

Becket Keys Church of England School

17th June 2022

IN THIS ISSUE

Mr Scott-Evans writes....

Fruitfulness

John 15 v 16: "Go and bear fruit that will last"

I am growing strawberries again this year. Each morning, my youngest daughter checks the plants and picks a few strawberries for her packed lunch. I measure the success of my plants by how many she picks – are they are being fruitful? As I drove to school today, I was reflecting on how fruitful we are being as a school and how that is measured. One measure is, of course, how students perform in exams.

Over the next few weeks, teachers will be busy marking all the exams that students will be sitting. We will then report back to you regarding their results.

Many students will have to wait until August for external examiners to tell us their results. Other years will find out before the end of term.

The end of year report for Year 10 has already been sent and was followed up by a Parents' Evening this week to help answer questions that families have at this point (halfway through the GCSE course).

The Year 7,8 and 9 reports will come out soon. These will be based on the RET Stage Ladders that were newly created for this year.

You can see in the diagram below how students would normally move through the stage ladder, and parents will see on the report what stages we are targeting for

.....contd. on page 2



Weald Festival

Details of the summer concert at St Peter's Church. Tickets are available from the school office.

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Careers Information
Details of some exciting
opportunities for students.

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Biblical Pause Lessons from Birds.

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Art & Textiles

Excellent work from our talented Art and Textiles students this week.

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Sports News

Read all about the recent sports fixtures.

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....contd. from Page 1 your son/daughter in each subject.

As well as an exam result, we will also be reporting an overall stage. This will be awarded by the teacher based on everything that s/he knows about each student. It may be that the overall stage is the same as the exam result. However, we do sometimes find that students under or over perform in exams and this teacher stage gives a more holistic view.

Students should move forward one stage per year and our targets are set to reflect that. If a student does not achieve his/her target then additional support through extra in-class attention from the teacher, homework or smaller group activity may be put in place to help him/her catch up.

Fruitfulness in students is not only measured in academic progress, though. Parents will also receive grades for conduct & character and homework. Learning about respect, responsibility and resilience is crucial. These grades are indications of whether these 'lessons' are being learned and, of course, are the areas that parents are usually best placed to assist with. Latest research shows that a young person's character is still being developed up to the age of 21. Teenage years are formative in this. Sometimes I speak to parents who think, 'It's all over she will always be like this!' However, we should not lose

ET STAGE LADDERS				
Stage	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
7				
6				High
5			High	Typical
4		High	Typical	Support
3	High	Typical	Support	
2	Typical	Support		
1	Support			

hope nor become complacent; there's a long way still to go.

At Becket Keys, we are passionate about supporting our students' fruitfulness in the widest sense. Their wider personal development is something we talk about all the time.

We had two RET advisors in school this week who had not been recently. Both were extremely impressed with the conduct development of the students: the way they played, interacted, spoke to adults, wore their uniforms and the way that they were self-regulating.

I reflected that their visit was a bit like my daughter hunting around for strawberries in the morning! An external source of feedback on how fruitful we are. These RET advisors told me that our students conducted themselves superbly without any noticeable supervision. Coach John Wooden is credited as saying, "The true

test of a character is what you do when no one is looking." I am very proud that our students make these good choices for themselves, and you as parents should be too!

One final reflection: as my daughter searched for strawberries this morning, she found three or four that had been half eaten by an animal. I wonder what are the external forces that can attack our students' fruitfulness. I will come back to that thought next week.

Mr Scott-Evans Headteacher







Enrichment Day Thursday 14th July 2022

This year we are again able to run the careers fair on **July 14**th, we would really appreciate it if you could spare your time to help us please.

Careers Fair

This session is for our **Year 7 and 8 students**. The focus is on inspiring future choices and decisions.

You will be talking to our students about your career; the pathway into the job, the opportunities, skills and experiences that are involved in your pathway and career journey.

The day will be split into 2 sessions:

Session 1: 8.45 - 10.35am

Session 2: 11.00am - 12.40pm

Each session will run as a carousel with students rotating and talking to each visitor.

