



Becket Keys Church of England School

13th December 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

Mrs Sharp writes...



Psallam spiritu et mente

It was wonderful to welcome Bishop John Perumbalath and so many guests to our Christmas Carol Concert this Tuesday. This was an occasion not to be missed! Worship is at the heart of the Becket Keys community and this opportunity to celebrate the gift of music, as well as retell the Christmas story through Bible readings, is one of my favourite Advent traditions.

My own faith is grounded in Church music and, the role of music in liturgy, has always been important to me. Indeed, on occasions, I have found it easier

to express faith through music than words. Music can raise the soul, move the heart, and direct us towards God. The words from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians comes to mind:

Psallam spiritu et mente

I will sing with the spirit and with the understanding also
(1 Corinthians 14:15)

This is aptly the motto of the Royal Society of Church music. Music is more than just the notes! It is a means to an end. It is a servant of the liturgy; a word that means 'the work of the people'. Music helps us worship better through holiness, truth, beauty, love and surrender, adoration and praise. The rich variety of talents, enthusiasm and the dedication of all the students who took part or supported the Christmas Carol Concert was moving.

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BECKET KEYS
Church of England School

Christmas Lunch

It was great to see so many students have a Christmas lunch on Thursday!
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The Gift of Reading

We would love your support with this year's book appeal.
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Sixth Former for a Day

This event will be held on Friday 17th January, see more details about this exciting day.
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Thursday's Christmas dinner and charity non-uniform day (with many a Christmas jumper) also saw staff and students alike getting into the festive spirit. Again, we were lucky enough to have live music on this occasion too. There was a great sense of community, excitement and fun. Importantly, we were also able to raise money for Cancer Research UK and the New Hope Children's Centre, as a further act of giving to others this Christmas.

Next week, we look forward to our A-Level Awards Evening. This will be an exciting opportunity to welcome back our 2017-2019 cohort (and many founding students) for another celebration. Please also remember that you are warmly invited to join us at one of our Advent Eucharists. Year 8, 12 and 13 will be in school on this occasion and Year 7, 9, 10 and 11 will be at St Thomas of Canterbury Church. Services will be celebrated by Father Paul Hamilton and Father Mark North respectively. Both services will start at 11.15am. Please be reassured that seats will be reserved for parents on the right-hand side near the front in our main hall and at church. In addition, for your convenience, the Christmas services in our local churches are included in the document accompanying this newsletter.

The final day is Thursday the 19th December. As in previous years, the day will finish at 12.40pm after time in tutorials and collective worship. Prior to this,

we will continue with well-planned lessons and assessment feedback. Senior staff will then walk to the High Street with our students to make sure they catch buses and feel safe on their way home. We will also deliver our Christmas cards to shops and cafés that our students tend to frequent.

On behalf of all the staff at Becket Keys, I would like to wish you all a wonderful Christmas!

As we wait and prepare for the Nativity of Jesus, I would like to leave you with a prayer, inspired by liturgy, music and the strength of community:

*In this Advent of expectation
draw us together in unity,
that our praise and worship
might echo in these walls
and also through our lives.*

*In this Advent of expectation
draw us together in mission,
that the hope within
might be the song we sing,
and the melody of our lives.*

*In this Advent of expectation
draw us together in service,
that the path we follow
might lead us from a stable
to a glimpse of eternity.*

Amen

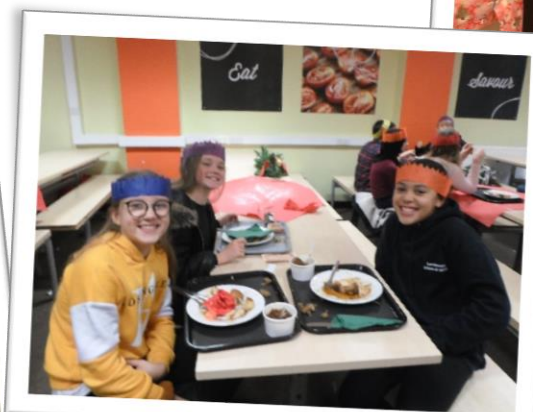
Best regards,

**Mrs Emma-Jane Sharp
Deputy Headteacher**



Christmas Lunch in the Becket Keys Bistro

A wonderful Christmas Lunch was prepared by our brilliant Catering Team yesterday! The tables in the Bistro had been decorated beautifully and teachers and the office staff were helping to serve. This delicious meal was enjoyed by over 600 students and staff. Father Christmas made his usual guest appearance!



