

Becket Keys Church of England School

10th February 2023

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Mrs Trebess writes:

Learning a Modern Foreign Language



This week, we held our Guided Curriculum Choices Evening for Year 9 parents and students, to help them to make important choices in terms of GCSE subjects.

For the vast majority of students, the pathway we recommend is The English Baccalaureate (or Ebacc). The Ebacc consists of a suite of academic subjects which align beautifully with our philosophy for the Key Stage

Four curriculum at Becket Keys.
More information about the
Ebacc can be found here

<u>DfE EBacc Leaflet.pdf</u>
(publishing.service.gov.uk)

An essential part of the Ebacc is that all students must study a foreign language. We are passionate about learning languages at Becket Keys – all students have four lessons of language learning every week in Years 7 to 9, which is more than in many other schools.

So why are we so committed to students learning a language? You might be surprised to find out that in addition to improving career opportunities, as languages are increasingly important to make sure we in the UK can compete in the global market (and we study Mandarin

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Mandarin Department
The Mandarin students celebrate the
Spring Festival with a Chinese New

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The Gift of Reading
We are hoping that families will
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Year Concert.

Everyday Temptation is an Opportunity to do Good.

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and Spanish at Becket Keys because they are the most widely spoken languages, after English), learning a language can also help students to become more successful in their other subjects while at school.

This is because learning a language has cognitive benefits. In other words, it increases brain power. Intelligence is not fixed and students can improve their intelligence by thinking in different ways, much the same as they would train their muscles at the gym. Learning a language actually increases the size of your brain! Specifically, learning a language has been proven to be linked to improving attention span, boosting creative thinking, building multi-tasking skills, improving memory and boosting self-esteem.

So, by studying a Modern Foreign Language, students are increasing their chances of success in every subject. What's not to love about that?

If you are interested to learn more, please click here What happens in the brain when you learn a language? | Education | The Guardian

Mrs Trebess Deputy Headteacher





The next pre-loved uniform sale will be held on

Saturday 11th March 2023 11.00am – 12.30pm School playground

If you have any donations of uniform, then please send them into reception with your son/daughter as soon as possible.

On this date, we will also be having a 'cash for clothes' collection to raise money for the school. The Lent holiday will be an ideal opportunity to declutter clothes (adults and children), footwear, hats, belts and bags and donate to help raise funds for the school. Drop off 10.00am – 12.00pm

Please <u>do not</u> donate any household linens (towels, sheets, pillows or duvets) as these are not being collected at this time.

Thank you!

Mandarin Department

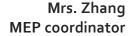
Chinese New Year Concert

Chinese New Year is also called the Spring Festival, which is the dividing line between the cold winter and the vibrant spring. In China, the Spring Festival celebration lasts for fifteen days, finished off with the Lantern Festival. We hang lanterns during the Lantern Festival and end the New Year celebration with Yuanxiao (sweet rice dumplings).

Although far from China, here at Becket Keys we still celebrate this festive holiday. Not only did we have a big whole-day event for all Year 7, but we also had the Year 7 to 10 Mandarin Excellence Programme students participate in a Chinese New Year Concert. Each year group learned a Chinese song and sang as a class. Please visit the following site to hear their beautiful voices.

https://youtu.be/iBqhIJRSr44

Which group sang the best?













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Give the Gift of Reading

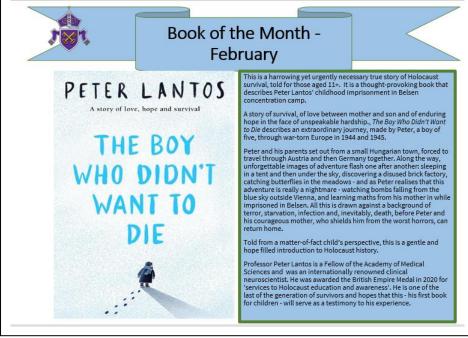
We are asking families to consider donating used books from home for the school library. Please search the shelves at home for books which have been enjoyed but will not be read again. Fiction, non-fiction, poetry, plays, biographies, revision guides and textbooks will all be warmly received.

