work and dedication have paid off in their cross country performances this year. Well done to them!

The Year 9s have also been getting excited about the two trip opportunities that they have coming up. Bude is a fabulous opportunity to develop team skills, confidence and risk taking. There are still a few places available if anyone else would like to join this amazing trip. The year group have also been getting very excited with the opportunity to go skiing!

Science:

Millie Double and Lola Webb have achieved the Bronze CREST Award and we are entering a further three students this year. It is not too late to join our Advanced Science club on Tuesdays after school, if you would like to find out more about this exciting programme.

Music:

Our Chamber choir sang Handel's Messiah in the Albert Hall on December 2nd with the English Festival Orchestra and over a 1000 singers.



Year 12:

Our Year 12 students, now well-established in Becket Keys 6th Form and the wider school community, are continuing in their integral roles of responsibility around the school. As students ponder future plans, a number of visitors have provided insightful advice into the world of work and the options available for our students. From apprenticeship providers and Cambridge students to BBC directors and pioneers in the sporting industry students have had lots to think about. Next, students will be looking forward to a well-earned break before tackling the mock examinations in January.'

Religion & Philosophy:

Year 7 have been exploring the origins of Judaism and the importance of community for religious believers. Year 8 have been learning about how religions express their beliefs in society today and Year 9 have been developing their understanding of the Early Church and how the German and English Reformations have shaped Christianity today.



Sixth formers have been tackling various philosophical, ethical and theological issues which include arguments for the existence of God, theories on how people make ethical decisions and application of Christianity within the world today.

Worship:

It was wonderful to celebrate the end of the year with our whole school gathering for worship at St Thomas' Church and in the Main Hall for the Holy Eucharist. We have also enjoyed times of quiet and reflection every day through Advent and especially on Fridays for our special lunchtimes Eucharists.

On behalf of everyone at Becket Keys Church of England School, I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas!

Andy Scott-Evans
Head Teacher

Sixth Former for a Day

This exciting day will be held on Friday 18th January 2019. It is designed to ensure that you have a good idea of what your next steps after Year 11 will be like.

Year 11 students will get an opportunity to attend four lessons of their choice, spend one period in the Sixth Form Subject Fair finding out more about the lessons you want to study by speaking to teachers and Sixth Form students and experience a Sixth Form tutorial period. Break and lunchtime will be spent in the Sixth Form area. Lunch and breakfast will be provided for you, but please bring your own snacks and drink for break.

About 20 students will be going to Chelmsford College with Mr. Thorpe. A letter was emailed home to parents on Thursday 13th December. Please read it carefully and reply as requested in the letter.

The rest of the Year 11 students will be at school for SFFAD, along with up to 50 students from other schools who will be your peers in Years 12 and 13! A letter was emailed home to your parents on Monday 17th December. Please read it carefully and respond.

If you have any questions about anything to do with this day, please see Mr. Peggs in the Sixth Form office at break or lunch.

If your parents have any questions, please let them know they can email Mr. Peggs using this address: sixthform@becketkeys.org

Year 7 Mandarin Day



The Mandarin department is busy organising the next Mandarin Day for 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 on **Wednesday 30th January 2019**, when we will welcome the Year of the Pig.

So that we can give the students an experience to remember, we require a voluntary contribution of £11.25 from each Year 7 student in order 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 ParentPay as soon as possible, so that we know the day can go ahead.



School Uniform



As we approach the end of another busy term, we would like to give you and your sons/daughters some reminders ready for the New Year to ensure our students are ready for a positive start in 2019.

Feedback from our families is crucial to our development; parents have mentioned to us that they appreciate consistency and firmness with regards to uniform and so with this in mind, we want to have a perfect start in 2019.

Make-up

Students in Years 7-9 are not permitted to wear any make up. The only make up allowed is concealer to cover up spots and blemishes, students who do wear make up to school will be asked to remove it.

For our older students, if false eyelashes and/or nails are coming for festive season, please do not book appointments before the break. Please also ensure all such items are removed prior to our return in January. Any students returning to school with false eyelashes and nails will be asked to remove them.

Bags & Coats

If students are asking for new bags and coats ready for the New Year, please ensure, in all cases, that these items are **black**.

Year 7 & 8 students must have Becket Keys bags from SmartyPants.

