

Becket Keys Church of England School

21st July 2023

SCHOOL PRODUCTION – SCHOOL OF ROCK!

IN THIS ISSUE

Mr Scott-Evans writes....

Dear Parents,

For my last newsletter of the year, I decided to ask staff to give me some their highlights of the year. There were so many it is hard to know where to begin!
Regretfully, I am sure that there will be many that I leave out; feel free to write in to give me some of your reflections.

Fresh in many of our minds is the school musical. Did you see it? What a show! The performances were incredible with our lead Toby Bennett making a most significant impression. The whole cast was wonderfully energetic and enthusiastically supported by our very capable live band. The whole team involved whether backstage or on stage were so impressive. We all felt extremely proud.

Similarly, our PE team have been very pleased with our sporting achievements this year. We won the District Football Competition for the first time in quite a while, and this meant a lot to our Year 11 team and the staff. However, they are just one of our many successful teams. We do not always win, but we do succeed in enjoying the games and giving students the experience of playing for the school. I am very proud of our PE teachers and students. This is particularly the case as we have been without Mr Jones for several months now. We are saying a fond farewell to him this summer; he has decided to leave to focus on his health. We are grateful for his service and dedication to the



School of Rock!

Check out the pictures for this year's school production!

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End of Year Messages

The Heads of Year have a message for the students in their year group.

Page 6-8

Year 7 Residential Trip

Year 7 had an amazing time at Manor Adventure.

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Year 12 Enrichment

Our RP students had a recent visit to a number of local churches.

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Biblical Pause

A summer of spiritual growth!

Page 16-17

...contd. from Page 1 school, and we wish him well in the future.

Mr Hughes is very proud to have very recently won a bid to convert two classrooms into science labs. This £100,000 contribution from the Wolfson Foundation will be almost enough to completely kit out the two labs. Mr Hughes worked really hard to put the bid together and we look forward to showing you some designs in September and looking at some potential fundraising to improve the labs to an even higher specification.





Many of us are proud to have been supporting our two school charities this year: SNAP and I Got Shoes. This week we have been challenging students to think about what they can do over the summer holiday to raise more money for charity.

For staff and students, a highlight has definitely been the school trips that we have been running. We know that trips create unique opportunities. Friendships are forged, new experiences had and memories are built that will last a lifetime. A new trip to Seville was added this year, which was probably the best trip that I have ever attended (and I have been to quite a few!).



For similar reasons, the enrichment day curriculum has also been important for many. These days provide the school with opportunities to do things that are hard to accommodate in the usual timetable. We would all like to take the opportunity to thank the many volunteers who come to help us on these days. Most recently we had an army of guests in our careers fair.



Sports Day was a highlight again this year. Watching students giving their best in this important house competition all in a good spirit was, as usual, a real joy.

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Likewise, the new Book Swap Scheme, weekly reading sessions and World Book Day worked really well this year with some new activities designed by Miss White. Our English team are looking forward to introducing new reading initiatives next year and getting the library open more regularly for students.

A highlight for our Sixth Form team has been seeing the demand for places shoot up this year. Our Open Evenings, Sixth Former for a Day and the Bridging Event were attended by record numbers. It is very encouraging to see so many students wanting to join our school for A Levels. We also had more demand again for Year 7 places with over 850 families applying for a place.

Clubs are always hugely important. A few highlights included the highly attended weekly basketball clubs, the debating club's competition against Brentwood School, the Social Science Club, the Boardgames Club and the various music clubs which led to wonderful concerts including a new concert at Chelmsford Cathedral.



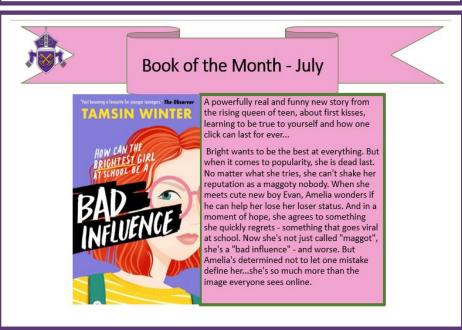
All teachers were really proud of our exam cohorts and how well they tackled the challenges of the exam seasons this year. We look forward with confidence to seeing how well they will do in August.



Our Chinese Teaching team told me how very proud they all are of our on-going successes in competitions and exams. Our Chinese teaching team continues to extend. Next year we will have four teachers in our Chinese Mandarin Department! Their extensive efforts to support students in learning this important language and culture are being rewarded.