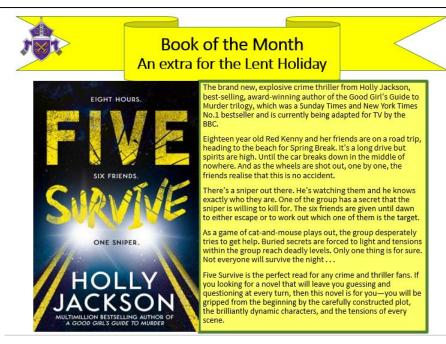
This is a good opportunity for clearing out some shelves!
However, more importantly, it is a chance to help students to get their hands on more books. We want our school to be full of books in every classroom and every department!

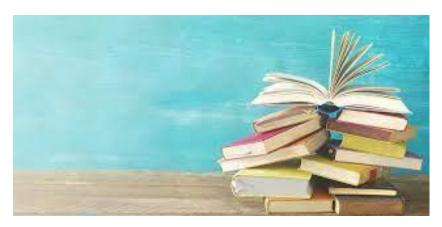
So, if you feel able, why not send some books to school with your son/daughter?

If students prefer, they can also bring them into their form for the Becket Keys Book Swap. Please take this opportunity now to support the rich culture of reading that we are always striving to foster in school.









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Homework Club is available for all students.

Every afternoon after school students can stay for a supervised session until 4.20pm and complete their homework in C11.

Using Homework Club is just one way we provide for students who do not want to leave site at 3.10pm.

There are a large number of extracurricular clubs that your son/daughter can attend at Becket Keys. Full details are available on the school website here:

https://www.becketkeys.org/ extra-curricular

Avoid the traffic! Stay here for a while!





<u>Preparing for Lent</u> <u>together</u>

This year, Lent begins on 22nd February. Each year I produce a calendar of daily prayers for the school community to follow during Lent. This year, I would like to try something new. I would like to invite students and all members of the school community to write a prayer to be used over Lent. Students will be able to submit via Show My Homework. Local clergy, parents, grandparents and friends of the school can send their contribution to me via the staff contact page of our website (Becket Keys). I will encourage students to illustrate their prayers, so if you are feeling artistic, please do send in illustrations too.

I am looking for the prayers to reflect Jesus' journey to the cross, so please reflect on the themes of Lent before you begin writing. Temptation, being sorry, forgiveness, strength, guidance and community are key themes,

as well as reflecting on the death and resurrection of Christ.

I will collate these prayers and create a PDF booklet to use in school and share with the community. My goal is 40 prayers for a 40-day Lent prayer book, so please do get involved with this initiative! I look forward to being able to acknowledge those who have contributed to the booklet as we read the prayers and journey together towards Easter.

Deadline for submissions: Monday 13th February

> Mrs Sharp Deputy Headteacher



School Premise Hire

Did you know that you can hire rooms at Becket Keys? We have a number of different areas throughout the school that we let out and we would be able to find a suitable space for whatever meeting or event you have!



The Main Hall

This is a large area that contains a stage and space for an audience of 275. This area has been used for school performances, large meetings, church services and presentations. Currently available for hire weekday evenings 5.00pm – 10.00pm



The Becket Keys Bistro

Whilst this area is used during the day as a restaurant, the tables are cleared and there is a great area ready to be used for clubs or meetings.

Available weekday evenings from 5.00pm.



The Welby Deli

Based in the Sixth Form Area this social space has tables and chairs suitable for small group groups or the room can be cleared for a larger meeting. There is also a serving station for refreshments. Weekday evenings available from 5.00pm



The Sports Hall

This is the newest purpose building at Becket Keys and can be hired for a variety of different sporting clubs and events.

Weekend hire is currently available.



The Drama Studio

This purpose built space is perfect for rehearsals for Performing Arts groups and choirs and is available on some weekday evenings and on Sunday.

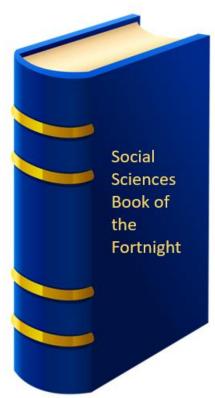


The John Wraw Chapel

Located on the ground floor of the Welby Building, this spacious carpeted area can be set up for meetings or worship (as above) or can be used as a blank canvas for your own requirements. Available weekday evenings from 5.00pm.

For more information and to arrange a viewing, please email lettings@becketkeys.org or telephone o1277 286 618.



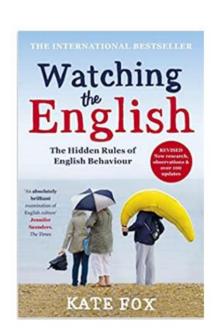


Ms. Stone & Mrs Walker recommend...