If you are able to attend, please can you confirm your attendance to careers@becketkeys.org and let us know which session or sessions you will be volunteering for. Coffee, tea and biscuits will be available throughout the day.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Katie North and Natalie Silman Leads in PSHE and Careers

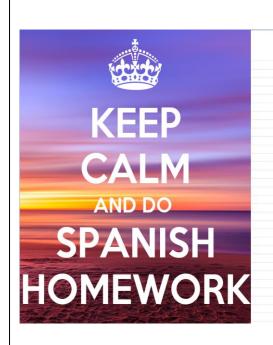


Book of the Month - June



A new fast-paced thriller about two sisters vying for the top spot on their cross-country team—until a teammate's disappearance throws their lives off course. Stella and Ellie Steckler are only a year apart, but their different personalities make their relationship complicated. Stella is single-minded, driven, and she keeps to herself. Cross-country running is her life and she won't let anything get in the way of being the best. Her sister Ellie is a talented runner too, but she also lets herself have fun. She has friends. She goes to parties. She has a life off the course. The sisters do have one thing in common, though: the new girl, Mila Keene. Both Stecklers' lives are upended when Mila comes to town. At first, Ellie and Stella view the new star athlete as a threat. But soon Ellie can't help but be drawn to her warm, charming personality. After her best friend moved away and her first boyfriend betrayed her, Ellie's been looking for a friend to share her secrets. Stella finds herself noticing the ways she and Mila are similar. Mila is smart and strong—she's someone Stella can finally connect with. As the two get closer, Stella becomes something she vowed she'd never be: distracted. With regionals approaching and college scouts taking notice, the pressure is on. Each girl has their future on the line and they won't let friendships get in their way. But then, suddenly, Mila goes out on a training run and never returns. No one knows what happened, but all eyes are on the Steckler

This novel is also a thoughtful examination of socio-economic challenges, the impact of crushing personal secrets, and the ways female athletes suffer under the weight of misogyny, especially when they are aggressively competitive.



Spanish Homework Club

A quiet space to do your Spanish homework and revision, with a teacher available to help.

When?

Monday 3:15-4:15pm

Where? C33

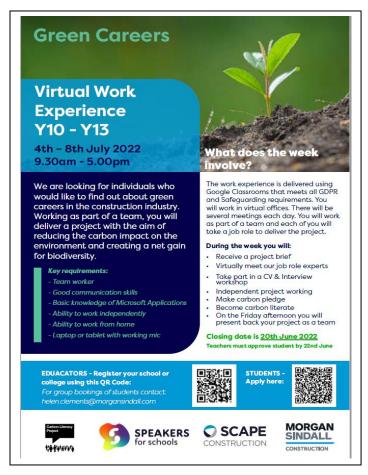


If your son/daughter has misplaced anything at school, then kindly inform him/her that all lost property is taken to reception for collection.

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

Thank you!







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Exam Prayer for Year 11 and 13 students:

Jesus,

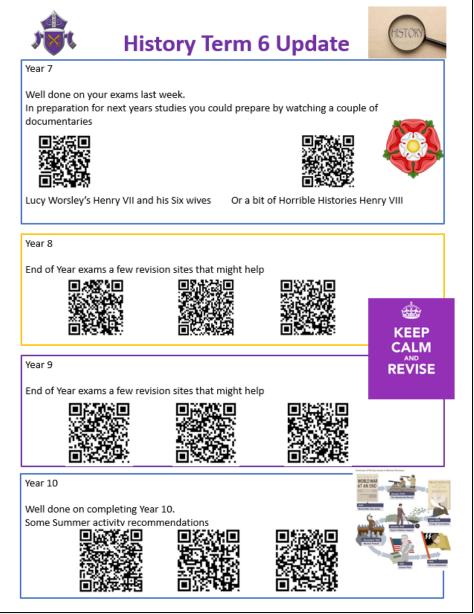
This exam season is challenging, and I have mountains of work ahead of me, yet I trust in you. I know that when I put my faith in you, even when it is as small as a mustard seed (Luke 17:6), miracles can be accomplished. I pray that as I study in these coming weeks, as I soak up knowledge and memorise facts, as I read and process and write, that you would be renewing my mind and strengthening my spirit. Help me to persevere through my busy schedules and help me to keep my eyes fixed on you throughout it all.

