

Becket Keys Church of England School

10th December 2021

IN THIS ISSUE

Mr Scott-Evans writes...

I love this time of year! I am a traditionalist, as lots of you will know, and I love all the classic Christmas traditions. As a school, we thought carefully about the things we wanted to set up as traditions around this special festival. Sadly, last year was severely affected by Covid and many of our celebrations were cancelled. This year, we thought we would be returning to normal, but sadly we seem to have fallen at the final hurdle! We are pressing on towards the finish line, but with a bit of a limp!

Our annual Christmas Concert is always a highlight of the season, and it will be going ahead. There will be readings, prayers and music. Many of you will prefer to stay at home and watch it on our Live Stream (thanks to Mr Witchalls for assisting with this).

However, if you want to come here in person, we will be having the windows open, masks on and seats spread apart.

Our Eucharists (15th December) in St Thomas' Church for Year 7 and the Main Hall for Year 8 are being restricted in scope. This is a real blow as it feels like a limit is being placed on our distinctive Eucharistic ethos. However, parents are welcome to join us at either service around 11am. The services will last about an hour, but the start and finish time are fairly flexible depending on how long it takes to walk the students up to church!

We enjoyed our wonderful Christmas Lunch on Wednesday 8th December. It was incredibly popular again this year and I am sure will have provided a

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Christmas Carol Concert
Ticket information for the Christmas
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Bushcraft

Exciting news for Year 7! The popular Bushcraft trip is now open for bookings. Page 3

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Fun term for our Year 7 Drama students practicing a pantomime.

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highlight to everyone. Staff and students wore mufti and there were some tremendous Christmas Jumpers on display (we also raised £821 for the school charities).

I am sure that you are all supportive of the adjustments that we have made, however reluctantly. My prayer is that none of the meaning is lost. We are celebrating the most incredible miracle ever known to man: that God came to Earth in human form! It was so momentous that the calendar was reset to zero and we have been counting the years ever since. It is amazing to think that next year is 2022! 2022?!?! (How did that happen?!?!) And yet, here we are, still writing about, singing about and celebrating the same person's life despite all the challenges of the current situation.

Please join me in praying for our community at this time of uncertainty. May we get through the next week and into the holiday in good health and with a strong sense of Christ by our side. Please pray particularly for those staff and students who are unwell at present and ask God to speed their recovery.

Best regards

Mr Scott-Evans Head Teacher



This year's Christmas Carol Concert takes place on Tuesday 14th December 2021 in the Main Hall and will be a wonderful opportunity to listen to music performed by the many musical groups we have at Becket Keys including: Stage Band, Orchestra and Chamber Choir.

We have limited seats to three per family. All performers will be onstage throughout, so you do not need a ticket for your son/daughter if they are performing.

Tickets are available via Eventbrite:

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/christmas-carol-concert-tickets-216873984927

The Christmas Carol Concert is a wonderful tradition at Becket Keys and we are delighted that we can once again share this festive event with you and your family.

TUESDAY 14TH DECEMBER 2021

BECKET KEYS CofE SCHOOL – MAIN HALL

7.00pm – 8.00pm

Year 7 - Bushcraft Trip

THE

BUSHCRAFT

company

I am excited to offer the opportunity for Year 7 to attend their first residential trip at Becket Keys Church of England School.

The Bushcraft Company was set up in 2009 by someone who was trained for many years by Ray Mears. The company now works with hundreds of schools across the UK providing camping residential's from 8 unique centres. These trips range from 1 to 5 days in either The Woods, on The Coast or in The Mountains. All of the programmes are exciting and specifically designed to allow students to have fun with the rest of their friends away from school. The bushcraft centre that we have booked is located near the Cotswold town of Charlbury, in Oxfordshire, and is the perfect setting to develop new skills, build on friendships and be at one with nature.



The trip is a woodland based camping and activity programme set in the heart of a private woodland. The students will be living, sleeping and doing activities with the rest of the year group while staying in a tented village. There will be no other schools present and our students will have a fantastic trip with their friends, learning the fundamentals of bushcraft and many other fun activities.