Kate Fox's 'Watching the English'

'Kate Fox's acclaimed international bestseller will make you stand back and re-examine everything you take for granted - and if you aren't English you'll finally understand all our peculiar little ways.'

A great read that will have you giggling and questioning why we behave as we do. This links to the A-Level Sociology Unit of 'Socialisation, Culture and Identity' in particular.



National Apprenticeship Week 2023



From the 6th-10th of February we celebrated National Apprenticeship Week at Becket Keys.

The week reflected on how apprenticeships can help individuals to develop the skills and knowledge required for a rewarding career and help businesses to develop a talented workforce that is equipped with skills for the future.

PSHE lessons all had an apprenticeship focus, students discussed and were taught career routes via the apprenticeship pathway. Interactive quizzes and debates were used to develop understanding on how to make full use of apprenticeship avenues.

During tutorial sessions, several live apprenticeship talks were played to students, ranging from manufacturing to law. These sessions were active and engaging with the intent to interest students in the range of apprenticeship opportunities available and to inspire students to start planning and preparing for their next steps. Thank you to Essex County Council and Essex

Opportunities for supplying us with such informative resources.

Our National Apprenticeship
Week Timetable gave students
and parents the opportunity to
take part in online extended
learning. 'Amazing
Apprenticeships' had many
educational sessions available.
The Amazing Apprenticeships
website is a wonderful resource
to use throughout the year if you
would like further information on
further learning.

We hope our students enjoyed National Apprenticeship Week. Please remember to remind all students to check News for Today, the newsletter and the careers board for the latest career and apprenticeship information.

Ms North and Miss Silman



Late Gate

Early is on time, On time is late, And late is unacceptable!

At Becket Keys, we look to ensure that we are preparing students for life beyond school. We encourage students to attend school regularly and on time.

Remember that the school gate closes at **8.25am**. This allows students enough time to be at their first lesson on time. Period 1 begins at 8.30am.

Brentwood can be tough to negotiate during rush hour, so we encourage students and parents to contact the school in the case of *genuine* lateness, such as delayed public transport.

Parents can call the main school line 01277 286600 or use the "Studybugs" app.

We thank you for your support.





The School Community Prayer Group hosted by our Headteacher Mr Scott-Evans is now every Wednesday at 8.45am.

This is a short meeting where we pray together for local and national events and for any intentions of those in our school family. All are welcome.

If you have any prayer intentions, please send them into the school via the office email:

office@becketkeys.org

Subject Consultation Evenings

Year 7 Thursday 16th March 2023

Year 10 Thursday 8th June 2023



Free School Meal Vouchers Lent Holiday

Further funding for Free School Meal vouchers for the Lent period has been allocated by the local authority. As with previous holidays will be using the school voucher system, Wonde, to issue vouchers.

Parents/carers of eligible students will receive an email from Wonde next week to allow them to claim the voucher. 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.

The current retailers available are Asda, Aldi, B&M, Farmfoods, M&S, Iceland, Morrisons, Sainsburys, Waitrose and Tesco. 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/en-gb/sections/360003848737-Recipient-FAQs

You can also download the Evouchers app to make it simpler to access and use vouchers. This can be downloaded via either the Apple App Store or Google Play. Further information on how to access and use the app can be found here -

https://help.evouchers.com/hc/en-gb/sections/360005926797-NEW-Evouchers-com-App

Your child may be eligible to get free school meals if you get any of the following: Income Support, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income-related Employment and Support Allowance, Child Tax Credit, Working Tax Credit or Universal Credit. For full details and information on how to apply click here: https://www.essex.gov.uk/free-school-meals



'Speakers for Schools' was founded in 2010 by ITV's Political Editor, Robert Peston. The 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. There are many talks from today's influential figures via the Inspiration programme and are available all free of charge.

