

Becket Keys Church of England School

25th February 2022

WORLD BOOK DAY - THURSDAY 3RD MARCH

IN THIS ISSUE

Mr Scott-Evans writes:

Next week is **World Book Day**. As an ex-primary teacher and as a parent, these three words send a kind of dread deep into my soul. Largely because it entailed dressing up as a book character myself or supporting my wife as she tried to come up with innovative ideas for the children to wear. She always pulled it off somehow, but I am not sure any of it led anyone much closer to a love of reading.

A love of reading is something that is fostered from experience. Firstly, children need to learn to read which revolves around lots of experience of words from their first days on the planet through songs, stories, games and simply being spoken to! Then it comes from learning the dark mysteries of realising that shapes on a piece of paper are words made up of

letters than make sounds (albeit rather unreliably at times in English).

Next, after the reading skill is learned, masses of experience of reading and being read to is required. At primary school, the most important homework we set is reading. Day after day after day exposing children to great books is crucial. Sadly, some books on school shelves are dull and when those come home, they need to be either sent back or skipped through quickly. A book should be a ticket to another world, a wider experience or a fact filled rollercoaster of learning.

As we approach World Book Day (with no dressing up!), I would like to challenge us all to consider where reading sits in our family

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Performing Arts

Auditions have been held for the new school production!

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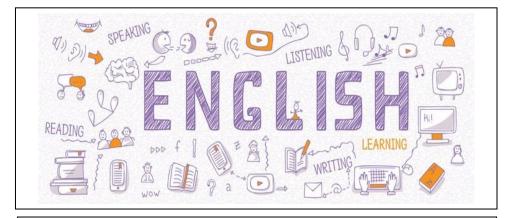
lives now. At Becket Keys we still expect reading to be a daily homework, we offer times for silent reading each week in school and every lesson pretty much includes some silent reading endeavours. We should stop and be grateful for these moments. Students: make the most of them! As parents, are we doing enough to feed the reading habit? When our children express interest in a book do we respond positively and buy it for them? Do we get to the library often enough? Do our children see us reading?

So much of our students' leisure time is on their phones. With things like SnapChat, TikTok and YouTube, these days, the best we can hope for is a few misspelled words, incorrectly put together into non-sentences alongside a 5 second video of some dancing.

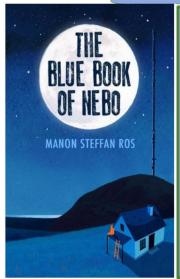
The joy of reading is being lost. Alongside that our students are losing: the ability to focus on something for more than 20 seconds, the opportunity to learn from other more experienced writers and the brain functions that we strived so hard to develop in them through their primary years.

This is an emergency! If we are not careful and fail to start to take action now it will be too late.

Mr Scott-Evans Headteacher



Book of the Month -February



Dylan was six when The End came; when the electricity went off for good, and the 'normal' 21st century world he knew disappeared. Now he's 14 and he and his mam have worked to survive in their isolated hilltop house above the village of Nebo in north-west Wales, learning new skills, and returning to old ways of living. Despite their close understanding, the relationship between mother and son changes subtly as Dylan must take on adult responsibilities. What mam misses, Dylan has no use for, being perfectly adapted to the new world and his place in it. And they each have their own secrets, which emerge as, in turn, they jot down their thoughts and memories in a found notebook - the Blue Book of Nebo.

In this tender and tragic prize-winning novel, Manon Steffan Ros not only explores the human capacity to find new strengths when faced with the need to survive in a post-apocalyptic world, but also questions the structures of the contemporary one.



In sentences:

- She ran, in late, looking rather dishevelled.
 She looked at her dishevelled clothing and decided to change into pyjamas.
 - As Daniel stopped the car, a dishevelled figure jumped out from the darkness.

Meaning: very untidy

Etymology: from Old French *deschevele*, meaning 'having the hair uncovered' or 'hair hanging loose'

Matilda Auditions

There was great excitement in the Performing Arts Department on Thursday after school when more than 70 students from across all year groups gathered to audition for the school production. It was recently announced that the school would be presenting 'Matilda the Musical' and the students were put through their paces by 'the judges' and had to show their talents in three performance areas: acting, singing and dancing. Call backs have been carried out today and there will be more on Monday and the full cast list will be announced on Friday 4th March.

Book a date in your diary for this fantastic show!