Finally, our art and textiles team have received a lot of praise for their work this year. The recent galleries as part of the Brentwood Art Trail and in the reception for the Governors' Speech and Awards Evening (which was also a





triumph in its own right!) were much admired.

So, there we have it, just a quick reminder of some of our many highlights this year. I would like to finish by thanking all the students and staff for their fantastic levels of commitment. We are all very proud of what we have achieved and look forward to building on this next year.

I pray that you all enjoy restful, fun and safe summers. Why not

take some time to reflect on your family's highlights from the year?

I will see many of you in August on the results days and the rest of you in September when we restart for the new year.

> Mr Scott-Evans Head Teacher

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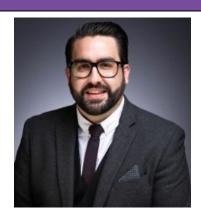
School of Rock!





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Messages from the Heads of Years



Year 7

Year 7s – It has been a whirlwind of a year. Congratulations! Your first secondary school academic year has come and gone and you're ready to gear up for the next journey. Before we do that, it is important to reflect, learn and grow.

First of all, you have developed good habits this year. Learning your way around a new environment, studying subjects that you haven't studied before and setting a routine that will benefit you for years to come. Remember to continue these habits as everything in life is easier when we have good energy.

Secondly, we need to think:
"What went well? What's worth
celebrating?" You have
accomplished so much this year.
It has been fantastic to watch you
compete in so many sports, with
a special mention to my Year 7
Basketball team: you made me so
proud the way you learned and
grew as a team. I hope that you
continue this journey in Year 8.

You have also taken part in so many events and trips, including the Girls' Cybersecurity Event, library trips, Chinese New Year celebration and culminating in our Norfolk Lakes residential. Finally, it was lovely to see so many Year 7s taking the opportunity to take part in this year's school production. You were all amazing!

Next, we need to reflect on "How can I get better?" You have all progressed this year, but there is still work to do. Look at your reports and identify where you need to get better. Continue to study, read and learn over the summer, but also take the time to rest so that you can come back stronger.

Now it is time for you to become the role models that I know you can be for the new Year 7s coming to Becket Keys Church of England School. As they start in September, help them to find their classes, show them how Becket Keys students present themselves and be the friendly, mature and respectful students that I know you are. Mr Collins is taking on a brilliant year group, and I am sure you will go from strength to strength.

Mr Fish Head of Year 7



Year 8

Congratulations on completing another year at Becket Keys! This year, you put in a lot of effort and have been very successful.

You have every right to feel pleased with yourselves. To ensure that everyone is in the best possible frame of mind when school resumes in September, I hope you take advantage of the summer break by relaxing and having fun.

Remember to go over what you learnt this year and revise, so it is fresh in your memory for next year! As you continue through to the next step in your education, you will face new challenges. I can't wait to travel with you on that adventure. Have a nice summer, and I am excited to see you all in September, looking smart and raring to start school!

Miss Morgan Head of Year 8





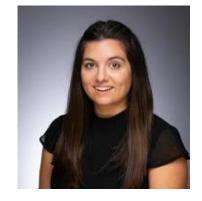
Year 9

As the year draws to a close and our Year 9 cohort prepare for their GCSE years, I would like to take this time to reflect on the progress our students have made. Despite a few changes to their Head of Year and form tutors, the Year 9 students have been flourishing in their personal revision skills, public speaking talents and, more recently, their team building ability.

This year, they have had to make their option choice and prepare themselves for their first set of mock exams, which appear to have been a success for many students. I implore them all to continue their hard work throughout their GCSE years as I feel a very successful year group have just started their academic journey. I am disappointed to not be taking these students through into the next year, but I am confident that Mrs Noble's experience will be truly beneficial for this year group.

I wish all concerned a safe and happy holiday and look forward to seeing everyone in the new year. Best wishes!

Miss Schafer - Head of Year 9



Year 10

A huge WELL DONE from me for all your hard work this year. It has been a big year for us! You have completed your first set of GCSE mocks and – as a cohort – you are in a very strong position already in terms of your progress towards your targets.

I am so incredibly proud of how well you have conducted yourselves. It has been lovely for me to watch so many of you starting to mature into young adults already, something that I am certain will continue into next year. From September, we will continue to work on building you up to be resilient, positive and responsible people.