Friends of Becket Keys



A huge thank you to everyone who came and supported the school at the recent quiz night. There was a great turn out at the event with 9 teams in attendance, including three staff tables.

This year's theme was "Over the Rainbow" with all questions based on colours. Parent Host, James Savage, ably guided the teams through some challenging questions. For example, who is the biggest oranges producer in the world? Answer: Brazil.

Congratulations to Table Two who were this year's winners. Well done to them! The evening proved to be a great success, raising over £520 for the School and proving to be a fun night out for everyone who attended. Thank you to Quiz Master James for all his preparation beforehand and during this popular event.

Christmas Trees

Last Sunday was a bright and early start for FoBK when our consignment of Christmas Trees was delivered to the School at 6.45 am! Once offloaded from the lorry the trees were sorted into various sizes before being

transferred into two vans and sent out on their delivery routes. The remainder were stacked by the school gates awaiting parents to collect in person during the morning. Huge thanks to Ryun Evans (R J Evans Flat Roofing Ltd) and team for providing the transport and delivering fresh cut trees right to our parents front door. The delivery service certainly proved to be very popular this year!

Thanks also to ex-student James Butler for overseeing the collection of trees by the school gate. We are very pleased that

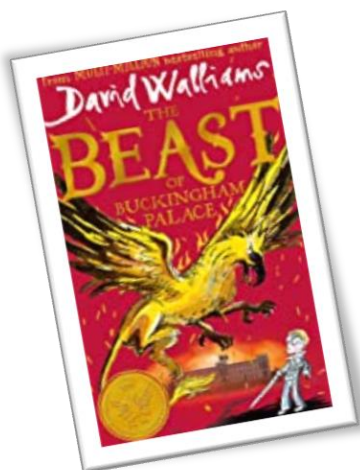
this fundraising initiative has raised over £500, which we hope will be further boosted by matched funding.



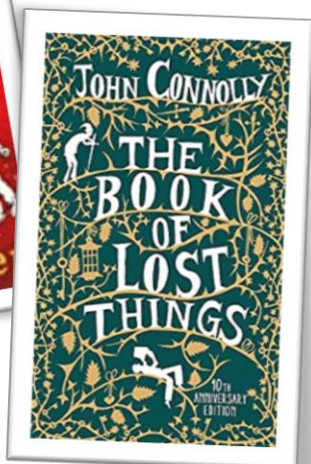
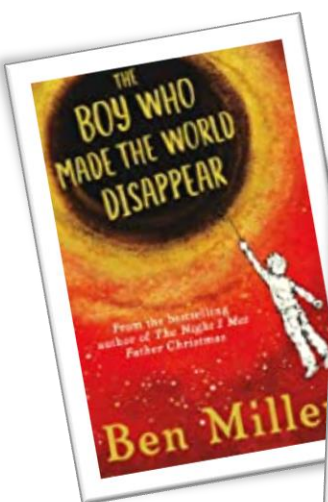
Alison Butler
Chair of FOBK



