

Becket Keys Church of England School

15th November 2019

YEAR 12 & 13 TAKE PART IN THE LONDON CHALLENGE

IN THIS ISSUE

Mr Peggs writes...

It has been a great couple of months enjoying a full Sixth Form for the first time, with the students in Year 12 and Year 13 integrating fluidly and plenty of new opportunities being taken advantage of. Here, I have tried to summarise some of the highlights so far. No doubt I have forgotten a great deal and the Sixth Form students will point this out to me with enthusiasm — so please expect another update soon!

Both year groups are to be commended for how they have interacted with each other. Clearly, there were many close friendships formed between students of different ages already, but seeing new ones grow every week has been gratifying to witness. We also welcomed over 35 students from

other schools and, as was the case last year, they were welcomed into the Sixth Form by all of their peers.

There has been a clear focus on the academic with Year 12 relishing the chance to focus on three or four subjects that they are passionate about and Year 13 building on their successes of last year. The older students have mock examinations coming up and these will provide the firmest indication yet of how close they are to fulfilling their potential, as well as allowing them to streamline their plans for the future. Meanwhile, Year 12 students have found the different rooms they use during their study periods of great benefit: many are appreciating the silent study area in order to get on with their essays and research

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London Challenge

Report and photographs from Year 12 & 13 who took part in the London Challenge.

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Biblical Pause

Let your leaves fall – an ode to autumn.

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Friends of Becket Keys

Our hard working PTA have events and fundraising ideas to help support the school.

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Match reports and upcoming fixtures for your diary.

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independently, the group work area has been utilised exceptionally well for collaborative learning and, of course, the Deli has been extremely popular with even more impressive food than last year available all day.

There is a great deal of anticipation surrounding what Year 13 students will do after their exams and it has been thrilling to hear about - and support – the students who have already organised degree level apprenticeships or who are going directly into employment in varied industries. Our first applications for university courses have been sent, with these being as diverse as mid-wifery, film studies, natural sciences, interior design and bio-medicine. Three students have applied to Cambridge University and are due to hear if they have been invited to interview any day now!

At the same time as Year 13 are finalising their next steps, Year 12 are beginning to understand what it is they need to start to put in place for these. The Scholars are looking forward to organising their own trips, speakers and events in order to ensure that they have this wider enrichment to enjoy now and show off in the future and many Year 12 students have already signed up to apprenticeship schemes or have visited universities.

Of course, our Sixth Form students are role models to younger students and they fulfil

this value of responsibility with great pride. Year 12 have been outstanding in their volunteering and are supporting younger students in lessons through the second expert in the room, by mentoring students who need this extra guidance and by taking the lead in extra-curricular clubs such as sports coaching and music tuition. They are also heading up all the great charity work we do as a school.

We now have a team of over ninety Prefects who are undertaking duties each lunchtime in order to assist other students in different ways. They have also been extremely effective in the ways in which they have supported events – at this time of year the social calendar is full and so their support is hugely appreciated. This has all been organised by the Senior Prefect team of the Head Girl, Head Boy and the four Deputies, who are also putting together plans for the Year 13 Prom.



This year has also seen the return of the Sixth Form House Cup. There are five Houses, each consisting of one form group from each year, and these are competing for the House Cup across a variety of events over the academic year. The winners of the quiz for Term 1 were PP and AC won the netball competition.



The Enrichment Day last week meant the highlight of the House Cup, though, with all students taking part in the London Challenge. During the day, students explored London in small groups and competed against each other in different events. They had a series of cryptic clues to solve in different areas of the city, visit as many areas of the Monopoly board as possible, travel on all the different modes of transport they could, find some celebrities (lots of success here!) and work out unique landmarks to be pictured near. Of course, they also had to buy the tackiest souvenir that they could – the results of which have provided some excellent laughs!

The winning House was AC with an average points score of 170; they were followed by WW (163), PP (130), FS (122) and HS (89). The top tutor group was 12AC with an average points score of 191; 12PP were just one point behind on 190 and then both 12WW and 13WW scored 163 points!

