

## Becket Keys Church of England School

11th December 2020

#### THE ADVENT SEASON CONTINUES

IN THIS ISSUE

#### Mrs Trebess writes...



We are coming towards the end of the strangest term I have ever experienced in my teaching career. Aside from the uncertainty, anxiety and sadness of the times we find ourselves in however, perhaps rather surprisingly I find that there is much to be thankful for and to celebrate.

I will start with our wonderful students. They have faced everything this term has thrown at them with pragmatism, resolve and calm acceptance. There have

been occasions, as I know you are aware, when we have had to send students home to self-isolate. This is a job I have grown to hate! As a teacher, it is the most unnatural thing in the world to send students away from school when school is still open. You might expect that teenagers would be pleased to be sent home from school, but it is clear that our students love being in school and want to learn. Often these times have been very emotional, for students and teachers alike. Despite this, students have always taken the news with a quiet dignity and understanding way beyond their years. They have then gone home to log onto 'Teams' and continue their lessons from home with good humour and willing. Those students still in school have been supportive and patient

...... Contd. on Page 2



Preparing for Sixth Form
One of our current students has some advice for those who are hoping to attend the Sixth Form at Becket Keys.

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The Gift of Reading
We would welcome book donations
for our library, particularly 19<sup>th</sup>
Century fiction.

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This week we have a delicious
Christmas recipe for you to try at
home.

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Biblical Pause
True Love and Charity.

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(particularly with teachers for whom teaching remotely doesn't always come naturally!). I have been unspeakably proud of the way our students have conducted themselves throughout this whole epidemic.

It is true that people come together in tough times and none more so than the staff at Becket Keys. I have been bowled over by the efforts gone to by everyone in school, from the office staff, to teachers and the site team. There have been a lot (and I mean a lot!) of requests from Senior Leaders for staff to step up, and this call has always been answered with willingness, determination and zeal. Everyone really has gone the extra mile to make life in school as normal and as productive as possible.

I would also like to thank parents for their constant show of support through emails and messages. Mr Scott-Evans shares these messages with staff regularly and knowing that you appreciate our efforts really does mean the world.

So, through a very difficult time, I am not finding it hard to find the rainbow at the end of the storm. The Becket Keys family is one to be proud of, and I will raise a glass on Christmas day to you all!

Mrs Trebess Deputy Headteacher



Face coverings are **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!



## ADDITIONAL INSET DAY FRIDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2020.

There will be no students in school on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December. The last day of term is Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December and students will finish at 3.00pm or 3.10pm as usual. Check the back page of the newsletter each week for important dates.

## **Preparing for Sixth Form**

Once Year 11 have completed their GCSE exams in 2021, it can be assumed that the majority of students will wish to further their studies at Sixth Form, whether this is at Becket Keys or somewhere new. As a current sixth former myself, I feel as though I am in a good position to advise the current Year 11s on how they should approach their first year at Sixth Form.

Firstly, I encourage students to get involved in helping around the school in their free time outside of lessons and their study periods. Make use of Year 12 to build up a list of achievements and skills that could later be included in your personal statement or references if you wish to apply to university. This could include becoming a school prefect and volunteering around or outside of school. Contributing towards something other than your own studies at the start of Year 12 will allow you to focus more on studying for UCAS exams and other mocks later.

Secondly, ensure that you are organised with your notes from the outset of Year 12. Even though students will go from studying around 10 subjects to only 3 or 4, A levels are far more in depth than GCSEs. It will be helpful to be organised with large folders to keep at home and to add completed notes to and bring into school smaller folders for individual topics currently being learnt.

Furthermore, when picking which A levels you wish to study, take a further look into what you will be studying over each of your twoyear courses. Students should consider if their options include coursework as well as exams as part of their A level qualification. Decide whether you feel as though coursework is something you will be able to commit to in order to have it completed by the deadline. I would also suggest that when choosing your A levels, try to pick subjects that require similar skill sets. For example, I study History, Media and English Literature which are all

predominantly essay based subjects.

My final piece of advice for current Year 11 students is to not just base your option decisions on the subjects that you are best at, but also base it on what subjects you enjoy the most, as you will be studying it for the next two years and perhaps even at university in the future. Moreover, consider if you would like to study an A level that is not available at GCSE such as Sociology or Psychology as you may find it refreshing to learn about a completely new topic.

Rian Kennedy Year 13

## A-Level Subject Fair

## Wednesday 16th December 2020

To further support Year 11 with their Sixth Form application, we will be holding a Subject Fair on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

We will be ending the school day for all students, except Year 11, at 2.10pm. This is to allow us the time to run the A-Level subject fair for our Year 11 students. Your son/daughter will be given the opportunity to have a conversation with our A-Level teachers for all A-Level subjects we are offering.