A few reminders from me for over the summer:

- Make sure you take time to see your friends and get out in the sunshine! Wind down and enjoy the break.
- 2. Do your summer work little and often. Don't leave it all until the last week, but space it out, doing a little bit every day so that you get everything

- completed to a high standard, and without the need to rush anything.
- 3. Uniform should be 100% correct from the first day back in September no excuses! Please make sure that lashes/nails are removed for the first day, and that you have correct school shoes etc.
- 4. If you need support of any kind over the holidays, I am still here for you. Email me through the contact page on the school website if you have any questions or worries.

Remember, your attitude determines your altitude. Aim high, and let's have a winning year next year.

Happy holidays!

Miss Brown Head of Year 10



Year 11

To all the Year 11s,

I hope that you are now relaxing after your hard work during the exams. It has been an absolute pleasure to be your head of year for three years and we have all been on a great journey.

I wish you all the very best over the summer and into next year, and I am excited to celebrate with you on results day! Thank you for making my last three years so enjoyable and I look forward to leading the current Year 9s through their GCSE journey. Wishing you all a wonderful summer!

> Mrs Noble Head of Year 11



Sixth Form

It has been a fantastic year for the Sixth Form, which – almost entirely – has been due to our wonderful students. It has been a pleasure to watch all of them take on new challenges, develop a healthy curiosity and allow their excellent characters to flourish.

How our students have conducted themselves in and out of lessons has been precisely in line with what we aimed for when we opened the Sixth Form in 2017. The love of learning shown in lessons has been matched by the

mature use of study periods, with the outcomes of this thoughtful effort being evident in the recent Year 12 UCAS exams. Clearly, there are nervous students, parents and teachers waiting for A Level results to come out, but the progress Year 13 students had made by their final mocks created a calm, professional environment during exam season and this suggests great success is on the horizon.

Of course, Becket Keys is about way more than 'just' exam results, and our Sixth Formers have been outstanding in how they have embraced opportunities all year. On site, this has included learning from varied guest speakers, relishing the super-curricular experiences recommended to them and giving their time, expertise and energy as they volunteer in all sorts of roles. Elsewhere, their enthusiasm on diverse educational visits has been matched by their sense of fun during the more informal trips - which will just increase when Kolley Kibber becomes Kolley McKibber next year!

My only regret is that I will not be here to see our exceptional Year 12s through their entire time in the Sixth Form – nor welcome our next lovely cohort in September. I will, though, be here to celebrate with Year 13 students as they open their envelopes and lead on enrolling our next students on GCSE results days. There are exciting times ahead for the Sixth Form, and I am jealous that Mrs Course and Mrs Knowles will get

to enjoy this! As students past, present and future make the next steps of their respective journeys, I hope that they are as proud to have been part of Becket Keys Sixth Form as I am.

I wish all members of the very special Becket Keys community a lovely summer and all the best for their futures,

Mr Peggs Assistant Headteacher & Head of Sixth Form





Year 7 Residential – Manor Park Adventure

Residential trips are the most exhausting - but valuable - part of every school year. The Year 7 Norfolk Lakes trip was no exception! After getting to Norfolk, the rain did not stop Year 7s getting stuck in to their first two activities. Staff were so proud of how keen Year 7s were to get involved in paddleboarding, canoeing, archery and raft building. That night we were unfortunately woken up by a fire alarm at 3am, but students acted maturely and we got back to bed soon after.

On Saturday, the weather was better, and we enjoyed a full day of activities. Staff and students took part in axe throwing, climbing, giant paddleboards, caving and aero ball. It was great to see all students having fun in the water, taking on leadership roles and showing newfound strengths. The day ended with some karaoke and some well-deserved sleep.

Our final day saw us do two final activities before some room checks and lunch. We had a smooth coach journey back with a lot of exhausted young people. It was non-stop activities from start to finish and students made Becket Keys proud.

Mr Fish Head of Year 7



Caving was very fun because we got to try something new.
Although it was quite dark, it was exciting.

Helet Van Der Lith

The Norfolk lakes trip pushed us out of our comfort zone, and we all got to try something new that we wouldn't be able to do normally in school.

Harriet Price



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I have always been a fan of archery, and the activity in Norfolk lakes made me realise that I'm not as good as Katniss Everdeen.