The winning groups on the day were:

- Joint 3rd with 260 points –
 Faith Clarke, Ella Crowley,
 Millie Double, Misimi
 Israel-Oludiya and Isabella
 Orimalade (12FS1) and
 Jessica Shadare-Orugboh,
 Rian Kennedy, Ben
 Nichols and Grace
 Middleditch (12PP3).
- 2nd Mia Broughton, Amy Davies and Lola Webb (12PP5).
- 1st Oliver Finck, Emily Burr, Archie Mowatt, Rhiannon Barden and William Sainsbury (13WW2).

As you can tell, it has been a brilliant couple of months and this is set to continue as the Sixth Form becomes more established and we put more in place that will form the basis of traditions for years to come.

Mr Peggs Assistant Headteacher



P A USE

Let your leaves fall

"Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not"
(Galatians 6:9 KJV).

As the nights draw in, many of us may whisper for the warmer weather to last a little longer and the trees to keep their vibrant green colours. Yet, one season will lead to another. In order to flourish in the new season, the trees must loss their decaying leaves and take on a new beauty. A walk in the crisp morning amongst the dancing yellow, orange and brown leaves, must be viewed in the same favour as a walk in the summer sun. John Keats' ode 'To Autumn' comes to mind.

We cannot afford to dwell on the past, but accept the freshness of the seasons ahead. Every farmer knows that what you sow in one season, you will reap in another season. You plant in the spring and you harvest in the autumn.

Life is full of contrasts. We go through mountains, and we go through valleys. We go through successes and we go through failures. We have wins and we have losses.

In weather, there are four seasons. However, in our lives, there are dozens of different seasons. And every season of life includes both good and bad times.

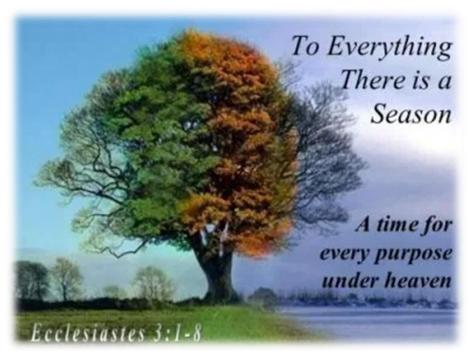


To Autumn

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease,
For summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.

Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store?
Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find
Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,
Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind;
Or on a half-reap'd furrow sound asleep,
Drows'd with the fume of poppies, while thy hook
Spares the next swath and all its twined flowers:
And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep
Steady thy laden head across a brook;
Or by a cyder-press, with patient look,
Thou watchest the last oozings hours by hours.

Where are the songs of spring? Ay, Where are they?
Think not of them, thou hast thy music too,—
While barred clouds bloom the soft-dying day,
And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;
Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn
Among the river sallows, borne aloft
Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;
And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;
Hedge-crickets sing; and now with treble soft
The red-breast whistles from a garden-croft;
And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.



Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 gives us a representation of different life experiences:

"For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven. A time to be born and a time to die. A time to plant and a time to harvest. A time to kill and a time to heal. A time to tear down and a time to build up. A time to cry and a time to laugh. A time to grieve and a time to dance. A time to scatter stones and a time to gather stones. A time to embrace and a time to turn away. A time to search and a time to quit searching. A time to keep and a time to throw away. A time to tear and a time to mend. A time to be quiet and a time to speak. A time to love and a time to hate. A time for war and a time for peace".

Life is a combination of contrasting seasons. All sunshine and no rain make a desert. If you are following God's will, seeking to live your life according to the way God wants you to live, then you will eventually see that these experiences can have purpose and value in your life. You

may think that the only time you are in God's will is when you are at church or having a quiet time. You can be in God's will as you are cleaning out your cupboards or sweeping the autumn leaves from the driveway. You can be in God's will when you move to a new location or stay right where you are. There is a time and season for everything.

Not everything is beautiful. Illness is not beautiful. Watching those you love suffer is not beautiful. War is not beautiful. But, in the words of Ecclesiastes 3:11: "God has made everything beautiful for its own

time". The Bible is saying that God can take even the bad things and, in the proper season, turn them around and use them for good in the way he intends. Whatever the season we are in, we can trust that God will make something good out of it, if we trust Him.