DATE	SPEAKER	INFO
Monday 20th	Christine Hodgson, Chairperson,	Join us and hear from Christine Hodgson as she
February 10-	Severn Trent & Former	delivers a talk about her career and what it's like
10:45am	Chairman, Capgemini	to be a woman in leadership.
	For KS4-5/S4-6	Click <u>here</u> to register
Tuesday 21st	Upskill: Singing lessons with	Often referred to as "The UK's Vocal Whiz",
February 10-	CeCe Sammy-Lightfoot, Vocal	CeCe Sammy-Lightfoot has been a leading
10:45am	Coach & TV Presenter	vocal and performance coach for some of the
		biggest names in music. She's also known for
	For KS ₃₋₅ /S ₁₋₆	her TV appearances and behind the scenes
		contributions as a vocal coach, judge, advisor,
		and talent scout, on various music and
		entertainment shows such as: "Pop Idol",
		"America's Got Talent", "American Idol", "X
		Factor: Battle of the Stars" and more. Join this
		virtual singing class to get some expert insights
		and tips.
)		Click here to register
Wednesday 22nd	In partnership with Fully Bossed:	Ready to be a standout performer or accelerate
February 10-11am	The Four Pillars Activity with	your game? Join us for this interactive
	Oluchi Ikechi-D'Amico	broadcast! We will use Mentimeter as part of
	E. KC IC C	this broadcast to help those watching build on
	For KS4-5/S4-6	their soft skills that have been divided by Fully
		Bossed tried and tested format: Mindset, Brand,
		Storytelling, and Orchestration. This free
		session will include elements of coaching and
		students will get a chance to ask questions to
		our speaker along the way.
		Click <u>here</u> to register
		Click <u>incre</u> to register

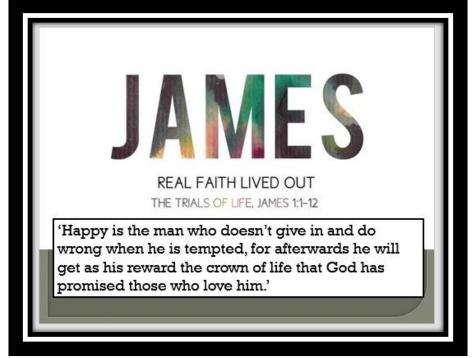
Watch previous talks via the speakers for Schools library here.

P AWS E

EVERY TEMPTATION IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO DO GOOD



As we prepare for Lent, we begin to think about how we will make the most of the season to develop our relationship with God and demonstrate this through the way we live our lives. Our seven school values help us to live guided by God's Word and following the example of Jesus. We show respect and responsibility by being trustworthy, honest, caring, fair and forgiving. This does not mean that living out our Christian values is easy and that we are never tempted to do the wrong thing. However, through our path to spiritual maturity, every temptation becomes a steppingstone, rather than a stumbling block when we realise it is just as much an occasion to do the right thing as it is to do the wrong thing. Temptation simply provides the



choice. Every time you do the right things instead of sin, you grow in the character of Christ.

To understand this, you must first identify the character qualities of Jesus. One of the most concise descriptions of his character is the Fruits of the Spirit:

'When the Holy Spirit controls our lives, he will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.'

Galatians 5:22-23



How then does the Holy Spirit produce these in our lives? We do not wake one day to find ourselves fully developed with these characteristics. Fruit always matures and ripens slowly. God develops the Fruits of the Spirit, by allowing us to experience circumstances in which we are tempted to express the exact opposite quality. Character development always involves choice and temptation provides opportunity. For instance, God teachers us love by putting some unlovely people around us. It does not show character to love people who are lovely and loving to you. God teaches us real joy in the midst of sorrow, when we turn to Him. Happiness can depend on external circumstances, but joy is based on your relationship with God. God develops real peace within us, not by making things the way we planned, but by allowing times of chaos and confusion. Anyone can be peaceful watching a beautiful sunset or relaxing on holiday! We

learn real peace by choosing to trust God in circumstances in which we are tempted to worry or be afraid. Likewise, patience is developed in circumstances in which we are forced to wait and are tempted to be angry or have a short fuse. God uses the opposite situation of each fruit to allow us a choice. We cannot claim to be good if we have never been tempted to be bad. We cannot claim to be faithful if we have never had the opportunity to be unfaithful. Integrity is built by defeating the temptation to be dishonest; humility grows when we refuse to be prideful; and endurance develops every time we reject the temptation to give up. Every time we defeat a temptation, we become more like Christ.

Understanding how temptation works is helpful, but there are three specific steps we need to take to overcome it:

Refuse to be intimidated: We should not be discouraged by it. The Bible says 'when you are tempted' not 'if'. Paul advises, 'remember that the temptations that come into your life are no different from what others experience' (1 Corinthians 10:13). It is not a sin to be tempted. Temptation is only a sin when we give in to it. Jesus himself was tempted (Mark 1:9-15, Mark 4:1-11). It is turning away from sins and believing the Good News which makes the difference!