The students will be split into groups of ten called tribes.
Activities will include tracking and stalking, campfire cookery, firelighting, leadership, archery, survival, wild camping, emergency shelter building, orienteering, wild swimming and camouflage and concealment. Students will also work within their groups to prepare a short skit for the final night where we will have a competitive 'tribes got talent' in the main tent.

We will eat fantastic food throughout our stay starting with a big cooked breakfast of bacon and eggs; the rest of the menu will include meals such as: roast venison, homemade pizzas cooked in a clay oven (made by us!), campfire roast salmon, campfire puddings, fry ups, bannock, marshmallows around the camp fire, and spaghetti Bolognese with cheese and garlic bread, stews and jungle goat curry.

At night, the woodland will be lit with lanterns and campfires;
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students will sleep in separate sex groups in big bell tents laid out in a circle around the main camp. In the centre of the circle will be Bushcraft Company leaders in an open sided parachute with lights in case students need them at night. Students will also have the opportunity to sleep in their own survival shelters if they want to!



The Bushcraft Company will run all of the activities. Some of our teachers will be there too and we will decide on who is in which group nearer the time. The Bushcraft Company have many highly trained staff that will be with us for the whole trip. Each tribe will have their own tribe leader who will also be with us throughout.

I hope that as many Year 7 students as possible are able to join me on this exciting trip. All families have been sent a letter with full details and payment information.

If you wish to find out more about Bushcraft, then please visit; https://thebushcraftcompany.co m/locations/cornbury-park/

Mr. Fish Head of Year 7

Drama Department

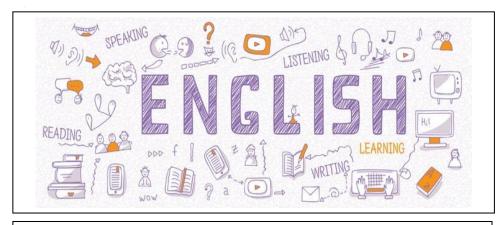
This term, Year 7 Drama have been practising performing pantomimes. We have been devising a pantomime Cinderella in lesson time, by making it realistic and come to life. We have been using the conventions of pantomime. Some of these are that the pantomimes are usually traditional fairy tales; they are presented at Christmas, the audience are involved by shouting, 'He's behind you!' or, 'Oh yes he is!', there is a dame or a principal boy, there are eccentric costumes for the dame and it is set in a proscenium arch staging.

The groups used a narrator to drive the story forward and physicalised the fireplace using their arms and crouching down. They also had eccentric make-up for the dame! The second group physicalised the pumpkin and then turned into a carriage, which was very realistic, and lastly the mice turned into the horses and this was also very realistic. The third group made the ugly sisters watching Cinderella dance with the prince quite comedic and funny, whilst the last group made the two ugly sisters look truly ugly, and had lots of props to make it realistic. We've had such a lovely time doing pantomime this term!

Merry Christmas to all!

Leoni Witchalls Year 7





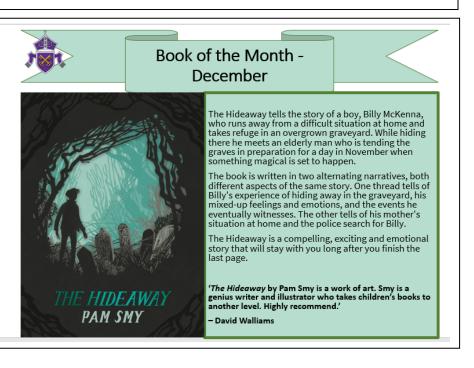


In sentences:

- 1. I've always been deeply cynical about some politicians.
- 2. Cynical people say there is no such thing as true love.
 - 3. Ebenezer Scrooge was very cynical about Christmas.

Meaning: believing that people are only interested in themselves and are not sincere

Etymology: In ancient Greece, the followers of the philosopher Antisthenes were referred to as kynikos (which became 'cynical' in English) meaning "doglike".





Uniform

All students are required to wear smart leather shoes.

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

Students should not have any extreme hairstyles and hair must not be dyed, no shapes cut into the hair e.g. stripes or undercuts.