Lottie Godfrey











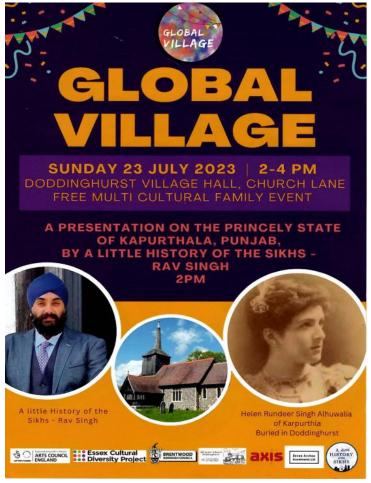




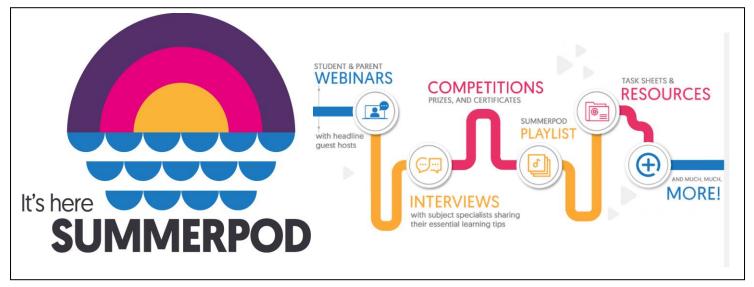


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Student Webinars

From the 31st of July, over the course of two weeks, students and parents are invited to participate in engaging and interactive webinars, gain access to interviews with subject specialists, resources, task sheets and more. Simply use the registration links below to register your place.

Moving from Year 9 into Year 10

Students are encouraged to rocket their way into Year 10 by exploring personal goals and cultivating healthy habits that will benefit them on their journey throughout Key Stage 4.

31st July 2023 11.00am

Moving from Year 10 into Year 11

Students can 'lift-off' into Year 11 with tips on prioritising their wellbeing and enhancing the space around them.
Register here:

7th August 2023 at 11.00am

Parent Webinars

Joanne Winters will take parents through an introduction to GCSEPod, showing you all the tips and tricks on how the resource can support you and your child to learn and revise.

2nd August 2023 5.00pm

In this special webinar, Joanne Winters and Ess Duff will talk about the things that no-one told them when guiding their child through their GCSEs and how GCSEPod helped to support them.

9th August 2023 5.00pm

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Remember: there is no cost for GCSEPod and SummerPod, they are offering a fun, interactive and motivational programme of events to all students and parents of students.

SummerPod will be providing a small number of videos focussed on subject-specific skills, particularly in English and Maths. However, due to the huge range of subjects covered on GCSEPod and the range of students that will be taking part, the SummerPod live events and activities will be focussed on general life and learning skills such as staying organised, ditching distractions, effective prioritisation and keeping motivated.

All live events will be recorded and recordings will be readily available for anyone who wants to watch on demand and catch up either during or after SummerPod.

For full details of all the resources available check out the website: www.qcsepod.com/sum

merpod





Free School Meal Vouchers Summer Holiday

Further funding for Free School Meal vouchers for the Summer break 2023 has been allocated by the local authority. As with previous holidays, we will be using the school voucher system, Wonde, to issue vouchers.

Parents and carers of eligible students will have received an email from Wonde to allow them to claim a voucher for £75 for this period. Please check your junk mail if you have not received this. 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

Evouchers have now introduced an 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



If your son/daughter has misplaced anything at school, then kindly inform them 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!



Religion & Philosophy Year 12 Enrichment Trip

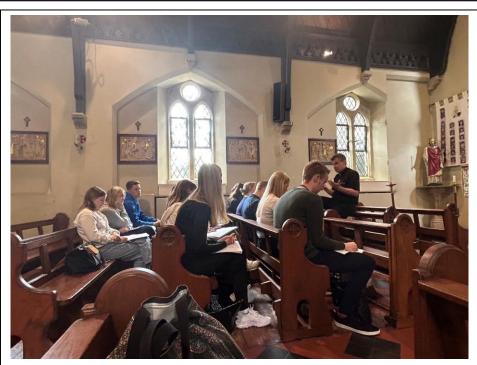
On Wednesday 19th July, Year 12's RP class adventured to three churches which housed differing denominations. We visited the Romford Baptist Church, the Catholic Parish Church of St Edward the Confessor and the St Lawrence Church of England.

Students were able to put their textbook knowledge to the test, drawing links between our studies and the churches. We were presented with the opportunity to ask questions about the practices of each denomination, such as Baptism and religious views on science. This allowed us to clearly see the differences in the denominations and have a secure grasp of the content for the A Level. Moreover, we were able to have a closer look at St Lawrence's service items such as the chalice used in Eucharist.

The highlight was a student dressing in ornate vestments worn by Priests! Despite the difference in beliefs, we concluded that all denominations work together under the Christian Faith.

Special thanks to Mrs Course for organising the trip, and to Mr Silver for driving the Becket Keys minibus!