The way you respond to someone or to a situation right now affects your future. If you respond correctly in a season of life and you do the right thing, even when you do not feel like it, it pays great dividends in the future. "Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Galatians 6:9). In other words, do not give up. No matter which season you are in, there are four questions you can ask yourself that will help you reap God's blessing in the next season:

What can I learn in this season of life?

There are some things we only learn through experience. Deuteronomy 11:2 says, "Remember today what you have learned about the Lord through your experiences with him".

What can I enjoy in this season of life?

The Bible says, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). We are to live the good



days and the bad days with a sense of gratitude, because each day is a gift from God.

What is most important for this season?

Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens". If that is true, then you cannot have it all at one time. You have to make some tough decisions about what really matters at this particular time in life.

How can I help others in this season of life?

The Bible says clearly that you were not put on this earth just to live for yourself: "Whenever you are able, do good to people who need help" (Proverbs 3:27). God gave you abilities, talents, and energy to help other people.

Consider:

What difficult situation do you need to entrust to God today? How might the world explain the purpose for a difficult season of life?

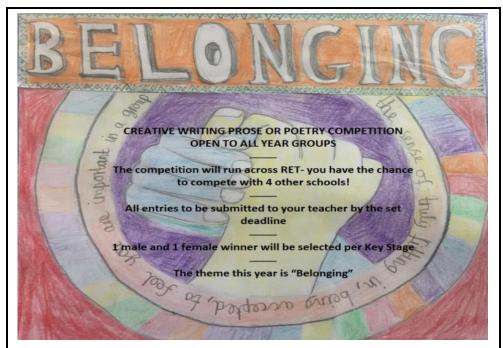
What are some ways you can know if you are in God's will?

Let us pray:

Jesus Christ, I want to grow in you. I want to develop spiritually. Please use the seasons of my life to help me mature in my faith. Would you teach me to trust you in every season, even the difficult ones? Lord, I invite you to be at the centre of every season of my life, so you can build my character. In your name I pray.

Amen.

Mrs. Sharp Deputy Headteacher



The RET Creative Writing/Poetry competition is your opportunity to exhibit your English skills. ALL students from across ALL Key Stages are welcomed to enter – regardless of whether you study English or not. Your writing can take the form of prose or poetry but must link to **the theme of BELONGING**. (word limit of 1,000 words) Entries should be submitted to Miss Romano (C25) by no later than Thursday 28th November.



Uniform

It is important to all of us that every one of the students who attend Becket Keys looks smart in their uniform at all times.

All students are required to wear shoes and not trainers.

Girls in Year 7-9, should have their hair completely tied up. Year 10-11 – hair can be half up/ half down. Black, purple or neutral coloured hair ties please.

Now that the weather is getting colder please remember that all students will be in need of a COAT – Plain BLACK without coloured flashes, logos or slogans, no 'fashion items', no 'puffer' jackets.



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



It is Road Safety Week (18-24 November) we want everyone to "Step up for Safe Streets" and learn about, shout about and celebrate the amazing design-led solutions that will allow us all to get around in safe and healthy ways, every day.

Safe journeys happen when we design our road transport network so that human error doesn't result in death or serious injury. This approach of safety by design is known as safe systems and the great news is that the solutions are known and available to us now! From safety technology in vehicles, to speed limits that reflect the safety of the roads, we can all step up to learn about, shout about and celebrate these proven solutions.

Healthy journeys are important to help keep us healthy, fit and happy. We need to make sure that choosing to walk or cycle doesn't put us at increased risk and that the air we breathe on our journeys is clean. We know the solutions here too – we need policy-makers to step up and prioritise safe spaces for travel on foot and by bike and ensure that

the vehicles that remain on our roads use ultra-low emission technology.

<u>Step up</u> We can all step up and play a part in the celebration of safe system solutions and the creation of a safe and healthy future:

- Individuals can step up by pledging to use roads safely, minimise vehicle use and shout out for safe system solutions.
- Schools can help young people step up and learn how to create a safe and healthy future and shout out for change.
- Organisations can step up their policies and procedures to ensure they choose safe systems solutions.
- Emergency service professionals can step up to highlight their vital role in helping keep us safe.
- Policy-makers can step up by developing and mandating safe systems solutions.