Monday 18th – Wednesday 20th
July 2022. Tickets will be
available to purchase on Parent
Pay closer to the time.



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Mandarin Department

Young Photographers' Competition

Before Christmas, our Mandarin Excellent Programme students took part in the 'Young Photographers' Competition' which is organized by IOE.

The competition has been running for seven years and has seen some excellent photography from young people across the world. The aim of the competition is to dispel the cultural stereotypes of China through photography and show the vast country through the eyes of young people. The Young Photographers' Competition is generously supported by the Chinese Embassy in London.

We have confirmation from the competition organiser that the six students listed below have secured prizes.

Joshua Witchalls

Tiyannha Hayes

Nyssa Argawal (1st place)

Mark Uthumpa (2nd place)

Daisy Godfrey

Onyx Hogarth (2nd place)



Joshua Witchalls Year 9



Chinese Stories
Daisy Godfrey-BKS
12 years old



Mark Uthumpa Year 8



Tiyannha Hayes Year 8

Other Good News!

The Mandarin department is happy to announce that two of our year 11 students – Rebecca Lyle and Lucy O'Hare obtained their HSK Chinese Proficiency Test Level 3 certificates. HSK is the standardized test of Standard Chinese language proficiency of Mainland China for non-native speakers such as foreign students and overseas Chinese.

Not only did Rebecca and Lucy pass the test, they also passed with flying colours. They are planning to partake in further Mandarin studies and more HSK tests in the future. Please join us in congratulating them on their achievements.

We encourage our students to participate in a wide range of extracurricular activities and competitions and are very proud by their achievements.

Congratulations to all of them!

Mrs Zhang& Miss Lin Mandarin Department

Spanish Department



Last term, Year 8 students learnt about Spanish food and mealtimes, including how to order at a restaurant. Some students had a go at creating their own menus and one of the most popular items was *tortilla española* (Spanish omelette).

If you would like to have a go at making this very simple dish at home, you can see the recipe below. Enjoy!

Or as we say in Spanish... ¡Que aproveche!

Ingredients

- 500g new potatoes
- 1 onion, preferably white
- 150ml extra-virgin olive oil
- 3 tbsp chopped flat-leaf parsley
- 6 eggs

Method

STEP 1

Scrape the new potatoes or leave the skins on, if you prefer. Cut them into thick slices. Chop the onion.

STEP 2

Heat the extra-virgin olive oil in a large frying pan, add the potatoes and onion and stew gently, partially covered, for 30 mins, stirring occasionally until the potatoes are softened. Strain the potatoes and onion through a colander into a large bowl (set the strained oil aside).

STEP 3

Beat the eggs separately, then stir into the potatoes with the parsley and plenty of salt and pepper. Heat a little of the strained oil in a smaller pan.

STEP 4

Tip everything into the pan and cook on a moderate heat, using a spatula to shape the omelette into a cushion.

STEP₅

When almost set, invert on a plate and slide back into the pan and cook a few more minutes.

STEP 6

Invert twice more, cooking the omelette briefly each time and pressing the edges to keep the cushion shape. Slide on to a plate and cool for 10 mins before serving.



Ms Bolanos Spanish Teacher



Extra-Curricular Clubs







Y7 only Club de <u>español</u>

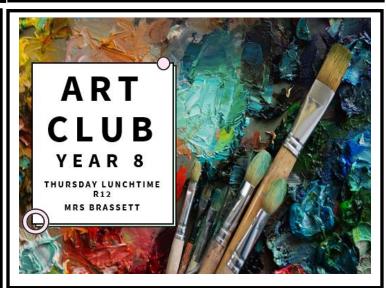
Come practice your Spanish, learn some new vocabulary, play language games...

When?
Thursday at lunchtime
(quickly eat your lunch first)

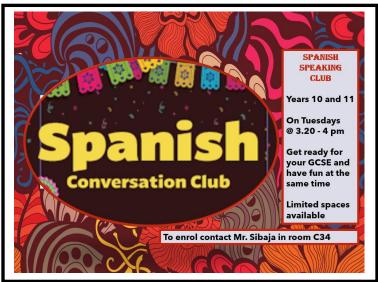
Where? C31

With who? Mrs Bolaños

Sign-up sheet will be outside the languages office each week.







