

Becket Keys Church of England School

13th November 2020

IN THIS ISSUE

Mr Scott-Evans writes...

The Paradox of Freedom

According to the British Legion website, Remembrance Day honours 'those who serve to defend our democratic freedoms and way of life.' As you know, from what I wrote last week, on 11th November at 11am our whole community stopped to remember.

The defence of freedom is indeed something to honour and to remember. We have prayed prayers of thanks all week for the incredible sacrifice of those brave men and women in the past who have died in the pursuit of freedom.

At Becket Keys, we teach our students that there is a paradox in freedom. Specifically: you cannot be truly free if all you are trying to

achieve is freedom from some sort of metaphorical restrictive box. Character has to be shaped first. Our aim is for the young people who leave our school to do so with a well-informed and well-developed sense of right and wrong.

I remember when Mr Gunn and I went to London to be interviewed by the Department for Education about the proposal for Becket Keys in August 2011. It was at the time of the London Riots. Do you remember them? There were protests about the shooting of Mark Duggan, thousands of people rioted in cities and towns across England. We saw looting, arson and the deaths of five people. It struck me at the time that the country was crying out for schools to teach character and we were ready to do exactly that. Our approach struck a chord with

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Diwali

We would like to wish 'Happy Diwali' to all those celebrating the 'Festival of Lights' this weekend.

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Another delicious recipe for you to try at home this weekend.

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Friends of Becket Keys

Great news from our PTA! You can order your Christmas Tree again this year!

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the Department and we were free to open the school. A free school!

Freedom can be dangerous as we saw in the riots, or it can be incredibly powerful for good, as we see in our school.

Successful use of freedom relies on the use of our reason, our sense, our self-discipline. Freedom relies on a clear understanding of societal norms and rights and wrongs. In our view, it depends on a good understanding of Christian values. These values need to be taught. Galatians 5 v 1 makes clear that, 'Christ has set us free.' However, again, I would assert that there is a paradox in freedom. Christ has not freed us from the 'yolk of slavery' for us to use that freedom to cause pain and suffering. Freedom needs to be yielded with respectful responsibility.

Some may see Christ's offer of freedom as restrictive, indeed many adolescents will spend a few years pushing against the rules crying out for more freedom! This is normal and to be expected. But students must be guided towards how to wield their freedom through the rigorous development of knowledge and understanding. Schools must form young people who know what freedom is, what price has been paid for it and how our community expects it to be used.

At Becket Keys, our shared knowledge of our curriculum

(History, Geography, English, Religion and Philosophy) binds us together to a shared cultural conversation of which we can all feel firmly and justly a part. More than that, our students leave here ready to engage in these debates outside of the school gates, ready to influence and persuade others.

For a great example of this, please take a look at our BK6 Talks. These 'Ted Talk' style presentations are given by 6th Formers on our dedicated page on the Sixth Form website: www.becketkeys6th.org/bk-talks.php. Here you will find students at the pinnacle of their learning ready to engage in the debates of the world around us. Lola Webb's 'Why we need to stop listening to anti-vaxxers' is a brilliant example of this. I urge you to watch:

https://youtu.be/aRIOBF2PLoo. Listen to how she begins by referring to what she has learned from school and then builds on that to discuss an important hot topic. Brilliant!

Our students' ability to draw on their knowledge from our curriculum in this way is a beautiful thing. I am very proud! Students are free to form sensible well considered personal opinions on what the world will throw at them. They are ready to lead. We are in safe hands.

Many schools are not getting this right. They are teaching a distorted view of 'freedom' which is that a good education means allowing students to break free from constraints and boundaries

imposed on them. We disagree. We believe that constraints and boundaries are what liberates us to be truly free. That is the paradox of freedom.

Enjoy the weekend.

Mr Scott Evans Headteacher



Student Contact Information

As we are sure you will all appreciate, it is vitally important that we hold accurate records, addresses and contact numbers. We need at least 2 contact names/numbers in case of an issue with your son/daughter at school. It is also vital that we hold necessary health information about all our students in the event of a medical emergency.

If you have changed any of your contact details (phone, email address or home address), please make sure you let us know immediately so we can update our systems.

Please email through any changes to office@becketkeys.org
Many thanks for your cooperation.

Krasi Daneva Year 7



I am writing this piece to spill my heart on the wars that have made many say goodbye too early.