Older students are allowed to choose their own bags, but no large logos please.

Coats must be plain black for all year groups.

Shoes

Please ensure all students return to school in January with the correct footwear for school, trainers should only be worn, if there is a medical issue (a note must be supplied and kept in the students' blazer)



Equipment

Please ensure you check your son/daughter's stationery. The holiday season is a good time to top up pencil cases! Please check for red/black/blue pens, whiteboard markers, pencils, rulers, rubbers and calculators. These are all basic requirements at Becket Keys.

As the end of 2018 approaches, we pray you have a restful, enjoyable and peaceful break full of fun and reflection and are ready to hit the ground running on Monday 7th January 2019 when we return it will be **PURPLE** week.



Becket Keys Church of England School Advent Prayer Calendar 2018-2019				
As we light our candle this advent, we remember that Jesus is the light of the world. May we reflect the light of God's love and grace to others at this special season and always. Amen.				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 Week 1: Hope Dear Jesus, you are the hope in our messy world. This Advent, help us slow down, listen to your voice, and focus on what is really important. We place our hope in you as we prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth on Christmas. Amen.	4 Lord of all, you are a God of plenty, a Lord who provides for us in our need. As I begin these early days of Advent help me to believe that you know what I need. Give me the courage to listen to your voice and the freedom to open my heart to the graces you are offering me to place my trust in you. Amen.	5 Lord, thank you that in Jesus Christ we find all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Thank you that through our relationship with Jesus we can know God and the purpose of our lives. Help us to develop this relationship more and more, to grow into maturity in our knowledge of him and to hear the words of Jesus speaking to us clearly. Help us to proclaim Jesus with authority and power, so that many will put their faith in Christ and find the purpose of their lives. Amen.	6 God of hope, who brought love into this world, be the love that dwells between us. God of hope, who brought peace into this world, be the peace that dwells between us. God of hope, who brought joy into this world, be the joy that dwells between us. God of hope, the rock we stand upon, be the centre, the focus of our lives always, and particularly this Advent time. Amen.	7 God of hope be with us in our Advent journey to the stable and beyond, be with us in our meeting and in our travelling together, be with us in our worship and our praying together, be with us in our Advent journey to the stable and beyond. Amen.
10 Week 2: Peace Dear Jesus, you entered our world on Christmas as the Prince of Peace. This Advent, as we strive to become the best version of ourselves, fill us with a deep and abiding peace. Help us share that peace with everyone we encounter, especially those who need it most. Amen.	11 From the very beginning was Your Word Which spoke this world into being Your Word Which thunders from the skies Your Word Which flows like mountain streams Your Word Which whispers in morning breeze Your Word Revealed through kings and prophets Your Word Revealed through Angels' praise Your Word Revealed in humble service Your Word Revealed through a tiny child Your Word Alive from the beginning of all things And to eternity. Amen.	12 This Advent-time we remember Mary and Joseph, giving thanks for their faithfulness, courage and obedience, stepping out into the unknown in the strength of your Spirit, playing their part in the fulfilment of your plan to bring your prodigal people home again. We pray that their example might be the pattern of our lives, that when your gentle whisper breaks through the clamour of this world and into our small corner, we might be ready to listen, and having listened, to act. Amen.	13 Advent God, we journey with you, to Bethlehem's stable and a new-born King, ears attuned to the song of angels, eyes alert for Bethlehem's star. Forgive us if on our journey if we are distracted by the tempting offers of this world. Keep our hearts aflame with the hope and peace of Christmas, and the promise of a Saviour. Amen.	14 Restore us, O Lord, we pray, bring us back to that place where we once met, as shepherds to the stable after hearing angels sing. Bring us back to that place when our love was fresh, not embarrassed to express itself in praise to our heavenly King. Restore us, O Lord, we pray. Amen.
17 Week 3: Joy Dear Jesus, help us focus on you during this busy season. May we stay aware of the joy you bring into our lives. We want to find you in the everyday moments and come with hearts of gratitude to your manger on Christmas. Amen.	18 God grant you the light of Christmas, which is faith; the warmth of Christmas, which is purity; the righteousness of Christmas, which is justice; the belief in Christmas, which is truth; the all of Christmas, which is the joy of Christ. Amen.	19 Lord God, we thank you for Christmas and its message of how, in Jesus Christ, you came to live with us and die for us. Prepare our hearts, not only for the celebration to come, but also for sharing that Good News with friends and family. Grant us courage and a real willingness to talk joyfully about the love that came down to earth and walked among us. Amen.	20 As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, may we be mindful before you, God, that many people will be struggling to gather enough pennies together for a celebratory meal. We pray today for the half a million people in the UK reliant on food assistance last year. Bless the work of those running food banks; move us to give to them generously now and in the new year. May all know the joy of Jesus' birth. Amen.	21 Lord Jesus, we remember that, for love of us, you came in utter helplessness to share our lives so that we might have your life. Give us courage to live the life you offer us, and hope through the light you shine in our lives. Bless the people of Bethlehem, and all who live in the lands in which you lived and walked. Bring them peace. We ask for these gifts in your wonderful name. Amen. (Most Rev Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury)
24 Week 4: Love Dear Jesus, may the light of your love always shine in our hearts. As Christmas draws closer, we marvel at your great love for us. Let your love transform every aspect of our lives and touch everyone we encounter. Our hearts are open to you, Jesus. Amen.	25 Christmas Day Thank you God for sending Your Son on one glorious night to be born a virgin, to live a perfect life and to die on the cross for my sins. Thank you that he rose from the dead three days later and that this Christmas and every Christmas we can celebrate the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ. Amen.	Christmas Blessings: May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas and always. Amen. May the spirit of Christmas bring you peace. May the joy of Christmas bring you hope and the message of Christmas reveal God's amazing love. Amen.		