BECOME A ROAD SAFETY AMBASSAD If you have an idea that could save a life on the road, this is your chance to shine... What is a Road Safety What does an Ambassador do? Why get involved? Ambassador? As an Ambassador, you'll design and We understand that young people have If you've got a passion for sharing ideas, create campaigns, posters, banners, the most influence on other young videos or anything you can think of to leading by example, and influencing people, which is why we want YOU to take promote road safety. You'll also get the others we want to hear from you! the lead within your school to set a opportunity to support national and positive example, promote road safety Safer Essex Roads Partnership works local campaigns by: and raise awareness amongst your peers. hard to make the roads safer for Using social media like Facebook everybody. But now we need YOUR this programme, and Twitter to promote messages. help! The Ambassador volunteer imagination and creativity can save lives programme gives you the opportunity Creating promotional displays to in your local community. You'll also be be used on interactive screens and to use your imagination to inspire awarded a Road Safety Ambassador around your school. certificate alongside a badge, notebook Writing articles for and pen to help you plan activities. Traffic collisions remain the biggest websites and newsletters. cause of death amongst YOUR age Delivering assemblies group, but becoming an Ambassador manning stands at open events and means you can help us to reduce death parents evening. and serious injury on Essex roads to Working alongside road safety The Ambassador programme is your staff at school events. chance to shine - it may even help you in Developing and running This is the chance for you to make a the future when applying for jobs or a competitions and events. huge difference across Essex, Southend place at university. and Thurrock, because even a 'small The Safer Essex Roads Partnership will If you have any questions, please contact change' in everyone's road use support you in encouraging your your teacher, and have a look at The behaviour can have a HUGE impact and friends and fellow students to be more Safer Essex website: young people, like you, have an aware of how to be safer near roads. We important role to play in spreading the will provide you with information and saferessexroads.org/education/roadmessage and creating change. resources but also want to learn from safety-ambassadors you, listen to you and share ideas.

The Safer Essex Roads
Partnership is relaunching the successful Road Safety
Ambassador scheme.

They are very keen to recruit enthusiastic and motivated students from local schools to become Road Safety
Ambassadors. They will have an important role in raising Road Safety awareness amongst their fellow students. This will not only help all the students to be safer road users but can also be used as evidence on students' CVs and further education applications to show their willingness to support and promote an important subject in their school.

There is an exciting programme of activities that the Ambassadors can follow to support them with encouraging their fellow students to be safer road users. There will be plenty of guidance and support to assist any student who wishes to fulfil this role.

The Ambassadors will provide regular updates on the work they have been doing, and this can be shared on the Safer Essex Roads website and social media pages (when appropriate permission is obtained).







WEEKLY LIVE SHOWS PROVIDING INFO ON EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

EVERY WEDNESDAY 6PM - 6:25PM



Visit: www.essexopportunities.co.uk

Join Essex Opportunities for their new weekly live shows! Each week will focus on a different topic relating to employment and training opportunities in Essex. They will be joined local employers, training providers, and employment advisors, who will be available to answer your questions typed in the live chat.

Find out about local employment opportunities in Essex with Essex Opportunities new live show.

Every Wednesday at 6pm the team will host a show focusing on employment and training in Essex!

Registration linkshttps://jobsliveuk.com/essex-opportunitieslive/



SAVE THE DATE: Meet the Russell Group Spring 2022

There will be a Meet the Russell Group collaborative virtual event on Wednesday 27 April, alongside the 23 other Russell Group universities. This interactive experience will be split into two sessions, each with a different programme and focus.

During the Afternoon Session (12:00 - 14:30 teachers, and parents will be able to explore all 24 Russell Group universities, download documents, view virtual campus tours, and take part in insightful live webinars led by university representatives and experts.

Throughout the **Evening Session (16:30 - 20:00)** attendees can chat directly with university ambassadors to receive personalised advice. Students will also have the opportunity to enter brand new live video Q&A sessions to get answers to all of your questions.

Two warm up webinars (Wednesday 20 & Monday 25 April) will also run in the lead up to the event to provide teachers and parents with a unique insight into why they should consider choosing a Russell Group university.



Founded in 2010 by ITV's Political Editor, Robert Peston, Speakers for School's aim is to end educational inequality by giving all young people access to the same prestigious networks available to the top fee-paying schools in the UK. Talks from today's influential figures via the Inspiration programme and the work experience programme link state school students to industry-leading companies and networked support partners. Speakers for Schools is helping to level the playing field for young people of all backgrounds. The services for schools and students are entirely free of charge!