Parents will unfortunately not be able to attend, but we feel this will be a great opportunity for all Year 11 students to have meaningful discussions about his/her A-Level choices. Your son/daughter will have their mock results by this date which will also help aid the discussion. If you have any queries, then please email <a href="mailto:sixthform@becketkeys.org">sixthform@becketkeys.org</a>

There will also be a session for students who may be considering colleges run by Mrs Ellis.

### Friends of Becket Keys



Christmas had officially arrived at Becket Keys last Saturday, thanks to a huge delivery of Christmas trees to the school. It was a bright and early start for the team, although the tree lorry arrived 30 minutes early and the school gates were firmly shut! Fortunately, we had some burly volunteers to unload 86 Nordman Fir trees into the road, sort into sizes and load up a truck and two vans, before passing the remaining trees over the fence into the school carpark.

FoBK were offering an easy and hassle-free Christmas tree delivery service straight to people's front doors, and many parents had opted for this service. Huge thanks to Ryun and Debbie Evans and their Team from R J Evans Flat Roofing, who spent much of the day making deliveries across the Brentwood and Billericay Area.

The remainder of trees were collected from the school carpark. It was lovely to chat to parents and it was apparent that, whilst this year has been challenging, our families at Becket Keys were not letting it dampen their spirits

now that they were in possession of a fantastic real tree to make their family's Christmas extra special. We have received some lovely feedback and photos.

Thanks to everyone who helped on the day,(too many to list here but you know who you are), but a special mention to Mark Johnson, who also helped with the sales.

The response to this initiative has been overwhelmingly positive, with more than double the number of trees sold compared to last year. We are very grateful to those parents that purchased their tree from the FoBK shop. It speaks volumes that, even during a pandemic, people still want to support the school. Huge thanks also to those parents who have contacted us regarding matched funding, which if successful will really boost the funds raised from this initiative. Watch this space for details of the final amount received and what we will be purchasing for the school early in the New Year.

On behalf of FoBK, we would like to wish all staff, parents and students all the best this holiday season.

> Alison Butler FoBK Chair





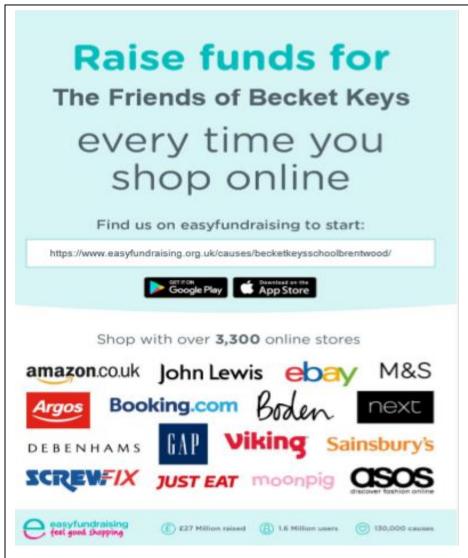










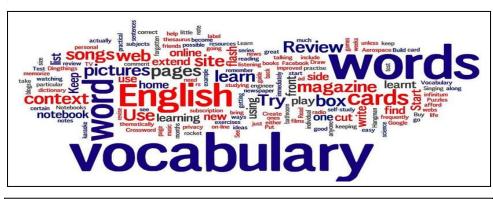


Sign up to our school cause on *EasyFundraising* and raise <u>free</u> donations at over 4,000 shops when you shop online. It's really simple and takes less than 5 minutes to register. Once registered, raising free donations is easy!

Either go to <a href="www.easyfundraising.org.uk">www.easyfundraising.org.uk</a> 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/

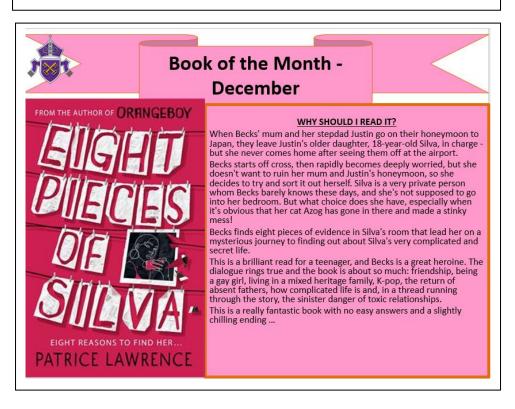




#### In sentences:

- 1. She accepted the offer with alacrity.
- Having studied really hard, Charlotte approached her exam with alacrity.
- 3. The school acted with alacrity when it was notified of a positive test result.

Meaning: noun meaning speed or eagerness.
Etymology: originally from the Latin for 'brisk'





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 are '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!



## 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. This is the perfect opportunity for people to donate a favourite or inspirational read, whether new or pre-loved 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. This year we would particularly appreciate any 19th Century Fiction.