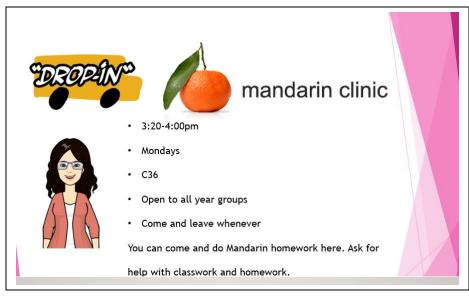
As I enter the exam hall, I pray that you would surround me with your peace. Ease any anxieties, calm my restless mind, and give me focus on the task at hand. I pray that I would know my worth is in you alone, not in any grade I do or do not get. I pray that I would feel your presence during my exams, and that I would be comforted by your nearness.

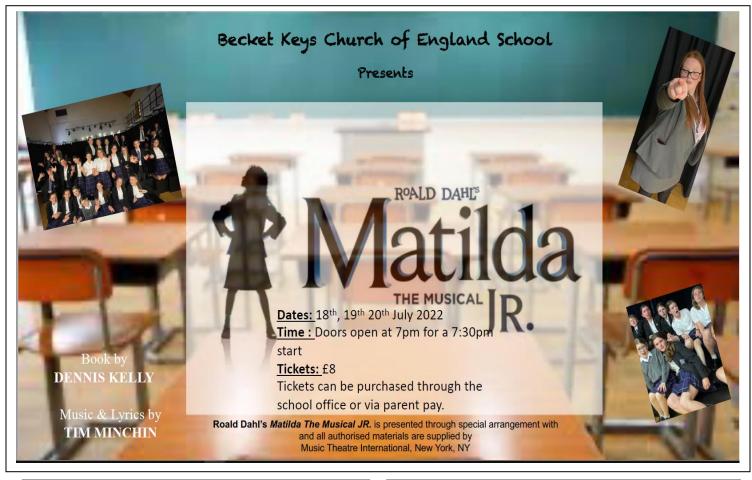
Thank you for the gift of this education, Jesus. I pray that these exams would be a celebration of all I have been learning, and that I would be grateful for all that I have experienced. May I recognise all the ways in which I have grown.

May you be glorified, Lord.

Amen.









Meet with the Headteacher

Remember that Mr Scott-Evans would like to get feedback from parents by organising meetings. Between now and the summer, he would like to meet parents who are available to come to the school and speak about their experience of the Becket Keys. A particular focus will be the Wider Personal Development of students.

Becket Keys is proud of the family environment and sense of community we have achieved since we opened the school in 2012. This has been achieved by working closely with the families of the students who attend the school and the wider local community.

If you are interested in meeting with Mr Scott-Evans please contact Ms McNeela, PA to the Headteacher on 01277 286622 or via email office@becketkeys.org

P A US E

Lessons from birds



'Hope' is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul
And sings the tune without the words
And never stops – at all"
Emily Dickinson

The American poet, Emily Dickinson's description of birds as symbols of hope and tenacity came to mind on an early morning walk in the South Weald woods. The sound of birds communicating with each other and the busy tapping of woodpeckers echoes the reassuring and calming rhythm of the natural world.

I thought I would use birds as the inspiration for this Biblical Pause. Research shows that, since the earliest times of humans, birds have inspired our deepest imaginations. Seemingly fearless

and free in the sky, they create much awe and wonder. Indeed, there is much we can learn from observing them.

There are numerous **general life lessons** inspired by our winged friends. Here are five commonly cited examples you might enjoy:

Be confident

Birds learn to trust themselves before they take off in the sky. So, have faith in your abilities and know that you will find a warm current to soar in.



Let your colours shine

Different birds have hundreds of different hues. Be bright and make sure you are not hiding what makes you one-of-a-kind.

Show up early and often

The legendary 'early bird gets the worm' for a reason. So, find something worth showing up for, and then show up every day (early!).

Go with the seasons

Birds thrive despite changes in their environment. Be fluid and go with the flow, trusting your ability to always find a branch to land on.

Flock together

Birds seek strength and sustenance from one another. Keep friends and family close by as you navigate the days.

But how do these ideas relate to the Christian faith? What do we learn from the numerous references to birds in the Bible?