Recognise our pattern of temptation and be prepared: There are certain situations that make us more vulnerable to

temptation than others. Some circumstances will cause us to stumble almost immediately, while others do not bother us much. These relate to where we are, the time of day, who is with us and how we feel. We need to plan for these situations or avoid them. We need to refocus our attention on something else.

Request God's help: Heaven has a twenty-four-hour emergency hotline! God wants us to ask him for assistance in overcoming temptation. He says, 'Call on me in times of trouble. I will rescue you, and you will honour me' (Psalm 50:15). This does not have to be a long conversation with God. A mini prayer, a quick call for help, is all that is needed. An S.O.S is all it takes! The Bible guarantees that our cry for help will be heard because Jesus is sympathetic to our struggle.

Remember, temptation keeps us



dependent upon God. Just as the roots grow stronger when wind blows against a tree, so every time you stand up to temptation, you become more like Jesus. When you stumble, which we all do, it is not fatal. Instead of giving in or giving up, we must look up to God, expect him to help and remember the reward that awaits us:

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'When people are tempted and still continue strong, they should be happy. After they have proved their faith, God will reward them with life everlasting.'

James 1:12

Let us pray:

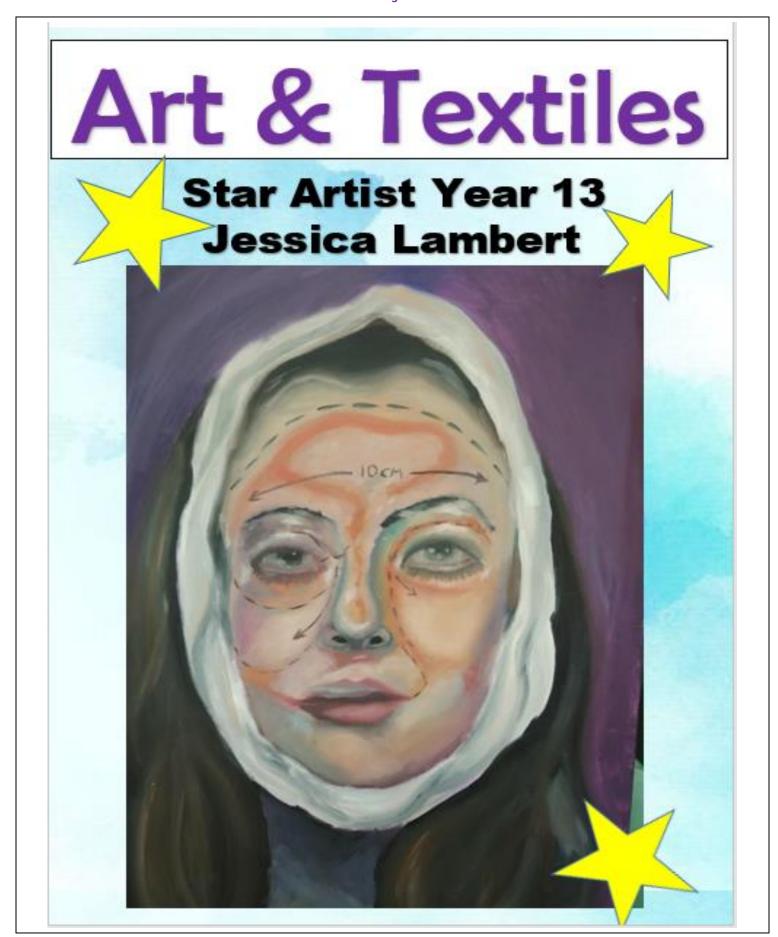
Dear Lord, let us believe that You will help us stand strong when we are tempted to do wrong. Give us the words and actions to do the right thing. Strengthen us, protect us and guide us so that we can be more like you.

Lord, I ask that you continue to remind us of how important it is to invite your presence daily into our lives and circumstances. We lift up to you our relationships with others. Bring these into your loving arms. Please show us the way to let go, to forgive, to set free. Protect and preserve us from all misunderstanding and miscommunication. Give us compassion and forgiveness, so that we may value and use the love that You have given us.

Lord, thank you for loving and accepting each and every one of us. You proved your love on the cross and your acceptance by filling us with your spirit. Thank you that you have welcomed us into your presence. Help us to love and accept the people you have placed in our lives. Lord thank you that, because of your love, you have already decided that through the gift of your Son that we are set free, our sins are forgiven. How great is your grace.