We would also welcome books for the Sixth Form. People can 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



### **Food Glorious Food!**

In the Food Department last week, we taught our students all about international cuisine and about how much of the food we eat in England today is multicultural.

This week the students had to imagine they were a product designer for a large supermarket. They had to design and develop a new dish for the supermarket shelf, making sure their dish covered the 'Eat Well' guide while also being creative. I was amazed and inspired by what they have come up with and will be trying out a few of their design ideas at home. Dishes included curried pizzas, Indian inspired scotch eggs and pasties with a variety of fillings. They really did excel!

As we are working our way towards the Christmas holiday, I would like to share a recipe with you that I will be making when we break up. I have delivered this lesson to students in school before and they loved it!

These biscuits are very versatile and can be eaten (of course), but they can also be given as gifts, or even used as decorations and hung on the Christmas tree. I hope you enjoy the recipe and enjoy some more pictures of the hard work the students have been undertaking at home.

Mrs English Food Teacher



Tiyannha Hayes - Year 7 Chicken & Vegetable Stir Fry



Edward McNutty - Year 7
Salmon Tortillas with
Guacamole and Cheese



Montgomery Selwood-Fry Year 7 Winter Vegetable Soup



Adam Walsh - Year 7 Pasta dish



Yasmine Bourote - Year 7 Chicken with Pasta & Salad



Taliyah Egede - Year 7 Stir fried Vegetable Noodles





Joshua Head - Year 7 Stir Fried Chicken & Prawn Noodles



Lewis Shewring Crispy Chicken, Pasta & Vegetables



Elizabeth Emery - Year 8 Pasta with Tomato Sauce



Nikolay Kostadinov - Year 7 Wild Alaska Salmon with Broccoli, Baby Corn, Sugar Snap Peas, Asparagus & Samphire



Brooke Calver - Year 8 Roast Dinner for all the Family



Ava Sands - Year 8
Paella with Chicken, Peppers,
Seafood & Chorizo



Grace Read - Year 7 Tuna Pasta & Sweetcorn



Harrison Cox Year 8
Salmon with Rice & Peas Served
with Garlic Bread



Keira Sutton Year 8 Roast Dinner





Gingerbread stained-glass biscuits

#### **Ingredients**

- 175g dark soft brown sugar
- 85q golden syrup
- 100g unsalted butter
- 2-3 tsp ground ginger
- 350g plain flour, plus extra to dust
- 1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten
- clear fruit-flavoured boiled sweets (do not use anything with a soft centre)
- white icing, to decorate

#### **Method**

#### STEP 1

Heat the sugar, golden syrup and butter in a pan until melted. Mix the ginger and flour in a large bowl and make a well in the centre. Add the bicarbonate of soda to the melted mixture and stir – it will fizz a little – then pour into the flour mixture with the egg. Stir to combine. The mix will be soft but will firm up as it cools.

#### STEP 2

Scoop the mixture into a box or fridge bag and chill for at least 1 hour until firm enough to roll out. The dough can be kept in the fridge for up to a week or frozen for three months.

#### STEP<sub>3</sub>

Heat oven to 190C/170C fan/gas 5. Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured surface and cut in half. Briefly knead the first piece, then roll it on a lightly floured surface to 2mm thick. Cut into shapes with snowflake or star cutters about 12cm across, then transfer to lined baking sheets, leaving a little room for them to spread. Cut a window out of each

biscuit using another cutter about 6cm across, then add a sweet to the centre.

#### STEP 4

If the sweets are large, chop them up first – you will have to judge by the size of the hole. (Do not be tempted to add too much or it will spill over the edge.) If you plan to hang the biscuits, make a small hole in the top of each one using the end of a piping nozzle (the hole will close a little so make sure it's big enough). Repeat with remaining dough.

#### STEP<sub>5</sub>

Bake in batches for 5-6 mins or until they darken slightly, and the sweets have melted. If the holes have closed up, remake them while the biscuits are warm. Leave to cool and harden up completely before moving them. Do not forget to bake the parts you have cut out, too! You can decorate the biscuits further by using white piped icing, if you like.













# True love and Charity

Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And with true love and charity
Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
All other doth deface:
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy!

Carols are at the heart of worship. Music is a great means of expression; it can build excitement and joy as well as soothe and provide a place for peace and quiet reflections. It has been a difficult year and we are all weary. The comfort and joy of Advent and Christmas is welcomed. God does not stand far away, watching from a distance. God comes to us (simply and humbly), walks with us and stays with us, regardless of the complexities and challenges of this world.