Please remember that students should wear black tights and white socks and 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.

Food Department

Christmas in the Food Department

This week and the last, our Year 9 students have been making gingerbread in their practical lessons. Now, this is not just any kind of gingerbread, these are stained glass window gingerbread! The students use a small shaping knife to cut out a hole in their gingerbread design and fill in the hole with crushed boiled sweets. The idea is that when they come out of the oven and cool, they look like stained glass windows. The students were instructed to design and create their very own gingerbread biscuit. They were extremely imaginative and thoroughly enjoyed creating their own designs. We had the usual, Christmas bauble, candy canes, gingerbread men and women, we even had a Christmas dinosaur! As you will see from the pictures they were amazing.

While the Year 9 students were making gingerbread biscuits, my FPN GCSE class were making gingerbread houses, (pictures to follow next week). You will find the recipe below so you can try and make these biscuits at home. Cook's tip, this recipe makes enough to share amongst friends and neighbours or will make a whole gingerbread house!

Enjoy!

Mrs English Head of Food



Gingerbread men

Ingredients

- 350g/120z <u>plain flour</u>, plus extra for rolling out
- 1 tsp <u>bicarbonate of so</u>da
- 2 tsp ground ginger
- 1 tsp ground <u>cinnamon</u>
- 125g/4½oz <u>butter</u>
- 175g/6oz light soft <u>brown</u> sugar
- 1 free-range eqq
- 4 tbsp golden syrup

Method

Sift together the flour, bicarbonate of soda, ginger and cinnamon and pour into the bowl of a food processor. Add the butter and blend until the mix looks like breadcrumbs. Stir in the sugar.

Lightly beat the egg and golden syrup together, add to the food processor and pulse until the mixture clumps together. Tip the dough out, knead briefly until smooth, wrap in cling film and leave to chill in the fridge for 15 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 18oC/16oC Fan/Gas 4. Line two baking trays with greaseproof paper.

Roll the dough out to a o.5cm/½in thickness on a lightly floured surface. Using cutters, cut out the gingerbread men shapes and place on the baking tray, leaving a gap between them.

If you are making the stained glass window, cut your hole in the middle and add crushed boiled sweets in the hole.

Bake for 12–15 minutes, or until lightly golden-brown. Leave on the tray for 10 minutes and then move to a wire rack to finish cooling. When cooled decorate with the writing icing and cake decorations, if using.

BRENTWOOD FOODBANK

HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS

BRENTWOOD FOODBANK REQUIREMENTS

DECEMBER

Christmas Cake

Biscuits

Selection Boxes

Chocolates

Sweets & Treats

Jellies

Angel Delight

Puddings

Jars/Pickles

Stuffing

Mayonnaise

Tinned Goods

Meat Pies

Rice Pudding/Custard

Washing Up Liquid

Washing Powder/Gel

Anti-bac Wipes

Any cleaning items

https://brentwood.foodba
nk.org.uk/

Student Absence

Please remember that you must contact the school if your son/daughter is not going to attend school due to illness. The easiest way to do this is via the Studybugs app. Details are below.





Christmas Careers

With Christmas nearly upon us, we thought a 'Careers at Christmas' article would be a great chance to look at some seasonal and real-life careers that are in focus at the moment. Hopefully there is something here that might spark an interest.



1) Santa

Ok, we had to start here didn't we? Whilst there is only 1 real 'authentic' Santa, who isn't going to give up his job, there are always going to be some paid and unpaid Santa opportunities in a range of places, from church Christmas fairs to retail outlets who will need 'stand in' Santas.

2) Reindeer breeders

Did you know that there's a reindeer owner and breeder association?

https://reindeerowners.com/

Breeding reindeers is definitely a 'real world' option.



3) Reindeer nutritionists

Did you know that reindeer are ruminants, as are cows and sheep? This basically means they have several stomachs, which have evolved to cope with what they eat. There are a range of animal nutritionists that work with ruminants to keep them in the best health, including some reindeer nutritionists! They obviously need to have shiny coats and to be able to cope with long distance travel, so their nutrition is really important from a performance point of view.