As the silence arose on that day so did pain, even though they're gone the souls are still here. We all go on with our day, never really thinking about the pain that once consumed many. So, I say to you all go on with your day, but be thankful for those who paid the price for our tomorrow with their tomorrow. I can't begin to explain how overwhelmed with sadness I feel, even though I have never met them; I still ache in my heart to think that so many died for my freedom and identity today. I have a prayer that I said in the two-minute silence in which I said thanks....

Dear Father God,

We pray that no wars come near our world again, but, we thank those who fight almost every second of the day to allow us to live and also to those whose hearts had to say goodbye on the battlefield.

We salute them every one single one, may we remember this by staying in the same silence that was once there when it ended. Thank you, every soldier, in World War I and II for giving up your lives.

Amen



Virtual Music Concert

Some lovely feedback from a member of the wider school community about the recent online concert. You can still watch it here: https://youtu.be/pf5xFWoUzw8

Dear Becket Keys

Thank you so much for sending me this concert link. I loved the videos, it is always so great to hear the students perform –very powerful.

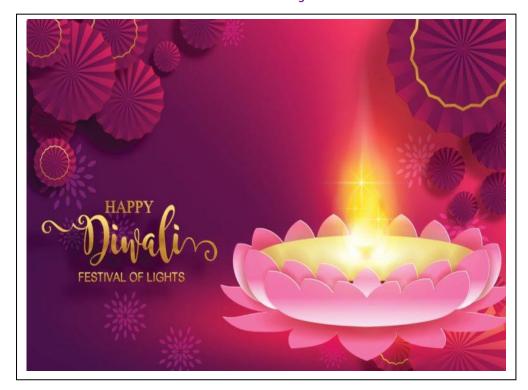
As a musician, I loved the diversity of styles and instruments in the All Saints' Concert. My particular favourites were the clarinet (my instrument too!), keyboard, Autumn Leaves on the sax, the guitar solo of Sultans of Swing by Dire Straits and of course the Year 10's version of Eye of the Tiger. Brilliant!!

Please pass on my congratulations to Mr Romhany and the students for their musicality and great confidence.

Heather Tetchner

School Adviser – School Improvement

Diocese of Chelmsford



Diwali

Diwali is a five-day festival of lights, it celebrates a number of themes, including joy, forgiveness, knowledge, the goddess of wealth, Lakshmi, and the legend of Rama and Sita. Put simply, the festival represents the triumph of good over evil.

Hindus, Sikhs and Jains both in India and across the world usually take part by decorating houses and public spaces with thousands of lights, candles and colourful designs. As well as the bright colours and glittering lights, there's music, dancing, delicious food and a warm community feeling.

This year however, with the advent of Covid-19, Diwali celebrations will look somewhat different. Though some parts of the festival will still be possible – the ritual of cleaning and

decorating your home, dressing up and creating light displays – the more social aspects will of course be impacted by distancing rules.

The festival always falls during October or November – depending on the new moon – on the 15th day of the Hindu month of Kartik.

While the full festival runs for five days, the third day is usually the main event – though each day has its own unique significance.

Day One: "Dhanteras".

The first day is dedicated to celebrating prosperity and the arrival of the goddess Lakshmi, who is believed to have emerged from the ocean on this day.
"Dhan" means wealth and "teras" refers to the 13th day of a lunar fortnight on the Hindu calendar.

Day Two:

Naraka Chaturdasi or Chhoti Diwali (small Diwali).

The demon Narakasura was destroyed by Lord Krishna and Kali on this day. This day is celebrated with early morning rituals or *puja*.

Day Three: Amavasya (new moon day) or Lakshmi Puja.

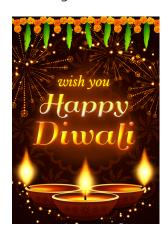
The darkest day of the month is also the most significant, being dedicated to the celebration of Lakshmi, the Hindu goddess of wealth, fortune, prosperity and beauty.

Day Four: Govardhan Puja.

Frequently celebrated as the day when Lord Krishna defeated Indra, the god of thunder and rain, and also the start of a new year.

Day Five: Bhai Dooj. A day for celebrating the bond between siblings, with sisters praying for long and happy lives for their brothers and sharing food and gifts.

We would like to wish a very Happy Diwali to all the families in the school community who will be celebrating this weekend.