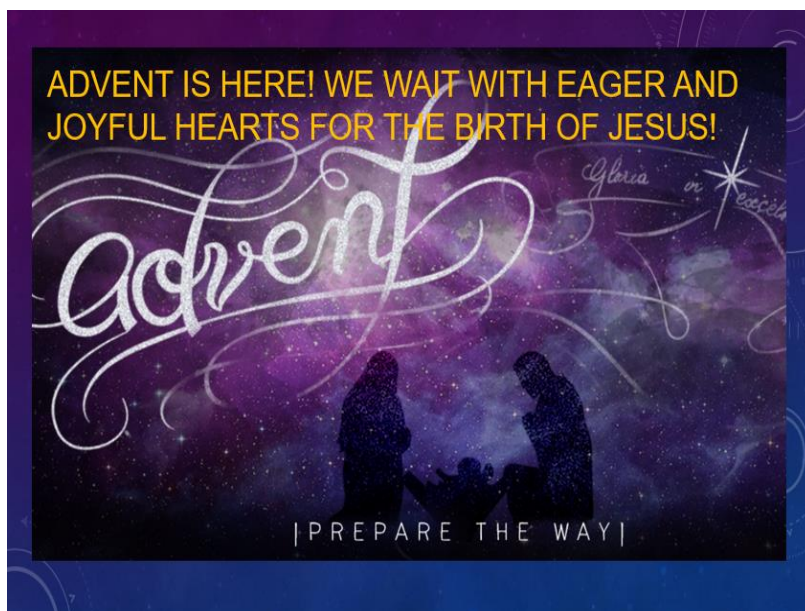


Christmas Services



Remember there will be a number of special services at your local Church during the festive season.

We have details of some services attached to this newsletter.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

INSET DAYS

THURSDAY 3RD JANUARY
& FRIDAY 4TH JANUARY 2019

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YEAR 11 SUBJECT CONSULTATION EVENING

TUESDAY 8TH JANUARY 2019

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YEAR 11 GEOGRAPHY TRIP

10TH & 11TH JANUARY 2019

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SIXTH FORMER FOR A DAY

FRIDAY 18TH JANUARY 2019

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YEAR 13 MOCK EXAMS

NEW DATES

26TH FEBRUARY - 8TH MARCH 2019

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LENT HOLIDAY

18TH FEBRUARY – 22ND FEBRUARY 2019

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INSET DAY

MONDAY 25TH FEBRUARY 2019

Give the Gift of Reading



Many thanks to all the families who donated books for under our tree! We really appreciate your gifts! Further donations warmly welcomed in the New Year.

Becket Keys

Church of England School

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