

Becket Keys Church of England School

24th November 2023

IN THIS ISSUE

Mr Scott-Evans writes......

Our Christmas tree arrived today! I love this time of year in school. Having worked in schools all my working career, I have fondness for all the seasons for different reasons. However, Christmas is certainly a special highlight of the year for me. The energy and excitement of young people around Advent is always wonderful and magical.

Our tree tradition has always been to buy two real ones: one for the Main Hall and one for Main Reception. We also have a faux Christmas tree in the Sixth Form.

Each tree is decorated by students (and then adjusted by staff!). We love switching the fairy lights on each day and counting down through Advent. Each day around 3pm we try to switch the main lights off and say

a short prayer with the sparkly lights glinting. It helps us to build up to Christmas.

There is, however, one thing missing from our trees. That is the presents, and that is where (hopefully) you come in. Do you have some old children's books that you are looking to clear out? Perhaps you are making space for Father Christmas to bring a few new ones again this year. If you have some books that your sons/daughters have grown out of and are not going to read again, we would love to receive them. If your son/daughter read them from the age of 10 upwards they will be suitable for us.

You can also donate books for younger children, and we will share them with other local

.....contd. on page 2



Music Department
Details of the Christmas Carol
Concert and how to book tickets.

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Geography DepartmentYear 13 students recently attended their field trip to Blencathra.

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Science Club

There are extra-curricular clubs for all interests at Becket Keys! Find out more about Science Club here.

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Sports News

We have a bumper crop of sports updates this week.

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......contd. from Page 1

schools. Indeed, books for adults are also welcome; we have book swap shelves around the school for adults too!



If you really want to treat us we would love to receive copies of the top ten YA fiction books from 2023. There are lists on the internet like this one.

Basically, we just love books. We love reading them, swapping them and talking about them. We cannot get enough of them - literally! Yes, books are wonderful, but we always need more of them. So, if you are able, please help us by donating some of yours. We can then lend them to students and keep them reading in 2024.

It's fun if you wrap them up or pop them in a gift bag, but you do not need to do that. Just send them in and we can put them under the tree until it is time to share them out to classrooms and into the library at the end of term.

As you know, I am passionate about the environment, and I want to protect the planet as much as possible. Reusing books in this way is helping to save trees and energy as well as saving



money. So please have a good look at home and see what you can donate. Perhaps your son/daughter could bring a book each day between now and Christmas. It could be an Advent mission to choose a book each day to donate to the school.

Just to add to the fun, we'll have a box of chocolates in Main Reception and we will happily swap a Cadbury's Hero for each book that is brought in. That goes for adults too. If you are popping along for a prayer meeting or a Eucharist between now and Christmas, why not bring a book along?

You might like to put the following dates into your diaries as opportunities to come to Becket Keys, bring a book to donate and get into the Christmas spirit:

Advent Eucharists

Friday ones: 1.00pm Special whole school one:Tuesday 12th December at 11.00am

Advent Prayer Meetings Wednesdays 8.45am Christmas Carol Concert Thursday 7th December 2023 7.00pm

> Mr Scott-Evans Head Teacher



This year's Christmas Carol Concert takes place on Thursday 7th December 2023 in the Main Hall and will be a wonderful opportunity to listen to music performed by the many musical groups we have at Becket Keys including: Bands from Years 7-10, the School Choir, Stage Band and Orchestra.

All performers will be onstage or seated throughout, so you do not need a ticket for your son/daughter if they are performing.

Tickets for guests and parents are available to book here:

Becket Keys Carol Concert 2023

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

Thursday 7TH DECEMBER 2023 BECKET KEYS CofE SCHOOL – MAIN HALL

7.00pm – 9.00pm

There is no charge for the concert tickets, but we will be having a collection at the end of the evening and any money donated will be split between the Governors' Hardship Fund and the Music Department so if you are able to a donation for these causes it would be appreciated!

Refreshments will also be available to purchase prior to the event.



Can you help?

We are looking for parent/community volunteers to attend the post-16 education trip on Tuesday 16th January

This trip involves 30 Year 11 students exploring post-16 education at one of the local colleges (to be confirmed)

If you are willing to volunteer, please email office@becketkeys.org

Many thanks!



The School Community Prayer Group hosted by our Headteacher Mr Scott-Evans is 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



Christmas Lunch for Students

Each year we are delighted to celebrate a Christmas dinner at lunchtime with our students and this year the meal will be held on Wednesday 6th December 2023 to coincide with the Christmas jumper/non uniform day.

Tickets for this lunch will be available at the tills in all catering areas (Bistro, Orangery & Deli) from Monday 20th November and will cost £4.50.

Kindly note that the lunch on this day will only be available in the Bistro or the Orangery and so Sixth Formers will need to join the rest of the school if they wish to have Christmas lunch.

A Prayer for Year 11 and 13 students to use during their mock exams:

Jesus.

This mock 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 the massive the busy schedules and help me to keep my eyes fixed on you throughout it all.

As I enter my classrooms and exam rooms, I pray you would give me 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 achieve. 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 and for all the ways I have grown.

Amen.



Becket Keys Uniform

All students are required to wear smart leather shoes.

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

Students should not have any extreme hairstyles and hair must not be dyed or shapes cut into the hair e.g. stripes or undercuts.

Please remember that all students will be in need of a COAT – Plain BLACK without coloured flashes, logos or slogans, no 'fashion items', no 'puffer' jackets.

Bags should also be plain black.



Please see the website, if you need more details about the school dress code.

https://www.becketkeys.org/uniform

Think: Philosophy for Everyone Essay Competition

We are looking for essays of not more than 1,200 words that engage with any **one of the following three themes**.