In Luke 2:1-7, we read:

In those days, a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called
Bethlehem, because he was
descended from the house and
family of David. He went to be
registered with Mary, to whom he
was engaged and who was
expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In the context of the current Pandemic, Archbishop Justin Welby wrote:

Christmas is good news. A light amidst the difficulties of this year has been the way people have cared for each other with generosity and courage. Cynicism about community has often been overwhelmed by love for neighbour.

It has been stressful and anxious, but we have not shut ourselves off from each other. There have been countless wonderful acts of kindness and care, often sacrificial ones.

We have seen these acts of goodness in health and in care, we have seen them in the community and in our neighbourhoods. Most often they have come not from power or position but from love and vulnerability.

That is exactly the sort of love that we celebrate at Christmas. Love that gets its hands dirty. Love that is open and generous. Love that, without great ceremony, makes a difference.

May we find that love, God's love in Jesus Christ, this Christmas. May we share that love, God's love in us, this Christmas. And as we receive, and as we give, may we know the comfort and the joy that is God's gift to us.

The Archbishop also challenges us to reflect on the following questions:

- Is there a gift, not one bought from a shop or prettily wrapped, that you might need to give another person today?
- How might such a gift bring comfort and joy to someone this Christmas?



May we find comfort and joy in the carols of Christmas as well as play our part in sharing the true message of Christmas. In the words of 'God rest ye merry, gentleman', may we express 'true love and charity'. The rainbow of hope expressed by communities during lockdown becomes the Christmas star. We can all be lights, bearers of Good News, which illuminate the darkness. We can be a part of God's comfort and joy.

Remember, wherever you are, however you can celebrate, the Christ Child's promise of comfort and joy is for you. Watch the Church of England Christmas video promoting <a href="https://www.achurchnearyou.co">https://www.achurchnearyou.co</a>
m.

It is perhaps aimed at younger children, but the simple and clear message is for us all.

http://www.viewpure.com/zTtYrC gBnhq?start=o&end=o Let us pray:

May we know your presence with us today and bring your gentle, joyful love to others, this Christmas and always.

Amen.

Mrs Sharp Deputy Headteacher





Countdown to Christmas – Daily reflections and prayers for Advent 2020

The birth of Jesus, God's Son, on earth, is the long-anticipated event in the Christian faith; the Messiah was born in a manger to a virgin mother, fulfilling ancient prophesy and setting off a chain of events to save the world from sin. During this special Advent season, students and staff at Becket Keys will be pausing at the end of each day for a short time of reflection and prayer. So, why not join us (in heart and spirit) from your home or place of work! Dim the lights, light a candle, reflect and pray. With this newsletter you will find 25 short Advent reflections and prayers, so let us connect each day to the reason we have joy this Advent and Christmas season, and find comfort as well as hope for the age to come. God is with us always. We are never alone.

**BRENTWOOD FOODBANK** 

## HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS

#### BRENTWOOD FOODBANK REQUIREMENTS

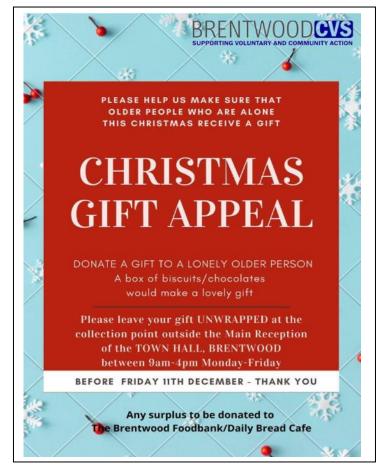
#### Tinned Goods

Meatballs, Chicken in Sauce, Ham, All Day Breakfast, Corned Beef, Salmon, Potatoes, Meat Pies, Rice Pudding, Fruit, Custard (tins or cartons)

Sweets & Treats, Biscuits, Savouries, Christmas Pudding, Christmas Cake, Cakes, Chocolates, Selection Boxes, Pickles,

Washing Powders/Liquids, Deodorants, Shaving Gel/Foam, Razors, Washing up Liquid, Shampoo, Conditioner, Kitchen/Bathroom Cleaner Nappies sizes 3,4, 5, 6

https://brentwood.foodbank.org.uk/



#### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

#### **SUBJECT FAIR FOR YEAR 11**

WEDNESDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2020

(SCHOOL CLOSES AT 2.10PM FOR OTHER YEARS)

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**LAST DAY OF TERM** 

(USUAL FINISH TIME)

THURSDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

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**NEW INSET DAY** 

(NO STUDENTS IN SCHOOL)

FRIDAY 18TH DECEMBER

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#### **CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY**

MONDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2020 -

FRIDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2021

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**INSET DAY** 

(NO STUDENTS IN SCHOOL)

MONDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2021

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#### **LENT HOLIDAY**

MONDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> – FRIDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

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**INSET DAY** 

(NO STUDENTS IN SCHOOL)

MONDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2021

## Becket Keys Church of England School

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