Izzie Brooke Year 12











Essex Youth Service Summer Programme 2023

Registration is now open! -

Join Essex Youth Service for an action packed three days of fun, challenge, and games. Free to attend, including lunch.

After the three days, you can complete an optional two day/one night expedition experience in the Essex countryside taking place on Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd August 2023.

What's involved?
Open to all 13–19-year-olds in Essex.

9:30am-4.00pm

Monday to Wednesday to take part in three days of fun activities including creating street art, cooking, trying out martial arts and self-defence, discovering Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition skills, and taking part in competitive challenges. With a tasty lunch included each day.

Plus

- Outdoor cooking
- Science Experiments
- Street Art
- Team games
- Sports
- First Aid
- Outdoor skills
- Expedition experience
- Arts and crafts



The three sessions will take place o9:30am - 4pm Monday to Wednesday at our Youth Centres across Essex. Full joining instructions will be emailed to you one week before the programme start date.

- 24th, 25th, 26th July -Colchester Townhouse, 39-42 East Stockwell Street, CO1 1SS
- 31st, 1st, 2nd August The Brentwood Youth Centre, 15 Shenfield Road, Brentwood, CM15 8AG

- 31st, 1st, 2nd August -Galleywood, Watchhouse Road, Chelmsford, CM2 8PT
- 14th, 15th, 16th August -Timberlog Youth Centre, Timberlog Lane, Basildon SS14 1PB

Full details and information about booking is here:

https://youth.essex.gov.uk/young-people/essex-summer-programme-2023/

P A US E

Rest, rejuvenation and spiritual growth

The summer holidays are here!
They provide a break from the routine and busyness of school.
However, while it is good to press pause on many things, the summer is also an opportunity for rejuvenation and spiritual growth.



In the Bible, we find numerous instances where individuals withdrew from their daily routines to seek solitude and connection with God. Jesus himself often retreated to pray and meditate, setting an example of the importance of taking a pause from our busy lives to focus on our spiritual well-being. During these summer holidays, let us make a conscious effort to set aside time for prayer, meditation, and reflection. Just as a plant requires water and nourishment to grow, our souls too need spiritual nourishment to flourish.



We can find this nourishment by immersing ourselves in the scriptures, meditating on the Word of God and spending time in heartfelt conversations with our Heavenly Father.

Summer holidays also provide us with an opportunity to be mindful of the beauty of God's creation. Whether it is a day at the beach, a hike in the mountains or simply enjoying a picturesque sunset, let us remember that all of nature speaks of the Creator's love and wisdom.



As we embark on various adventures and maybe travel to new places during the holidays, may we remain conscious of our actions and interactions, showing kindness and compassion to everyone we encounter.

Remember the words of

Galatians 5:22-23, which remind us of the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Let us also keep in mind those who may be less fortunate during this time of abundance and reach out in service and charity. There is much we can do to make a positive impact in the lives of others, even during our leisure days.

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father,

As we embrace these summer holidays with gratitude in our hearts, we thank you for the gift of rest and renewal. We seek your presence and guidance as we take this time to grow spiritually. May the pages of the Bible come alive with wisdom and inspiration, leading us closer to You.

As we explore the wonders of your creation, open our eyes to see your handiwork and our hearts to respond in awe and reverence. Help us to embody the

fruits of the Spirit in all our interactions, spreading love and kindness wherever we go.

Lord, grant us the wisdom to use our time wisely, to rest and to engage in activities that refresh our souls. May we also remember those in need and extend our hands in service to our communities.

In your name, we pray for safety and protection during our travels and adventures. May we return to school with rejuvenated spirits, ready to continue our journey of growth and learning.

Amen.

Wishing you all a blessed and spiritually enriching summer holiday.

Mrs Sharp Deputy Headteacher



FREE ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES & WORKSHOPS



The British Army offers a range of FREE activities, workshops and events to support you and your students. From careers presentations to teambuilding activities, the Army has something to Inspire your school. Delivered by highly professional personnel, the sessions can be tailored to fit your timetable.



LET US HELP YOU MEET THE GATSBY BENCHMARKS

MEET YOUR ARMY

Interactive presentations / assemblies where you can meet soldiers who will talk about their careers in the Army. Virtual and video presentations also available to show your students at a time that suits you.

STEM WORKSHOPS Our STEM workshops focus on individual and team skills. Participants will be challenged to complete tasks which will focus on their ability to work as a member of a team and face personal challenges. Communication, respect for others, resilience and lateral thinking are put to the test in these interactive sessions.