Every death or serious injury on our roads is a tragedy and each one is preventable. Step up for Safe Streets and do your bit for a safe and healthy future.

Link to the website http://www.roadsafetyweek.org.uk/action-pack

Lunchtime Eucharist



Father Mark North comes in to school every Friday lunchtime to celebrate communion in the John Wraw Chapel (Justin Welby building).

All members of the local community and parents are also invited to these short twenty-minute services.

Please arrive in reception at 12.50pm for a 1pm start.





Want to give someone the gift of warmth, comfort, food and hope this Advent? Prepared to ditch your duvet and sleepout in St. Thomas of Canterbury Church?

This year, St Thomas of Canterbury Church would like to make the Advent Sleepout Challenge a new tradition for its associated Church Schools. The aim is to raise money for the Together Network (a key programme of the Church Urban Fund – the social action of the Church of England) and their work with winter night shelters and the homeless. All you have to do is get as many sponsors as you can, for you to give up your comfy beds for a night, in one of the coldest months of the year, and sleep on the floor at St Thomas' Church. This event is open to students of all ages (from Year 7-Year 13).

This Church run event for Becket Keys students will be on the night of the 13th December. Please be reassured that this event is not attempting to recreate the sense of danger and deprivation faced by many homeless people. It will be a fun event to raise funds that will help those who need it most. There will be a rota of DBS checked adults on duty all night to ensure safety and security. The key details of the event are below:

LOCATION: St Thomas of Canterbury Parish Church, St. Thomas Road, Brentwood, CM14 4DF BED: The floor

DATE: Night of the 13th December

TIME: 8.30pm until 9.00am

PROVIDED: Evening hot drinks and snacks, breakfast and fun!

BRING: Sleeping bag, favourite pyjamas or onesie, layers (wooly jumper, hat and gloves), cosy blanket, a torch and wash bag.

In December 2018, 83,700 households' experiences homelessness (up 5% from 2017) in the UK. Last Year, the Church Urban Fund via the Together Network, were able to provide over 4,300 winter night shelter spaces, offering individuals food, a safe space to sleep and much needed friendship. Thanks to fundraising events, such as taking part in the Advent Sleepout Challenge, one of their night shelters was able to open permanently throughout the winter period. So let's gather together, have some fun and raise as much sponsorship money as possible, to help transform as many lives as possible.

To take part, complete the consent form accompanying this newsletter and visit the fundraising page for this event (below) to get started on collecting sponsorships. You can also set up your own fundraising page as a tab and still add to 'Team St. Thomas' total. A printed sponsorship has been provided, in case you prefer this method.

https://adventsleepoutchallenge2019.everydayhero.com/uk/team-becket-keys-st-thomas-of-canterbury

Let's make a difference!

Becket Keys Charity Fundraising

This year we are collecting for two charities Cancer Research and New Hope Children's Centre.



We had a new 'Cans for Cancer' initiative where each tutor group was given a can and students were asked to bring in any spare change they had. A fabulous £652.22 was raised! Special mention to Sam Manning Year 9 for individually collecting over £35.

We also held a donut sale for this charity and raised an additional - £102.50! Thanks everyone!



Bake a cake to give a cake

We will be selling cakes to raise money to buy cakes for the 108 children and teenagers in the New Hope orphanage in Kenya to enjoy at Christmas.

There will be a cake sale on **Monday 25th November** to raise more money for this.

Any student who wants to can bake a cake over next weekend and bring it into school to be sold on Monday lunchtime.

Prior to this, all tutor groups have been asked to buy and write three Christmas cards which will be taken over to the children in the New Hope orphanage.