For more information visit their website: speakersforschools.org

DATE	SPEAKER	INFO
Monday 28 th February	Mathew Dunn, CFO, ASOS For KS4-5/S4-6	More details to be announced Click here to register
2-2:45pm	3,21	
Wednesday 2nd March 2-2:45pm	Jasmine Whitbread, Chair, Travis Perkins For KS4-5/S4-6	More details to be announced Click here to register
Tuesday 8th March 10-10:45am	International Women's Day Broadcast: CeCe Sammy, Vocal Coach & TV Presenter For KS3-5/S1-6	We are looking forward to hosting another broadcast with CeCe Sammy, this time for International Women's Day. CeCe will be speaking about what International Women's Day means to her, how to develop your confidence and the women who inspire her. Click here to register
Wednesday 9 th March 10-10:45am	National Careers Week Broadcast: Hospitality with Joanna Kurowska, Managing Director for UK and Ireland, InterContinental Hotels Group For KS3-5/S1-6	Are you interested in working in the hospitality industry? Perhaps you already have experience of working in hospitality and want to learn more about where it could take you in the future? Join us for a broadcast with Joanna Kurowska, who started out working in hotels and has worked her way up to be Managing Director for UK and Ireland, at global organisation IHG Hotels & Resorts. Joanna is excited to share her industry insights with you and answer your questions



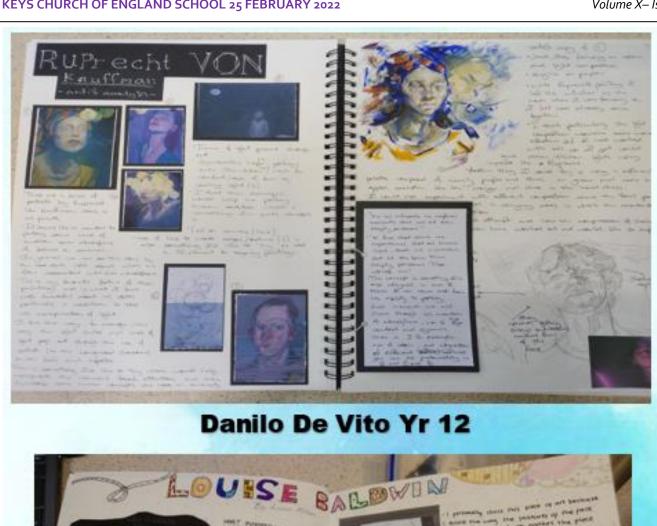
It has been a brilliant week in Art.

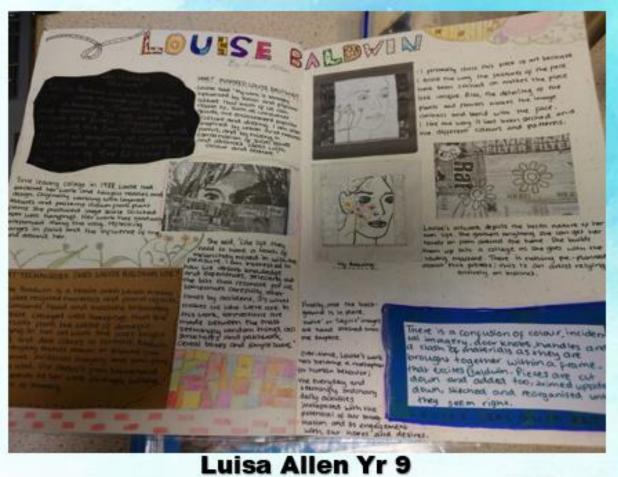
Well done for all the great work throughout the Year groups, you are making fantastic progress!