LIFE SKILLS

Get stuck in! These indoor sessions gives students a taste of Army teamwork and problem solving, with a wide range of hands-on, confidence-building activities. Up to 50 Students can take part in the 1- to 2-hour sessions. Different classes can rotate through our activities throughout the school day.

Scan the QR Code to connect to YOUR ARMY ENGAGEMENT TEAM Who can explain our offer further:





Elle Holdcroft Holly Fisher

Student Achievement Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award

Some of our Year 9 students have recently completed the Bronze level Duke of Edinburgh award and they have recently undertaken their expeditions.

They are now eagerly waiting to hear the final outcome and hopefully will all receive their awards soon.



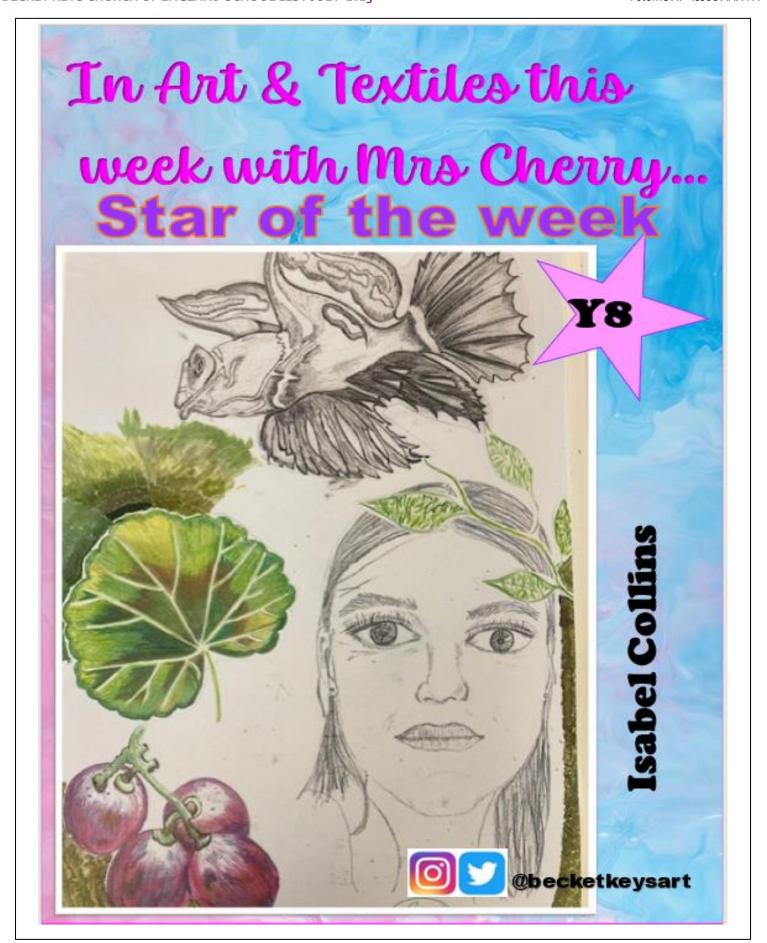
Congratulations to the following students:

Oliver Atkinson
Spencer Guest
Joshua Eida
Daniel Slater
Jessica Slater
Jake Haworth
Evangeline Warn
Ruby Appleton
Naomi Sibbald
Ella Jade Patel
Harriet Hart









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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

NEW ACADEMIC YEAR

INSET DAYS

(NO STUDENTS IN SCHOOL)

4TH & 5TH SEPTEMBER 2023

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NEW YEAR 7 & YEAR 12 FIRST DAY
WEDNESDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER

ALL YEAR GROUPS
BACK TO SCHOOL
THURSDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 2023

*

A LEVEL RESULTS DAY

THURSDAY 17TH AUGUST 2023

GCSE RESULTS DAY

THURSDAY 24TH AUGUST 2023

*

SIXTH FORM ENROLMENT

THURSDAY 24TH &

FRIDAY 25TH AUGUST 2023

TERM DATES CAN BE VIEWED ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE HERE:

https://www.becketkeys.org/term-dates

Becket Keys Church of England School

Sawyers Hall Lane Brentwood, Essex CM15 9DA 01277 286600

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

Twitter:

- @BecketKeys
- @MrScottEvans
- @BecketKeys6th
- @BecketKeysMusic
- @BecketKeysPE
- @BecketKeysArt
- @BecketKeysSci
- @BecketKeysDT

Facebook: Becket Keys Church School