Give the Gift of Reading this Christmas



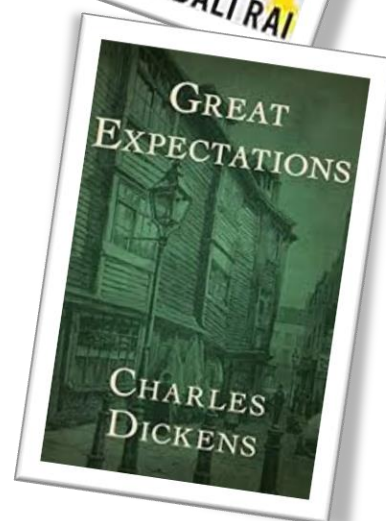
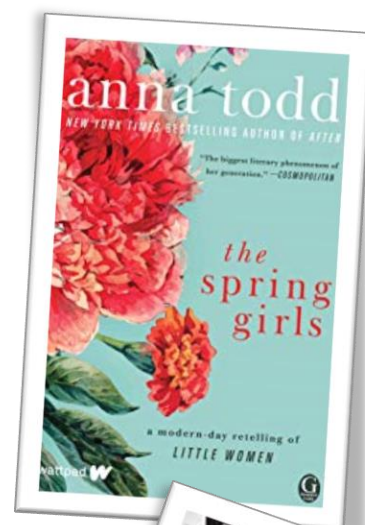
As Christmas Day draws nearer and excitement levels inevitably rise, it is worth taking time to pause and reflect on the true meaning of the season. In an increasingly commercialised and materialistic world, it is often easy to forget the notion of charity and altruism; giving to others in need is far more rewarding than receiving presents oneself, and giving the gift of reading can impact individuals and the community on so many levels.



We would like to appeal to parents, students and staff alike, to donate a book this Christmas. With three Christmas trees located around the school building, this is the perfect opportunity for people to wrap up a favourite or inspirational read, and allow others to enjoy the gift of reading. Whether your chosen read is a work of fiction or non-fiction, intended for enjoyment and escapism or to enhance subject knowledge and academia, all types of literary gifts are much welcomed. There is a separate Christmas tree in the Sixth Form area for people to donate more challenging and thought-provoking books – perhaps directly related to one of the many A-level courses being studied. It would be so rewarding and beneficial if we could continue to foster the love for reading in the Becket Keys community, and what better time to ignite the flame of literacy than during the Advent season? So, please, consider donating a book this Christmas; the gift of reading is one that we should all be able to enjoy.

Mr A. Fox
Head of English

Mrs Russell
Director of Literacy





**BILLERICAY
EDUCATIONAL
CONSORTIUM**

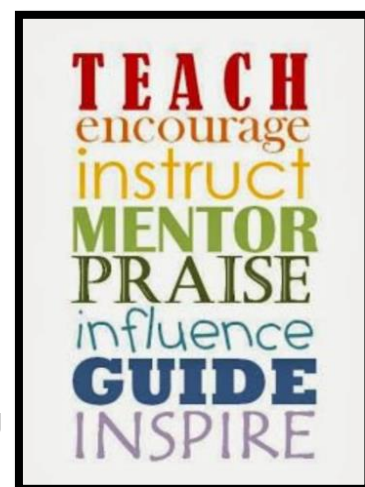
School Centred Initial Teacher Training

INTERESTED IN TEACHING?

The school is always interested to hear from those who wish to consider teaching as a career. Readers may well be aware of the current difficulties all schools face in recruiting high quality staff. Becket Keys Church of England School has an advantage given its reputation and being an outstanding church school, but we cannot be complacent. The school would welcome expressions of interest from qualified teachers, those looking to return to the profession or those wishing to enter the profession.

We offer School Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) as a route into teaching. We work closely with the Billericay Education Consortium who have connections to a large network of partnership schools in Essex and Havering. They provide bespoke training of the highest quality and over the last five years 100% of their trainees have passed the course with Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) and gained a Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) with 60 Master credits. The programme offers a real balance between hands on classroom experiences and the theory underpinning educational practice.

Please contact **Mrs. Sharp (Professional Mentor for Billericay Education Consortium at Becket Keys)** or go direct to <https://www.billericayscitt.com/> for further details.