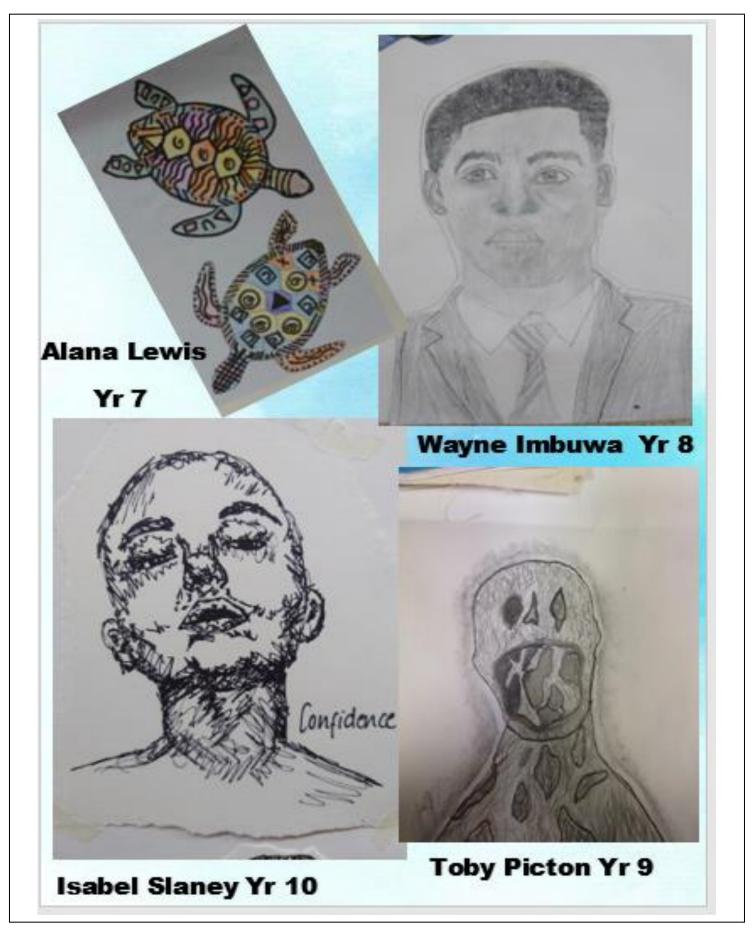
Star Artist for Art



Jessica Lambert Yr 12







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Next week sees the beginning of Lent. For some people, being marked with the sign of the cross on **Ash Wednesday** symbolises their desire to do 'return to the **Father**'. Through the Ash Wednesday readings, God begs us



come back. These readings reassure us that the God who calls us is 'gracious and merciful . . . full of steadfast love' (Joel 2:12-13). It was to show just how loving God is that Jesus told the story of the

prodigal son. Having explained how the youngest son had resolved to return home, Jesus places the spotlight on the waiting father. He tells us that while the son was still a long way from home, 'the father saw . . . his son' (Luke 15:20)'. He was willing his son to return home; like children on a day trip to the beach competing to catch the first glimpse of the sea. God, likewise, will wait patiently until we respond to His love.



Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent and a day on which to prepare for setting aside the next six weeks to consider how we live our lives together with God; a day to consider our own mortality and

our shared humanity. From dust we are and to dust we shall all return. At the threshold for Lent, it can be considered a 'liminal' time – a time that can bring change and transformation for individuals and communities. This time might involve a more focused period of prayer, reflection or even fasting. Standing on this threshold, we are also invited to hear the words written in Isaiah 58:6-7: 'Is not this the fast that I choose: to lose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?'

As we enter a period of reflecting or fasting, we can become aware of what we crave, more alert to the compulsions that control us.

From there, we can explore ways of naming these compulsions before God and looking for ways of being free from them. While vital for the deepening of our inner lives, we must find a way for this to turn into action or we risk losing ourselves in our own piety. Repentance – the U-turn change of direction - must find expression in our lives. Faith must result in action. This might be as simple as reducing what we consume in order that we might share our 'bread', giving our energy to raising the awareness of the suffering of others, or spending our time with those who find themselves excluded and vilified.

May this time of fasting be a time when our senses are heightened, so that we can see and take notice of those who are held by the bonds of injustice, those who are held by the yoke of oppression, and discover how may we work with them to loosen and break those chains – that together we might shout out, not hold back, and fast in a way that makes our voices heard on high.

Read the words of Isaiah chapter 58 verses 1-12:

- Shout out, do not hold back!
 Lift up your voice like a
 trumpet! Announce to my
 people their rebellion, to the
 house of Jacob their sins.
- Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practised righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they

- ask of me righteous judgements, they delight to draw near to God.
- 'Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?' Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day, and oppress all your workers.
- Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high.
- 5. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?
- 6. Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?
- 7. Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
- 8. Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear-guard.
- Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

- 10. if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.
- 11. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.
- 12. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.



Consider:

- As you stand on the threshold of Lent, what is it that you most hope to see happen within you and your community?
- 2. Looking over Isaiah 58:6-10, is

there anything in this passage that makes you uncomfortable? If so, sit with that discomfort and consider/discuss why it might exist.