Perhaps one of my favourite references is found in Matthew 6:26: 'Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?' Later in Matthew 10:29-31, Jesus mentions sparrows to further illustrate how valuable and loved God's children are, and how no detail goes unnoticed by our creator. 'Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.' We can be assured of God's care and the strength of love he has for every individual. We can put our trust in Him, knowing that he will shelter us in troubled times.

The Bible compares those who trust in God to eagles. An eagle soars by using thermals, or columns of rising warm air. Once the eagle locates a thermal, it spreads out its wings and circles



around within the column of air, rising higher and higher. The eagle does not depend on its own strength to soar and glide long distances. In Psalm 103:5, God says He will renew our youth 'like the eagles' and Isaiah 40:31 famously echoes this statement, saying He will renew our strength. Eagles are one of the most mentioned birds in Scripture, often used to symbolise strength and the character of God.

Truly, there is much that we can learn from birds. I have provided only a glimpse here, focusing mainly on two birds. Next time you are in nature, observe birds more closely, learn from them and remember the Scriptural metaphors that speak of them. Be assured of God's love and look to Him for the hope that can enable you to soar like an eagle.

Let us pray:

Dear God,
Even the smallest and most inconspicuous of birds can remind us of how much you value and love us.
We thank you that, when we put our trust in you, we grow in strength; our faith takes flight, and we live in hope. May we depend on you and always be assured of your presence in our lives.