4) Present Wrapper

As you would expect at this time of the year, some presents that are ordered need wrapping before they are sent. This will be an important role to do well, as who wants to get a badly wrapped present? And as you will have found, wrapping presents well is definitely a skill! This will often be done by retail assistants, who can demonstrate a knack of doing this well.

5) Basket weaver

Lots of presents come in baskets, often food, drink or beauty products are put together in a basket.

These baskets themselves can be a great part of the present. Did you know you can train as a basket weaver?

https://www.craftscouncil.org.uk/

<u>learning/craft-careers/how-</u> become-basket-maker



6) Christmas Tree Decorator

Decorating a tree isn't just a case of throwing a few bits of tinsel onto a tree! To do this really well, say for the tree in Trafalgar Square or Harrods, you need to know how to do this properly.

7) Carols writer/composer

It's not just the traditional carols that are sung each year. New ones are written every year. And if you don't fancy writing/composing a carol, how about other Christmas music?

8) Priest/Minister

A high-profile time of the year for clergy! They are obviously on the go all year round, but Christmas tends to be a particularly busy time for them.

Distiller/brewer

Again, these jobs are 'all year round' jobs. But Christmas and New Year are when a lot of their

products are sold. There will sometimes be festive products which are made, like mulled wine, which will take time and effort to be produced.



10) Nasa Santa Tracker

You did know that Nasa tracks Santa around the world? Someone needs to make sure all's ok and that he's on track with his work.

https://www.noradsanta.org/

11) Turkey Plucker

Several agricultural colleges across the country will get turkey plucker vacancies from mid-November. Turkeys need plucking and preparing – with a definite deadline.



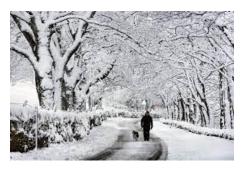
13) Butcher

Obviously, butchers are needed all year round. But Christmas and New Year are busy festive times, where a lot of people will want meat prepared. There's actually a national shortage of butchers too!

https://www.nationalcraftbutchers.co.uk/training.html

14) Weather Forecaster

Predicting whether there will be a white Christmas or not takes skill. Why not look into this as a career? To find out how, take a look at this article https://targetjobs.co.uk/careers-advice/jobdescriptions/meteorologist-job-description



15) Homeless Support Worker

Would working with the homeless interest you? Christmas can be a tough time to be without a permanent home. Several organisations have volunteering opportunities over the Christmas period if you would like to help out.

16) Verger

Do you know what a verger is? They will help clergy out with church services and often undertake a lot of the practical support work, like getting a church ready for services. Want to know more?

http://www.vergers.org/about/FAQ

17) Merchant Navy Officer

What do these have to do with Christmas? The maritime industry moves the vast majority of goods around the world! There are a whole host of jobs involved in the industry, many of them mean you earn your salary 'offshore' and therefore tax free. Want to know more?

https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobprofiles/merchant-navy-officer

18) Party Planner/Event Manager

Hopefully this is self-explanatory!



19) A & E Nurse

People often get injured over Christmas and need 'patching up'.

20) Chef

There are a vast range of opportunities for this work, from private clients to events or permanent restaurant jobs. And being able to come up with menus needs an appreciation of the festive season and what will appeal.

Free School Meal Vouchers Christmas Holiday

In order to continue to support our families entitled to FSM over the Christmas Holiday, we will be using the school voucher system, Wonde, to issue vouchers.

Parents and guardians of eligible students will receive an email from Wonde before the end of term to allow you to claim a voucher for £30 for this period. Please check your junk mail if you have not received this by 16th December. The email will contain a link to 'redeem a voucher'. You will be taken to Wonde's 'evouchers' page (previously named Schoolvouchers), where you will need to enter your details and confirm your email address before being asked to select the retailer you wish to receive a voucher for. You will then be given a PIN and the option to view the voucher. Having confirmed the PIN, you will be issued your voucher. The voucher barcode can be printed off or scanned on a smartphone for use in-store.