Year 11 Mock Exams



Attention! Year 11

With the mock exams beginning on Friday 20th November it is important for all Year 11 students to be organised, and to know what examinations are happening when. You have been sent your exam timetable. Teachers have been talking to students about what the assessments will be about, what form they will take and how students can revise for them. I suggest that students make a list of what each exam will be in each subject. They should have a revision timetable to make the revision manageable, they have been working on this during Tutor time.

'I don't know how to revise' is a phrase that teachers (and parents) hear often. Revision is different for every subject, but here are seven revision strategies that have been proven to work: Start early. Revise as soon as you know you have an assessment coming up. Decide what revision you are doing on which night. Revise what you find hard, not what you can already do!

Little and often. If you start early, it means that you can do a small amount of revision each day, rather than cramming it all in at the end. This is much more effective in allowing your brain to take in and retain information over time.

Rote learning. Cover, say, check, remember. Repeat, repeat, repeat. Test and quiz until it has gone in! Revisit one week later.

Flash cards. Condense a topic onto one side of A4, then onto smaller flash cards. Two or three phrases on small flashcards

should enable students to remember whole topics.
Students can do the same with mind maps and add illustrations to help them to remember.

Practise doing Mathematics calculation and problems. Use MathsWatch. All students have their own logins.

Understand the command words that might appear in assessment questions. Some examples include: comment, describe, compare, contrast, identify, summarise, suggest, analyse and evaluate.

Check Satchel One. Teachers will be setting revision homework on the school homework website.

Remember, exams are important because they help teachers to know what students do and do not know and therefore teachers can help students make better progress in the future. Students will not always do brilliantly in every exam that they do. As long as they learn from the experience and work out how to do better in the next series of assessments, that is the most important thing.

Keep Learning!

Mrs Trebess Deputy Headteacher

Exams

Please make sure students have all the equipment they will need as we will not be able to lend out equipment due to Covid-19. Equipment required is:

Clear pencil case – no tins Black pens – biros are best (bring spares in case one runs out)

Coloured writing pens (preferably blue) if a student has extra time in exams

Pencils

Highlighters

Ruler

Eraser

Sharpener

Compasses

Protractor

Calculator

Coloured pencils – for use in Food and Design Technology Water bottle – clear bottle only, no labels

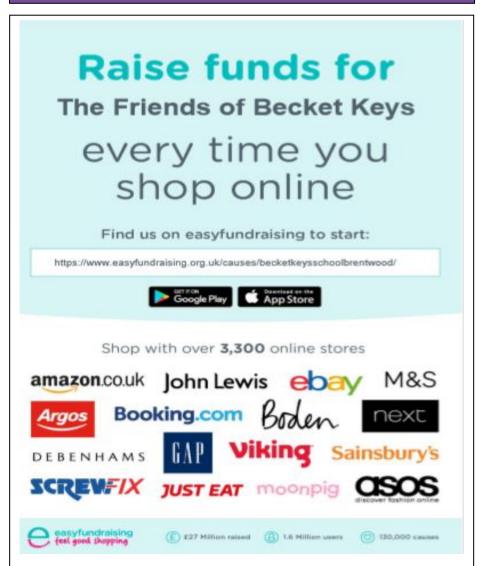
Students must NOT be bringing the following into an exam room:

Mobile phones
Smartwatches
Notes or books
Gel pens or erasable pens
Tippex
Glue sticks

Please make sure students arrive on time for their exams and with the correct equipment. Morning exams will begin at 8.30am and afternoon exams at 1.30pm.

Any delay to an exam starting will result in everyone being delayed in getting back to lessons and therefore missing further valuable teaching time.

Friends of Becket Keys



Sign up to our School Cause on *EasyFundraising* and raise <u>free</u> donations at over 4,000 shops when you shop online. It's really simple and takes less than 5 minutes to register. Once registered, raising free donations is easy!

Either go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk and search for your favourite retailers, click "Go Shopping" and make your purchase as normal. Alternatively download the Donation Reminder for your computer which will highlight when a free donation is available on over 4,000 sites that you may visit outside of the EasyFundraising Portal. Either way, your everyday purchases will help FoBK raise funds to support the School. We currently have 93 supporters and have raised over £2,300 in free donations!