Sweeten Up Christmas

Week of 25TH November:

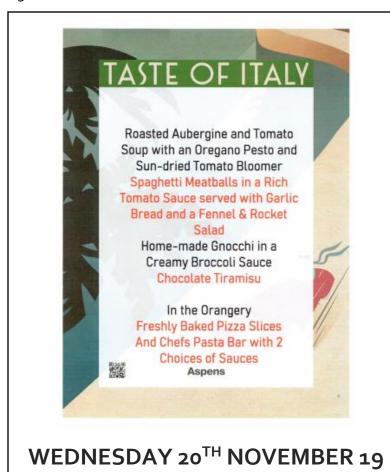
A week long opportunity to guess the number of sweets in a jar to win all the sweets. All money will go towards providing a pack of sweets for each child at the orphanage for Christmas.



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.

7.50am and 11.15am every Wednesday.

All are welcome.



FRIENDS OF BECKET KEYS HAVE THE FOLLOWING HIGHLY DISCOUNTED THEATRE SHOWS AVAILABLE

www.pta-events.co.uk/fobk



Tuesday 28th January 2020 7:30pm Sondeim Theatre, London W1V 8BA £32.50 EACH



Thursday 20th Feb 2020 7:30pm Duchess Theatre London WC2B 5LA £26.00 EACH



Thursday 7th May 2020 7:00pm Cambridge Theatre London WC2H 9HU £30.00 EACH



Thursday 25th June 2020 7:30pm Coliseum Theatre London WC2N 4ES £30.00 EACH

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES PLEASE FoBK@becketkeys.org



Friday 22nd November 2019 in the Main Hall.

Doors open at 7pm for a 7:30pm start.

Strict policy of maximum per table of 8.

Tickets are £6 each.

There will be raffle on the night.

All proceeds will be used to support Becket Keys Church of England School.

Bring your own drinks and nibbles.



Remember to pre-order your Christmas Tree from Friends of Becket Keys this year.

These premium grade Nordman Fir trees are perfect for Christmas, with lovely symmetrical shape, attractive foliage and slow drop needle.

Collection from school or why not contact us about our local delivery service.

Please place your order via https://www.pta-events.co.uk/fobk/index.cfm?event=products#.XbK8NCXTUIQ

Last Order date 27th November 2019.

Student Achievement

Isabel Nott



In July, my grandparents took me to see the musical 'The Bridges of Madison County' at the Menier Chocolate Factory Theatre in London. I was blown away by the performance of Jenna Russell in the role of the protagonist, Francesca. I was amazed by the way she could portray the range of emotions the part demanded through her interpretations of the songs. Little did I know then that I would have the opportunity to work closely with Jenna only a few months later...

Last month, I had the opportunity to take part in a one-day Acting through Song course, run by the National Youth Music Theatre, at the Westminster Lower School in Pimlico, London. The main tutor on the course was Jenna Russell! Jenna is an Olivier and Tony

Award winning actor, most notable for her roles in musical theatre. She is also well known for having played the role of Michelle Fowler in Eastenders from 2016-18.

There were about 20 participants on the course, aged from 11 to 23. We all had to prepare two songs to work on during the day. I was particularly excited, as I usually work with backing tracks in my singing lessons, but on this day, I had the opportunity to sing with a live piano accompanist. I chose to sing "When He Sees Me" from Waitress, which is a comic song that has many opportunities for acting. I also took "Breathe", which comes from 'In The Heights', written by my musical theatre idol, Lin-Manuel Miranda.

Jenna really made me think about my songs in a different way. When we worked on "When He Sees Me", she set out two chairs for the two of us to sit on, so that I sang the songs directly to her, as if we were two friends chatting. This helped me to engage in the story and learn how to use my vocal volume effectively.

This course was an amazing experience to work with an internationally renowned actor, and it will certainly help with my GCSE studies in Music and Drama. I hope that I will get the opportunity to take part in further NYMT courses in the future.

Tom Dines 13AC



Tom Dines is now a 'Master Cadet' as well as a Sargent. His role in the Remembrance parade on Sunday was to be the Mayor's escort and he was at the head of the whole parade!

Tom has received numerous awards whilst being a member of the Army cadets, including both his Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards. Through his hard work and dedication, Tom has climbed his way to the very top and achieved one of the highest ranks for a cadet of his age.

Congratulations Tom!