- 3. What does, or might, this kind of fasting look like in your community and context?
- 4. From verse 8 onwards there is an inspiring description of the blessings that befall a community who challenge injustice, free the oppressed, share food, clothe the naked and welcome the homeless. Reading over this slowly, are you drawn to any of these in particular? How does addressing inequality and injustice benefit everyone?



Pray:

When I would shut my eyes because I am afraid to see, when I would

Lord Jesus,

hold on tightly —
because I am afraid to share,
when I would close my doors —
because I am afraid to get
involved,
may I find courage
in the company of your people,
learning with them to open my
eyes,
my hands,
my home
and my heart.

AMEN.

Mrs. Sharp Deputy Headteacher



This year's Live Lent Church of England theme for reflection, prayer and action is justice. We are called to reflect on the injustices of the world and ask what God is calling us to do about them. Over forty days, we are called to step into God's work in the here and now, and in doing so, move from brokenness towards wholeness. We are invited to

examine our own lives truthfully, to see the world more deeply and to pray – for the church and the world far and near – that 'justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream' (Amos 5.24). Each week there will be a different thread through the many stories of justice in the Bible to explore how God works with humanity to bring justice, wholeness and salvation to all.

For further details of adult, children and family resources this Lent and Holy Week (including the Live Lent App) visit:

https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/livelent-2022-church-resources-embracing-justice



As the beginning of Lent approaches and we hear the news that Russia has invaded the Ukraine, may we all remember that as Christians that the Lord requires us to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly, guided by Him (Micah 6:8), even when this is not the easiest thing to do.

Take 5 minutes to listen and reflect on the words of 'O Lord the clouds are gathering', by Graham Kendrick. Whist this song was written in 1987, its words remain poignant:

http://www.viewpure.com/Xfv9OI59_70?start=o&end=o

Mrs Sharp Deputy Headteacher

Words adapted from the Church of England website to support their Lent campaign

Sports News





Gymnastics

The girls who took part in the Milano Trio, Floor & Vault regional gymnastics event should be very proud of what they achieved. There was an extremely long wait for the team as they were first to perform on the vault and then last to perform their floor routine. The girls all managed to remain focused and perform to a very high standard. Becket Keys placed 7th overall and were 3rd in the trios after a very long day!



Year 7 Boys' Futsal

This futsal team travelled to Sandon for a recent futsal tournament. The boys put on a resilient performance against some very strong teams. Although they had success on the field, the change to playing in a sports hall with the weighted ball proved tricky. We know what we need to work on for next time.



Year 7 Girls' Futsal

The girls embarked on their second futsal experience of the year and the improvements they were able to display were superb! Becket Keys came second in this group stage and have progressed to a place in the semifinal with their heads held high!

Year 11 Basketball

Our Year 11 Basketball team set out on their first official national cup basketball tournament this week. Their opponents were Ormiston Park Academy in Thurrock. On arrival the boys were excited about the prospect of showcasing their skills against a new, unknown team. The first quarter started slowly and at some points the Becket Keys team were down, shots were being forced from the 3-point line and lay-ups were not readily being used. After a quick time-out, the students were back on their game and continued to press to regain points and possession.

After the 3rd quarter the boys were sitting comfortable in the lead and began to showcase their best work. Josh Haworth proved his dunking ability, several times, at the ring. Melchi Egbeyemi demonstrating outstanding footwork around the basket. Brady Doyle, although injured, came along to support with filming and picked up on several coaching points. Josh Hall used his intelligence throughout the game. Each boy gave a fantastic performance, and we are very proud of their achievements so far and continue our National Cup Journey into the 3rd round. Northampton away – here we come!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

WORLD BOOK DAY

THURSDAY 3RD MARCH 2022

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YEAR 11 & YEAR 13 MOCKS

TUESDAY 22ND FEBRUARY –

FRIDAY 4TH MARCH 2022

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SIXTH FORMER FOR A DAY

WEDNESDAY 23RD MARCH 2022

*

LAST DAY OF TERM

FRIDAY 1ST APRIL 2022

STUDENT HALF DAY

*

'MATILDA THE MUSICAL'

MONDAY 18TH JULY

TUESDAY 19TH JULY

WEDNESDAY 20TH JULY

Becket Keys Church of England School

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