You can register here:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/becketkeysschoolbrentwood/

Coronavirus Update

As you are aware we are in a national lockdown, which commenced on Thursday 5th November. Schools are remaining open during this time. Please remember that it is important that your son/daughter keeps attending school. Every year group is at an important time in their journey at Becket Keys. Even putting education aside, for the students attending, school provides the social interaction and physical activity that young people need. Socialising with friends and teachers, taking part in PE lessons and walking/cycling to and from school benefit our students in many ways.

Becket Keys Church of England School remains open and COVID secure. However we do need your help to remain so.

Testing and isolation

Please remember to follow government guidance when it comes to testing and isolation, this information can be found in with the newsletter. Here is a quick summary of the key points:

If someone in your household has a confirmed case of COVID-19, <u>all</u> <u>members of that household</u> <u>must isolate for 14 days.</u>

If your son/daughter has symptoms of COVID-19 then they must get a test and isolate until the results come in. If someone in your household has symptoms of COVID-19 then they must get a test and everyone isolates until results come in.

<u>Students travelling to and from</u> school

Now that we are in a national lockdown, we would ask all students to avoid going to shops on the way to/from school unless absolutely necessary. We want our students to respect the need for social distancing and having fewer students in shops and supermarkets will allow this to happen. Sixth Form students will not be allowed to leave site at lunch time and should plan their arrangements accordingly.

Attendance guidance has been sent to all families previously. If you have any concerns, please contact your son/daughter's Form Tutor or Head of Year.

Mr Shields Assistant Headteacher





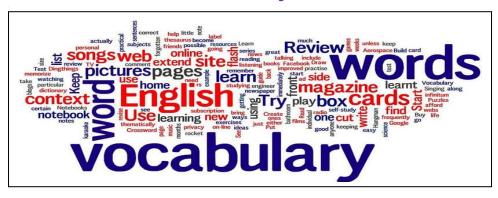
Face coverings are now absolutely compulsory for students in the following areas:

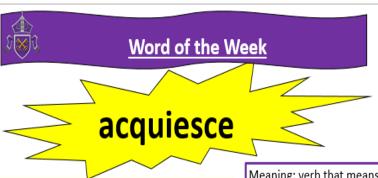
- Stairwells
- Corridors
- Circulation Spaces
- Communal toilets

Please provide your son/daughter with a face covering (where possible in school colours: black, purple, gold, grey or white). A few spares in the school bag are also needed

If we all do our bit between lessons as well as following all our other guidance, we can slow the spread of this virus and therefore keep our school open!





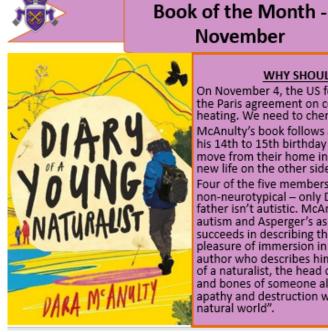


In sentences:

- 1. Reluctantly, he acquiesced to our plans.
- 2. I would rather acquiesce to her demands than listen to her constantly moaning.
- 3. Despite the fact he is losing, Donald will never acquiesce.

Meaning: verb that means to accept or agree to something, often unwillingly

Etymology: from the Latin *quiëscere*, meaning "to be quiet"



WHY SHOULD I READ IT?

On November 4, the US formally withdraws from the Paris agreement on constraining global heating. We need to cherish the world we have. McAnulty's book follows a year in his life – from his 14th to 15th birthday – as he and his family move from their home in County Fermanagh to a new life on the other side of Northern Ireland. Four of the five members of McAnulty's family are non-neurotypical – only Dara's conservationist father isn't autistic. McAnulty was diagnosed with autism and Asperger's as a child. This book succeeds in describing the deep and complex pleasure of immersion in nature, written by an author who describes himself as having "the heart of a naturalist, the head of a would-be scientist, and bones of someone already wearied by the apathy and destruction wielded against the natural world".



Remember that Homework Club is up and running! Every afternoon after school students can stay until 4.3 opm to complete their homework in C11.

Year groups will be 'bubbled' in different areas and if there are a lot of students who wish to make use of this opportunity, we will open other rooms.

Using Homework Club is just one way we provide for students who do not want to leave site at 3.10pm. Avoid the traffic! Stay here for a while!



Food Department

Hello everyone, I needed some inspiration for this weeks 'recipe of the week', so I asked my form students for a little help. As you can imagine there were quite a few requests, but the one that jumped out for me was a lemon drizzle cake suggested by Frazer Barnes.