Shenfield Christmas Fete Saturday 23rd November 2019 12 noon to 4pm

Shenfield Parish Hall 60 Hutton Road, Shenfield, Essex CM15 8LB

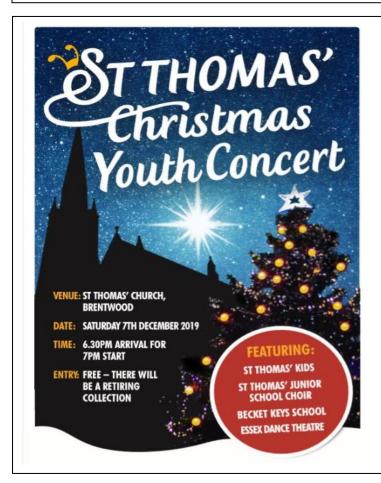
> Festive fun for all ages! Santa's Grotto Face Painting Great Gift Ideas

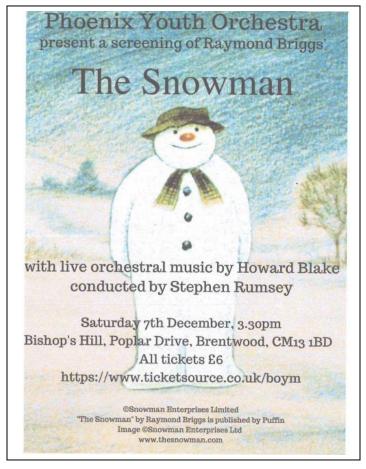
Games Tombola Stalls

Mince Pies Mulled Wine Beer and Bubbles

Join us for a great afternoon!







Sports News

Swimming

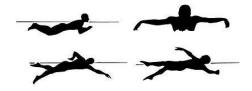
The first gala of the the year was held on Wednesday 13th
November and after the recent trials we were lucky enough to enter a number teams.



The Year 7 team competed in their first competition for the school and they were able to achieve third place. This was a fantastic effort from the whole team!



The Year 8 team were a delight to have on the poolside and they also managed to gain third position!





Year 9 have had a difficult few weeks and their confidence has been low, however they pulled together and today came third in the Borough!

Outstanding individual performances from Max who came second in individual medley (where the swimmer covers the four swimming styles butterfly, breaststroke, backstroke and freestyle) and Harley who came **first** in backstroke! Well done boys!



Huge congratulations to the Senior Swim Team who won the district title for the second year running!

The PE staff would like to thank them for their dedication to the team and their consistent outstanding performances.

Excellent results!

<u>Upcoming</u> <u>Sports Fixtures</u>

Monday 18th November

Year 7, 8 & 9 Girls' Football v Great Baddow High School (H)

Tuesday 19th November

Year 7, 8 & 9 Girls' Football v Plume Academy (A) Year 10 Boys' Basketball v Moulsham High School (H) Year 9 Boys' Rugby v St John Payne (H)

Wednesday 20th November

Year 7 Boys' Basketball v Beaulieu Park School (A)

All Years' Swimming Gala @ Brentwood School (Girls) (2-4)

Thursday 21st November

Year 7 Boys' Basketball v The Boswells School (H)

Monday 25th November

Year 7 Essex Plate Netball v Shoeburyness High School (A)

Year 9 Essex Cup Basketball v Harris Academy (H)

Tuesday 26th November

Year 7 & 8 Boys' Football v Moulsham High School (A)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

YEAR 10

CAREERS FAIR (RE-ARRANGED)

WEDNESDAY 20TH NOVEMBER

*

YEAR 12

SUBJECT CONSULTATION EVENING

SIXTH FORM EXTERNAL STUDENT MEETINGS

THURSDAY 21 NOVEMBER

*

FOBK QUIZ NIGHT

FRIDAY 22 NOVEMBER

*

YEAR 11 & YEAR 13 MOCK EXAMS

25TH NOVEMBER – 6TH DECEMBER

*

CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT

10TH DECEMBER

*

STUDENT CHRISTMAS DINNER

13TH DECEMBER

*

LAST DAY OF TERM

STUDENT HALF DAY

THURSDAY 19TH DECEMBER



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