Amen

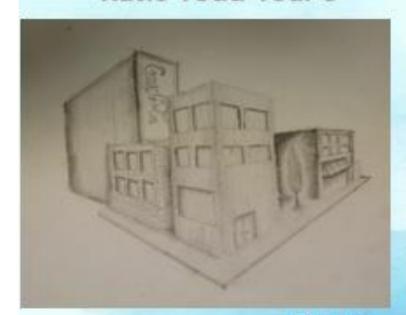
Mrs. Sharp Deputy Headteacher







Katie Todd Year 9



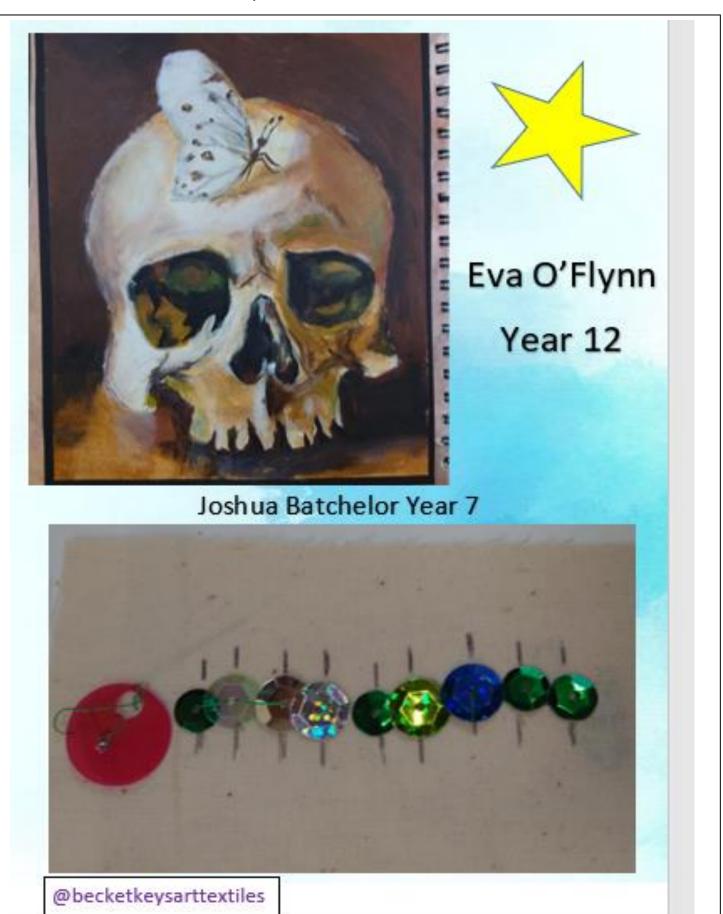


Matthew Stephens Year 10



Tilly Nelson Year 10

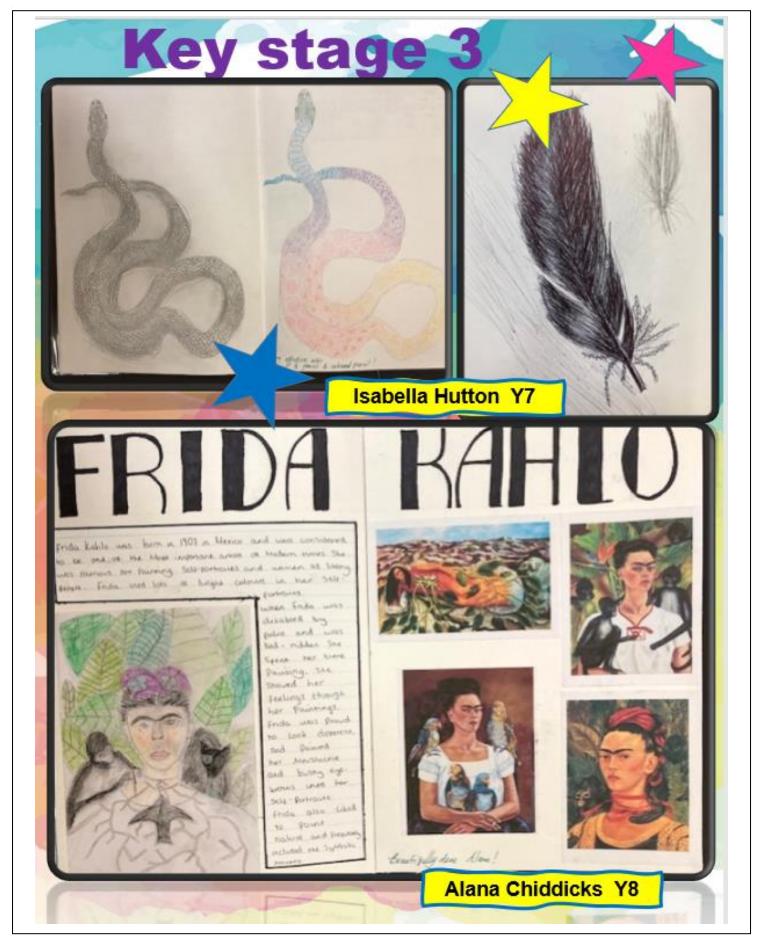








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Sports News

Girls' MESSSA Tennis

Becket Keys students took on their first MESSSA tennis fixture for a number of years recently. The school entered the Year 9 & 10 events in Brentwood.

The girls in the teams came forward as excellent young sportswomen and they really did impress! The Year 9 team consisted of Elizabeth Thompson and Arabella Carroll. Holly Roberts and Regan Clarke represented Year 10.

The Year 9 girls were entered into the A league which had some stiff competition, whilst the Year 10 team had a full schools' round robin to play with little time for breaks.

Results

Year 9 Girls' Tennis Team

3 Wins & 2 Losses



Year 8 Boys' Tennis

The Year 8 boys took to the court at Brentwood School as we entered two partnerships into the MESSA Doubles Tennis tournament. With some fantastic tennis on display the boys were able to overcome the scorching heat and played well!

The duo of Nic and Ed finished in 5th place with some very close matches whereas the Zach and Ben finished runners up taking second place for the age category. A superb performance from the four involved!

Essex Schools' Championship

Max Sanderson, Erin Delea and Lowri Cole all competed in the Essex Schools' Championships last weekend and they all continue to impress!



Erin Delea successfully placed second in her discus event, contributing to Mid-Essex Schools coming 1st overall!



Max Sanderson (who also runs with Beagles Running Club) competed twice in the 800m. Max finished second in his heat in 2:13.66 and then went on to take third place overall in the junior boys' 800M with a new personal best of 2:09.78.

Mid Essex again swept the board in the district championships finishing as the first team in every category.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SOUTH WEALD FESTIVAL

SCHOOL CONCERT

ST PETER'S CHURCH

TUESDAY 21ST JUNE

*

INSET DAYS

(NO STUDENTS IN SCHOOL)

FRIDAY 17TH JUNE 2022

MONDAY 20TH JUNE 2022

*

ENRICHMENT DAY

THURSDY 14TH JULY 2022

*

'MATILDA THE MUSICAL'

MONDAY 18TH JULY

TUESDAY 19TH JULY

WEDNESDAY 20TH JULY

Becket Keys Church of England School

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