So here you go, a recipe I have used many times from the BBC Good Food website for the most delicious lemon drizzle cake. I hope you enjoy making it ©

Mrs English - Food Teacher

Recipe of the Week Lemon Drizzle Cake

Ingredients

225g unsalted butter, softened225g caster sugar4 eggs225g self-raising flour1 lemon, zested

For the drizzle topping

1½ lemons, juiced 85g caster sugar

<u>Method</u>

STEP 1

Heat the oven to 18oC/16oC fan/gas 4.



STEP 2

Beat together the butter and caster sugar until pale and creamy, then add the eggs, one at a time, slowly mixing through.

STEP 3

Sift in the self-raising flour, then add the lemon zest and mix until well combined.

STEP 4

Line a loaf tin (8 x 21cm) with greaseproof paper, then spoon in the mixture and level the top with a spoon.

STEP 5

Bake for 45-50 mins until a thin <u>skewer</u> inserted into the

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centre of the cake comes out clean.

STEP 6

While the cake is cooling in its tin, mix together the lemon juice and caster sugar to make the drizzle.

STEP 7

Prick the warm cake all over with a skewer or fork, then pour over the drizzle – the juice will sink in and the sugar will form a lovely, crisp topping.

STEP 8

Leave in the tin until completely cool, then remove and serve. Will keep in an <u>airtight container</u> for 3-4 days, or freeze for up to 1 month.

Friends of Becket Keys



Christmas is coming very quickly, and we are delighted to be offering Christmas Trees again as part of FoBK fundraising initiatives for this year. All Trees are sustainably grown, top quality Nordman Fir variety.

We are selling various sizes with collection from School or via our local delivery service. All profits go to the School. Last order date is 27th November. You can purchase your tree here:

Pta-events/fobk

We have several sizes available but please note that overall size may vary and these are meant as a guide. If you require anything larger than 8 ft then please contact us at fobk@becketkeys.org.

You will need to pre-order your tree with collection from the school carpark on Saturday 5th December, delivery will also be on this day (times tbc).

Becket Keys School Nurse



Our School Nurse is currently unable to meet with students on site but please do contact Mrs. Cavalier if you feel your child would benefit from this support.

In addition to this, all students have been made aware of the nursing team CHAT Healthline. This is manned by a School Nurse between the hours of 9-5pm Monday to Friday, and they will respond to all messages within 24 hours Monday - Friday.

The aim is to provide timely, and convenient access to confidential health advice for every young person in Essex.

Students can phone or text:

07520 615732

Please note, self-referrals are accepted if the student is aged 13 and over. If the student is under this age, the school nursing team will seek parental consent.



It has been another great week in Art.

Well done for all the brilliant work Year 12, you are making

fantastic progress!

Star Artist for Art Jamie Short Yr 12

Jamie has produced some wonderful pieces of coursework for A Level Fine Art. Exploring portraiture. We are looking forward to seeing Jamie's future pieces.

Niamh Wiggins



Rachel Allen







Becket Keys School C/O K Ahlner Sawyers Hall Lane Brentwood Essex CM15 9DA

02/11/2020

Dear Becket Keys School,

Thank you for supporting New Hope Children's Centre!

Thank you so much for your gift for £800.00 has been gratefully received and has been allocated to the New Hope to assist with teacher costs for Oakridge School.

During the lockdown in Kenya Oakridge have been able to continue to provide learning for the children on an informal basis. All other government schools have been closed and are only just starting to reopen.

Your efforts for New Hope are greatly appreciated.

Thank you for wanting to make a difference in these children's lives.

Yours gratefully,

BEDI

Sue Smith Development Manager Hand in Hand



Transforming lives of children born in poverty

Hand in Hand Registered charity number 1069976

Becket Keys Sixth Form Virtual Open Event

We really enjoyed meeting parents and students on-line for the Sixth Form Question & Answer sessions. Thank you to everyone who participated and for all the questions. We hope you found them helpful. Remember to go to: https://www.becketkeys6th.org/open-events.php to view the Virtual Open Evening.



Uniform

All students are required to wear smart 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

Boys should not have any extreme hairstyles and hair must not be dyed, no shapes cut into the hair e.g. stripes or undercuts and long hair is not permitted in Year 7-11.

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.

Bags should also be plain black.