Details of the process and more questions about evouchers can be found on their website - https://help.evouchers.com/hc/engb/sections/360003848737-Recipient-FAQs



School Photos Are Still Available

If you have not viewed your son/daughter's school photo from this year yet, simply click on the link below to have the photo link sent to you directly https://www.carmeljane.co.uk/pre-registration-support/

Or you can contact Carmel Jane Photography on 01277 822 674

Free postage still applies, and you have up until the 14th of December for Christmas delivery





Covid-19 Home Test Kits

All students have now been offered home test kits. If your child has not received a kit and wants to test, please ask them to collect from reception. More tests are available if they are required and we would encourage all students to keep testing regularly during the All Saints' break.

As a reminder, if your son or daughter is taking part in the Covid-19 home testing, please remember to conduct your tests on a Wednesday and Sunday.

<u>Please find here a step-by-step</u> quide to COVID-19 self-testing.

You must upload your results to: https://testregister.co.uk/login and then follow the steps to the Government website.

Test Register has been updated, if you need to change any details or if you have any queries regarding this process please contact: office@becketkeys.org

Mandarin Department



The Mandarin department is busy organising the next Mandarin Day for Year 7 students. The students will be able to taste Chinese food, try their hand at calligraphy, and enjoy the art, culture and science of China.

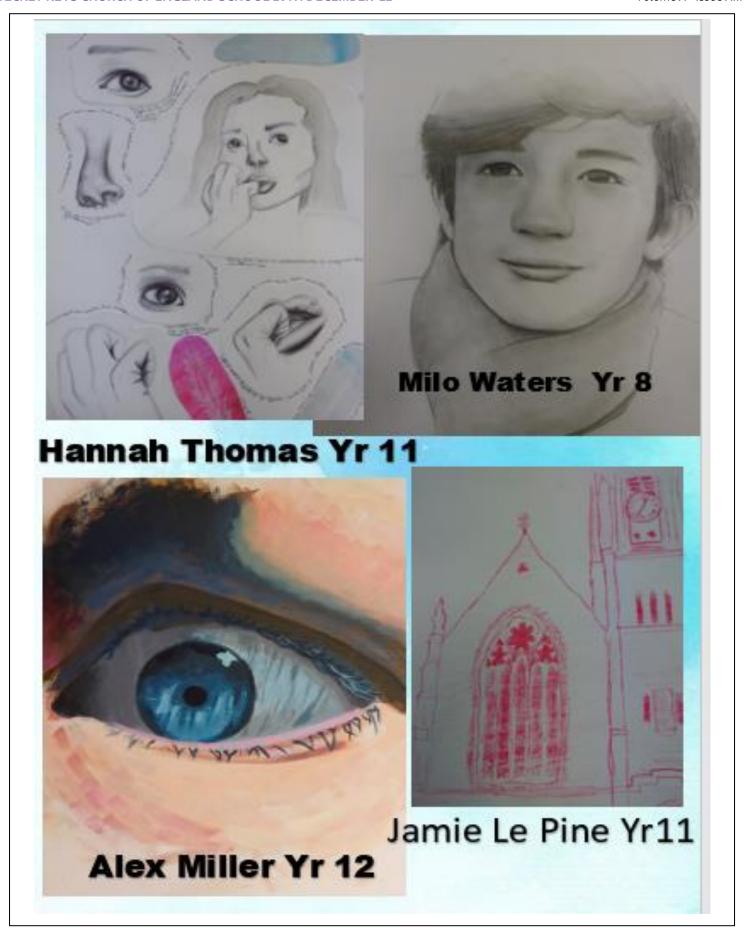
The school has invited some external Chinese experts to offer various workshops for our Year 7 on Wednesday 1st February 2022, when we will welcome the Year of the Tiger.

So that we can give the students an experience to remember, we require a voluntary contribution of £11.65 from each Year 7 student in order to fund the day. If you wish your child to be able to experience this fantastic day and to enhance their learning, please make your donation via ParentPay by 10th January as soon as possible, so that we know the day can go ahead.











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Recruiting Now for Teacher Training!