TASTER EVENTS

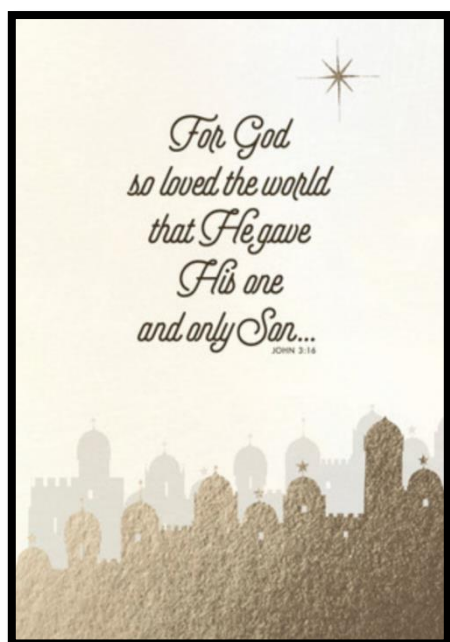
Mrs. Sharp will be organising taster events for Thursday 30th January 2020 and Thursday 14th May 2020 from 9.30 - 12.30am at Becket Keys. Attending one of these events will give you a chance to experience life in school and discover whether teaching may be the career for you. During your visit, you will observe lessons and meet with mentors and staff who work in partnership with the Billericay Educational Consortium. You will get the chance to have a chat with ex-trainees who have been employed by the school, and current trainees who are placed there for their training year. You will also have the opportunity to ask any questions you may have, either about the course or teaching in general.

If you are interested in attending either of these events, please complete the form found on line at <https://www.billericayscitt.com/information-events/> or, alternatively, contact becky@billericayscitt.com to reserve a place.

PAUSE

A week of joy
and love

*For God so loved the world that
he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him
shall not perish but have eternal
life.* John 3:16



The verse above tells us that Jesus came because God loves us so much that he does not want any of us to miss out on spending eternity (forever) with him. All we have to do is *believe* that Jesus is the Son of God who came to save us. God's love for us is one of the main themes the Apostle John wrote about in the Bible. He tells us in another verse that the greatest love anyone can have is to give their life for others (John 15:13). He also tells us we are to *love one another* because love comes from God (1 John 4:7).



Remember, Jesus is the greatest gift. John 3:16 has been described as the 'heart of the Bible' and 'the gospel in miniature'. It is clear that the simple, yet powerful, words of this verse, clearly express the true meaning of Christmas. Keep them in your heart. Be reminded, comforted and filled with joy, by the message of God's eternal love.

Reflect on these questions:

- Who are the people you love the most?
- What would you be willing to give up for those you love? (favourite possessions, choosing the evenings TV viewing, time for hobbies, money, career aspirations, etc.)
- How much do you think God had to love us in order to give his son for us?

Let us pray:

Father in heaven, thank you for the gift of your son Jesus who came because you love us so much and want to spend forever with us. Help

us to believe that Jesus came to save us and help us to show your love to one another. Help us to share the great joy of this good news.

Amen.

Remember to keep praying with us. Follow our Becket Keys Church of England School Advent Prayer calendar. Slow down. Reflect on God's eternal love and encourage others to share in God's gift. May this fill you with joy.

As this is the final Biblical Pause before Christmas, let us end with a blessing:

May the Spirit of Christmas bring your peace.

May the joy of Christmas bring you hope

and the message of Christmas reveal God's amazing love.

Amen.

Mrs. Sharp
Deputy Headteacher

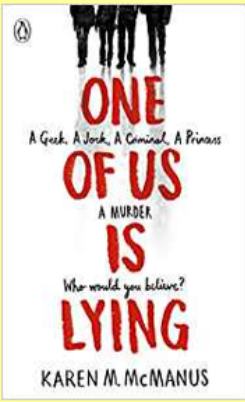
Year 11 Textiles

Some amazing work from our Year 11 students during their mock exam this Thursday and Friday. Mrs Cherry is extremely pleased with the creativity the students have shown.



Mrs Russell's

Book of the Month - December



WHAT'S THE STORY?

Five students go to detention. Only four leave alive. Yale hopeful **Bronwyn** has never publicly broken a rule. Sports star **Cooper** only knows what he's doing in the baseball diamond. Bad boy **Nate** is one misstep away from a life of crime. Prom queen **Addy** is holding together the cracks in her perfect life. And outsider **Simon**, creator of the notorious gossip app at Bayview High, won't ever talk about any of them again. He dies 24 hours before he could post their deepest secrets online. Investigators conclude it's no accident. All of them are suspects. Everyone has secrets, right? What really matters is how far you'll go to protect them.