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

P AWS E

The Virtue of Peace

Winston Churchill had been Prime Minister for five weeks when, in his speech on 18th June 1940, he said:

"The Battle of Britain is about to begin. Upon this battle depends the survival of Christian civilisation," he warned. "Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duty and so bear ourselves that, if the British Empire and its Commonwealth last for a thousand years, men will still say: 'This was their finest hour'."

Sadly, his words can still ring true. There are still acts of terrorism in our world. Remembrance services are just as significant and indeed of increasing significance in our society and this year we have additionally seen the anniversaries of VE day and VJ day.

In Micah Chapter 4 verses 1 to 4, we read:

"In days to come the mountain where the temple stands will be the highest one of all, towering above all the hills. Many nations will come streaming to it and



their people will say, 'Let us go up the Hill to the Lord, to the temple of Israel's God. For he will teach us what he wants us to do; we will walk in the paths he has chosen. For the Lord's teaching comes from Jerusalem; from Zion he speaks to his people.'

He will settle disputes among the nations, among the great powers near and far. They will hammer their swords into ploughs and their spears into pruning knives. Nations will never again go to war, never prepare for battle again. Everyone will live in peace among his own vineyards and fig trees, and no one will make him afraid. The Lord Almighty has promised this."

This reading speaks of the hope and assurance for Christians that God is with us and for us on our journey to our future, whatever we may encounter on the way. The prophet Micah speaks of a brighter and peaceful future where nation will not take up sword against nation, nor train for war anymore. We may not know what the future holds for us, but we do know who holds the future for us.

Leviticus 26 verse 6 reads:

"I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none will make you afraid."

Whatever our view about what is going on in our world, we can express our common humanity in our hearts by praying and pausing to think of the value and worth of every life lost and the heart ache of those left behind. Our thoughts are also drawn to those currently serving in the forces on active service in fields of conflict.



We can pray for those who mourn, those who fear for loved ones serving in the armed forces and for those who have returned from conflict affected in mind, body or spirit.

This famous poem always moves me when I read it:

The Soldier by Rupert Brook

If I should die, think only this of me:

That there's some corner of a foreign field

That is forever England. There shall be

In that rich earth a richer dust concealed;

A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware, Gave, once, her flowers to love, her

ways to roam,

A hody of England's breathing

A body of England's, breathing English air,

Washed by the rivers, blest by suns of home.

And think, this heart, all evil shed away,

A pulse in the eternal mind, no less Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England given; Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day; And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness, In hearts at peace, under an English heaven.

Benedict de Spinoza (a Dutch philosopher) reminds us:

"Peace does not necessarily mean the absence of war; it is a virtue, a way of thinking, an attitude of mercy, trust and righteousness."

We want to live our lives without worry and fear. We can only achieve this by walking along the ways of the Lord: the way of light and truth, of prayer and humility, of faithful Scripture study where we seek God's revealed will for

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our lives. Through prayer the Holy Spirit opens up our hearts for the love of God in Jesus Christ. Where His love dwells, there His peace will reign. Peace cannot come to our country or the world unless it first comes into the hearts of people. Love must become visible in you and me, manifesting itself in our words, deeds and chosen lifestyle. The peace in our hearts also creates peace in the area that surrounds us. From there it will stretch wider and wider, until peace reigns in our country and God's world.

We are all, therefore, personally responsible for peace. Unless we surrender our lives to the love of God, peace will remain an empty dream.

Let us pray:

Lord God increase and strengthen the desire for peace in every human heart, so that the temptation to violence, injustice and revenge may be overcome, and people will live no longer in fear, but in freedom. Amen.

> Mrs. Sharp Deputy Headteacher



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

YEAR 12 CONSULTATION EVENING

THURSDAY 19TH NOVEMBER 2020
(BOOKINGS ARE NOW OPEN)

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YEAR 11 MOCK EXAMS

FRIDAY 20TH NOVEMBER –
FRIDAY 27TH NOVEMBER

*

STUDENT HALF DAY

FRIDAY 18TH DECEMBER

*

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

MONDAY 21ST DECEMBER 2020 –
FRIDAY 1ST JANUARY 2021

*

INSET DAY

(NO STUDENTS IN SCHOOL)

MONDAY 4TH JANUARY 2021

*

LENT HOLIDAY

MONDAY 15TH – FRIDAY 19TH FEBRUARY

*

INSET DAY

(NO STUDENTS IN SCHOOL)

MONDAY 22ND FEBRUARY 2021

Becket Keys Church of England School

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