Would you like to train to teach at Becket Keys?

Do you have skills and talents that would suit the role? Would you like to do a uniquely satisfying job that makes a real contribution?

Why not join our Teacher Training Programme?

BEC Teacher Training trains local teachers for local schools. With over 25 years of experience and rated an outstanding provider by Ofsted, their friendly and professional team works in close partnership with over 50 Essex schools to train primary and secondary teachers. All our BEC trainees get jobs when they reach the end of the course, with the vast majority choosing to take up positions in local schools as they take their first steps in this exceptionally rewarding career.

Find out more here:

https://www.billericayscitt.com/video/

Contact us today to find out more about teacher training. Call 01268 477611, email louise@billericayscitt or visit our website www.billericayscitt.com for more information.





County Lines in Essex

Join our panel of experts and find out about county lines in your area, how to keep your child safe and what to do if you have concerns.

Learn what county lines is - Understand what is happening in your local area - Understand the signs that your child might be at risk - Learn how offenders groom and exploit children

The webinar will be hosted live over zoom. Please register here: <u>Parent Webinar</u>

TEACHER

Sports News



Girls' Cricket

The U15 girls put on a great performance in the qualifier event for the indoor school cricket competition at the county cricket ground this week. With convincing wins over New Hall, Redden Court and Belfairs. Looking forward to the next round in March. Excellent work girls!

LOST PROPERTY

All lost property from this term will be available to view and collect in the Main Hall during lunchtime on **Monday 13**th **December.**

Please remember to make sure that all items, especially uniform are named, this will ensure that items can be returned to the student easily.

<u>Upcoming Sports Fixtures</u> December

Monday 13th December

Year 7, 8 & 9 Girls' Football v William De Ferrers School (A) Year 8 Boys' Basketball v Boswells

Tuesday 14th December

Year 7 & Year 8 Boys' Sports Hall Activities

Wednesday 15th December

Year 8 Boys' Football v Chelmer (H)





School Newspaper

Some of our Year 13 students have been working very hard this term to produce the first school newspaper.

This edition focuses on environmental issues and climate change. It has an interview with Mr Scott-Evans who shares his thoughts about the climate emergency we face, along with articles about COP₂6 and climate change and the affect it has on our mental health. Read more here:

School Newspaper

End of Term

The last day of term is

Thursday 16th December, the student will have a half day and leave at lunchtime so there will be no lunch service in the Bistro on that day.

If your son/daughter is entitled to Free Schools Meals and you would like to order a packed lunch for that day, then please email office@becketkeys.org to order one.

Thank you!

At the heart of Christmas





At the heart of Christmas is 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, etc.)
- How much do you think God had to love us in order to give His Son for us?

Listen to these poems, 'For Unto Us – joy and love'

http://www.viewpure.com/M_lqg LFUkgY?start=o&end=o

http://www.viewpure.com/CQ_Rf QI6M-M?start=o&end=o

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 and experience God's joy in Jesus' birth stories.

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 great joy.

Mrs Sharp Deputy Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FIND YOUR STUFF IN LOST PROPERTY!

MONDAY 13TH DECEMBER 2021

MAIN HALL – LUNCHTIME

*

STUDENT HALF DAY

THURSDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2021

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CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

FRIDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2021 –
MONDAY 3RD JANUARY 2022

*

INSET DAY

TUESDAY 4TH JANUARY 2022 (NO STUDENTS IN SCHOOL)

*

ALL STUDENTS BACK TO SCHOOL

WEDNESDAY 5TH JANUARY 2022

*

YEAR 12 EXAMS

TUESDAY 12TH JANUARY –
TUESDAY 18TH JANUARY 2022

*

YEAR 11 CONSULTATION EVENING

THURSDAY 18TH JANUARY 2022

Becket Keys Church of England School

Sawyers Hall Lane Brentwood, Essex CM15 9DA 01277 286600

www.becketkeys.org office@becketkeys.org finance@becketkeys.org

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- @BecketKeysMusic
- @BecketKeysPE
- @BecketKeysArt
- @BecketKeysSci

Facebook: Becket Keys Church School