Amen.

Mrs Sharp Deputy Headteacher



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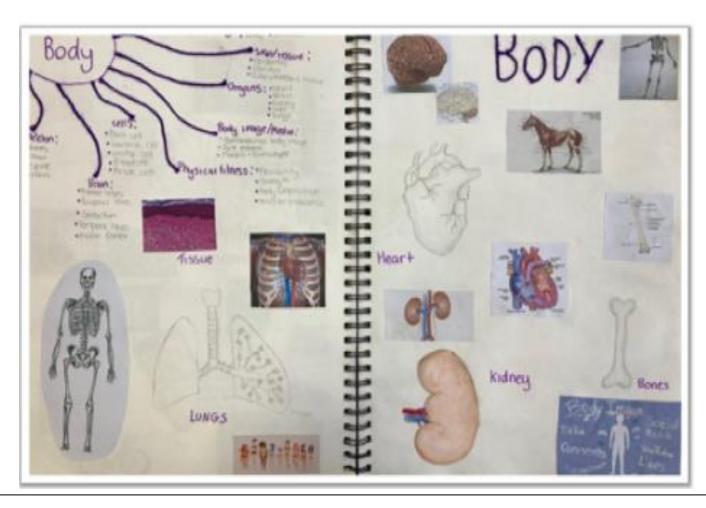


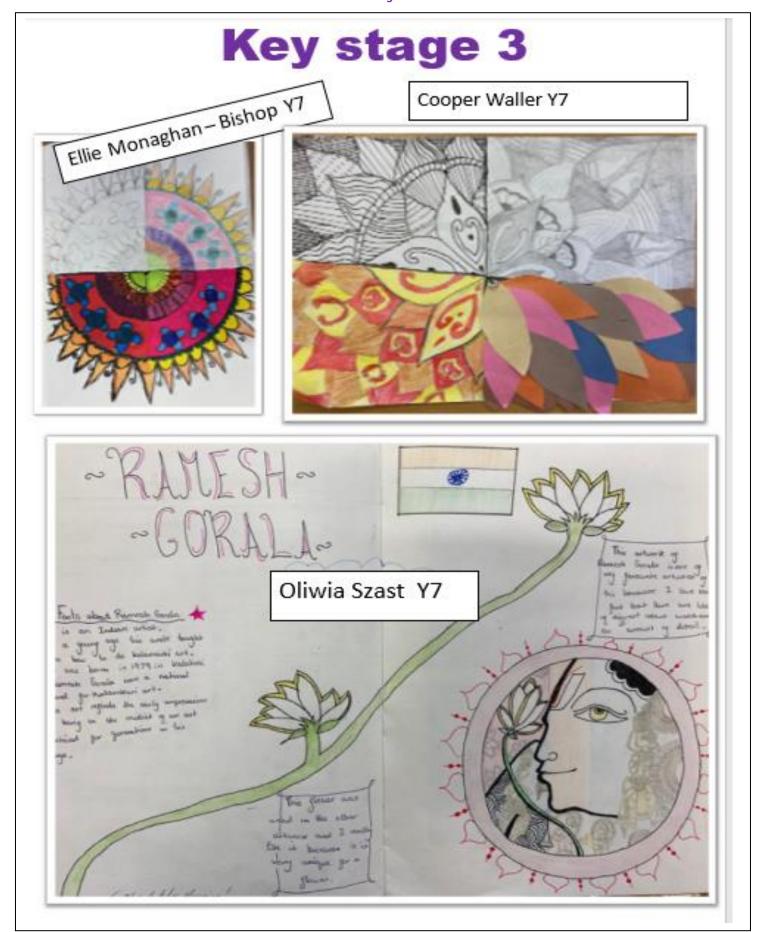
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In Art & Textiles this week with Mrs Cherry Star of the week