Mrs Russell's

Word of the Week

Connotation

In sentences:

- 1) By using a word with a negative **connotation**, Jenny's graduation speech took an unpleasant tone.
- 2) To make her excuse sound better, Alexandra used a word with a positive **connotation**.
- 3) Using a word with a negative **connotation** causes your writing to sound opinionated.

Definition of connotation in English:

an idea or feeling which a word invokes for a person in addition to its literal or primary meaning.

Use the noun **connotation** as many times as possible throughout the week! This can be verbally, in your written work or even when messaging friends and family!



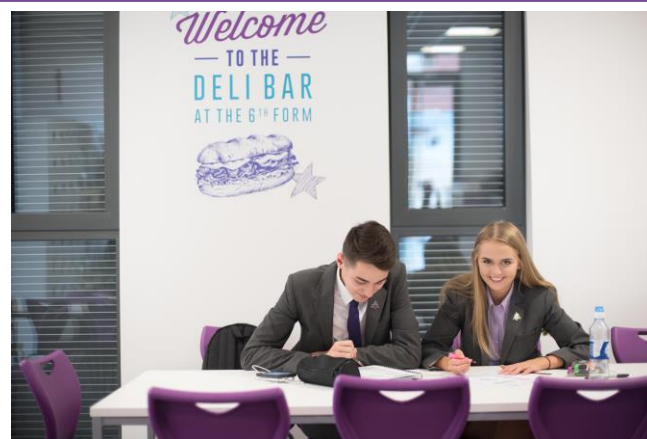
prayer group

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.



Sixth Former for a Day

This exciting day will be held on Friday 17th January 2020. 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.

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 parents on Monday 10th December. Please read it carefully and reply as requested in the letter.

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

School Uniform



A letter has been sent to parents today with reminders about uniform and the high standards we have at Becket Keys.

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 2020.

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 were part of your festive season, please

ensure such items are removed before you start the new term.

Bags & Coats

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 have returned to school in January with the correct footwear, 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 January sales are 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.



Smarty Pants Schoolwear

Unit 1
Chancerygate
33 Tallon Road
Brentwood
Essex CM13 1TE

Call Smarty Pants
01277 363275

Visit the website here:

<http://www.smartypantsschoolwear.com/>

Please make sure you check the Christmas opening times before you visit the shop.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARYKEY STAGE 5AWARDS & PRESENTATION EVENINGTUESDAY 17TH DECEMBER

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WHOLE SCHOOL EUCHARIST11.15AM WEDNESDAY 18TH DECEMBER

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LAST DAY OF TERMSTUDENT HALF DAY (12.40pm)THURSDAY 19TH DECEMBER

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CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYFRIDAY 20TH DECEMBER 2019 TO FRIDAY
3RD JANUARY 2020

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INSET DAYMONDAY 6TH JANUARY 2020

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BACK TO SCHOOLTUESDAY 7TH JANUARY 2020

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SIXTH FORMER FOR A DAYFRIDAY 17TH JANUARY 2020

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**Upcoming
Sports Fixtures****Monday 16th December**Year 7 Girls' Football v St Martin's
School (A)Year 8 Girls' Football v St Martin's
School (A)Year 9 Girls' Football v St Martin's (A)
Year 10 Basketball v Boswells (A)**Tuesday 17th December**

Year 8 Boys' Football v Sandon (H)

Year 9 Girls' Basketball v Great Baddow
High School (H)**Wednesday 18th December**Year 7 Girls' Basketball v St John Payne
Catholic School (A)**Becket Keys****Church of England School**Sawyers Hall Lane
Brentwood, Essex
CM15 9DA
01277 286600office@becketkeys.orgwww.becketkeys.org[@BecketKeys](https://twitter.com/BecketKeys)
[@MrScottEvans](https://twitter.com/MrScottEvans)[@BecketKeys6th](https://twitter.com/BecketKeys6th)