Maisie Mowatt

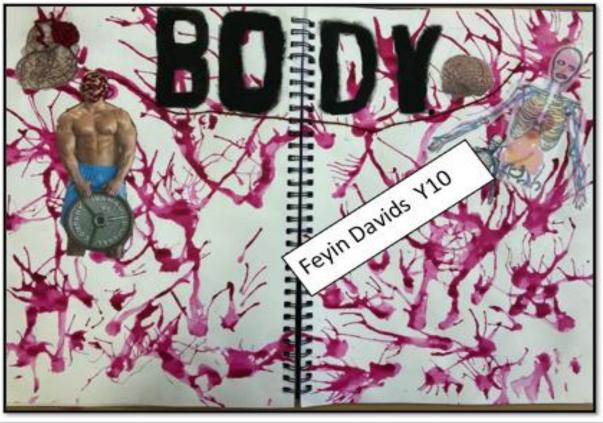
Y10



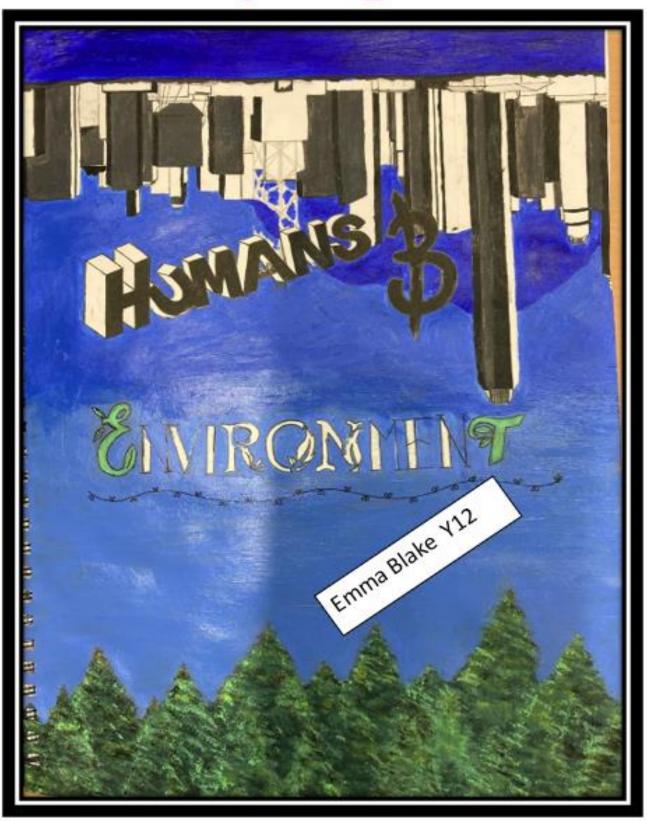


Key stage 4





Key stage 5





This week the students have been getting tips on how to protect their Mental Health. It is important to spend time outdoors in nature and to be active. Spending time in nature has been found to assist with anxiety and depression and there are also links between nature and relaxation and being outside gives our bodies much needed vitamin D from sunlight. Being active is good for both your mind and body and every minute of activity counts; the more you do the more you will benefit. Exercise can improve your sleep, clear your mind, boost your energy and help with back or joint pain.

In order to combine nature and exercise why not join the Parkrun? Parkrun is a free, community event where you can walk, jog, run, volunteer or spectate. Parkrun is 5k and takes place every Saturday morning. Junior Parkrun is 2k, dedicated to 4-14 year olds, and their families, every Sunday morning.

Parkrun is positive, welcoming and inclusive, there is no time limit and no one finishes last!





Everyone is welcome to come along.

Parkrun is free and you only need to <u>register once</u> whether walking, jogging, running, volunteering or a combination.

There are currently 1,163 parkrun events around the country taking place every weekend, with more locations being added all the time.

You can go along to any event, any weekend. Find out more here:

https://www.parkrun.org.uk/













DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

YEAR 10 SEVILLE TRIP THURSDAY 9TH FEBRUARY – MONDAY 13TH FEBRUARY 2023

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LENT HOLIDAY

MONDAY 13TH FEBRUARY –

FRIDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2023

*

INSET DAY
NO STUDENTS IN SCHOOL
MONDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2023

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NEARLY NEW UNIFORM SALE AND 'CASH FOR CLOTHES' COLLECTION SATURDAY 11TH MARCH 2023

*

YEAR 7 SUBJECT CONSULTATION EVENING THURSDAY 16TH MARCH 2023

*

SPRING CONCERT
THURSDAY 23RD MARCH 2023

*

END OF TERM STUDENT HALF DAY FRIDAY 31ST MARCH

*

EASTER HOLIDAY MONDAY 3RD APRIL – FRIDAY 14TH APRIL

*

INSET DAY
NO STUDENTS IN SCHOOL
MONDAY 17TH APRIL 2023

Becket Keys Church of England School

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