The winner will be published in an issue of Think, the shortlisted candidates will win a year's free subscription to Think, and other prizes will be awarded to all those who make the longlist.



Could a machine think?

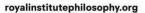
Is it morally wrong to eat meat?

Can I know that the world I experience is real?

The competition is open to any pupil currently studying in school year 12 or 13 **Deadline:** Sunday 31st March 2024



To learn more about how to submit, use the QR code or visit Think Essay Prize on our website.





Competition

Exciting news for sixth formers! A brand-new essay competition for philosophy with three questions to choose from (see the link below) Both philosophy and non-philosophy students encouraged to enter. 1200 words max.

More information

here https://royalinstitutephilosophy.org/news/think-essay-prize/

A-Level Geography Fieldtrip to Blencathra, Lake District National Park

From October 16th-20th the A-Level Geography classes visited the Blencathra Field Studies Centre in the Lake District. After a seven-hour journey through England, we arrived in the North of the Lake District, close to Keswick to begin our fieldwork. We dove straight into Geography and investigated elements of the carbon and water cycles at the Blencathra Field Studies Centre with the help of staff.





On Tuesday we faced the assent of Cat Bells Fell, a 451m hill (mountain to people in Essex), with views reaching across Derwent Water and Keswick. Was it worth it? Yes, yes it was! Following this climb, we ventured into Keswick, to investigate human Geography of the settlement, its sense of place and sustainability. We were fortunate enough to visit the Keswick Alahambra cinema - one of the oldest cinemas in the UK and experience the distinct culture and identity of the National Park and Cumbria. We undertook primary fieldwork observations, focusing on retail, footfall and the environmental quality. All the time gathering information and resources for our NEA (Non-examined assessment) that accounts for 20% of our overall A-Level Geography grade.

Wednesday was another bright day that we spent studying physical and coastal geography in Silloth and Skinburness; investigating the profiles of the beaches, sediment size, suitability of the coastal defence and how the physical and human geography come together in this community and context. The weather was kind to us and whilst those at home were being soaked, we were enjoying views over the Solloway Firth to Scotland.

Thursday was spent back in Keswick, where we focused on more human geographical investigations, including surveying people in the area, observing and collecting traffic data, and performing RICEPots, mood mapping and other primary data collection techniques.



Each evening was spent with a lesson in the classroom, concluding our learning, and then some (very competitive) table tennis or relaxing in our rooms.

What an exciting Field trip to Blencathra, thanks to everyone for making it a memorable experience.



Rhianna Hicks Geography A-Level Student

A Message from the Admin Team

Remember that all correspondence to the school must come through the school office email: office@becketkeys.org

You can also send a message via the contact page on the <u>website</u>.

You can also now reply directly to any message you receive from the school via Bromcom, just hit the reply button and it will go to the office.

Students can contact their teachers via Satchel One if they have any queries regarding their lessons.

Please do not email staff directly as any message received in this way will not receive a response.

Science Club

Science club takes place every Monday from 3.10 - 4pm in W23.

This term, we have started working on a STEM project titled 'Can you survive a zombie apocalypse?'. This programme has been created by STEM Learning, the largest provider of STEM education and careers support in the UK. This programme is part of Survival STEM, a set of three programmes exploring science, technology, engineering and mathematics in survival scenarios.

The club is run by a dedicated team of 6th formers taking a range of science A Levels who are doing a fantastic job working with our KS₃ students. This week we spent time designing shoe coverings to be able to move around undetected. Students then took turns walking over different surfaces and the group that had the lowest average decibels won!

We have lots of other exciting tasks coming up and students are free to come and join us to take part, just turn up!

Mrs Lee Science Teacher











Science Club Monday from 3.10 - 4pm in W23

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; this includes encouraging students to attend school regularly, and of course, on time.

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

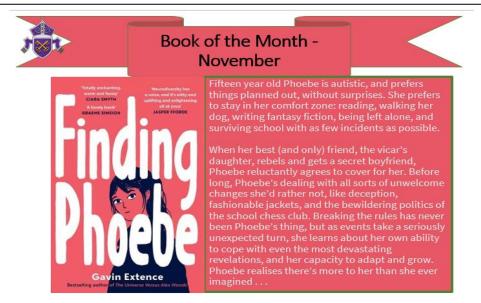
Brentwood can be tough to manoeuvre during rush hour, so we encourage students and parents to contact the school in the case of *genuine* lateness such as delayed public transport.

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

We thank you for your support.









SUPPORT YOUR CHILD ON THE PATH TO SUCCESS



Your child's school has invested in the award winning resource, GCSEPod, to help your child reach their goals!

Join the thousands of parents/carers encouraging their children to use GCSEPod to support learning, homework and revision.

- Proven to increase results
- 28+ exam mapped subjects
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- Audio visual content
- Builds confidence
- Independently accessible assessments

Want to find out how you can support your child more with GCSEPod? Then join one of our free webinars by registering here: https://www.gcsepod.com/podup-presents-webinars/

"The correlation between success and failure was made almost 100% clear by the use of GCSEPod."

Head of MFL at Yateley School "I found GCSEPod especially useful to compliment my knowledge and I'm certain it helped me secure the grades that I have been so happy to receive."

Student

"My daughter used GCSEPod for her GCSEs and was very successful with her results, she absolutely loved your Pods and this style of revising."

Parent

Student Activation

Please follow these instructions if your child has not yet activated their GCSEPod account

- 1. Go to GCSEPod.com and click 'LOG IN'
- Click 'New to GCSEPod? Get Started'
- Enter your child's details and confirm the name of the school they attend
- Create a username and password

For more information please visit www.gcsepod.com/parents







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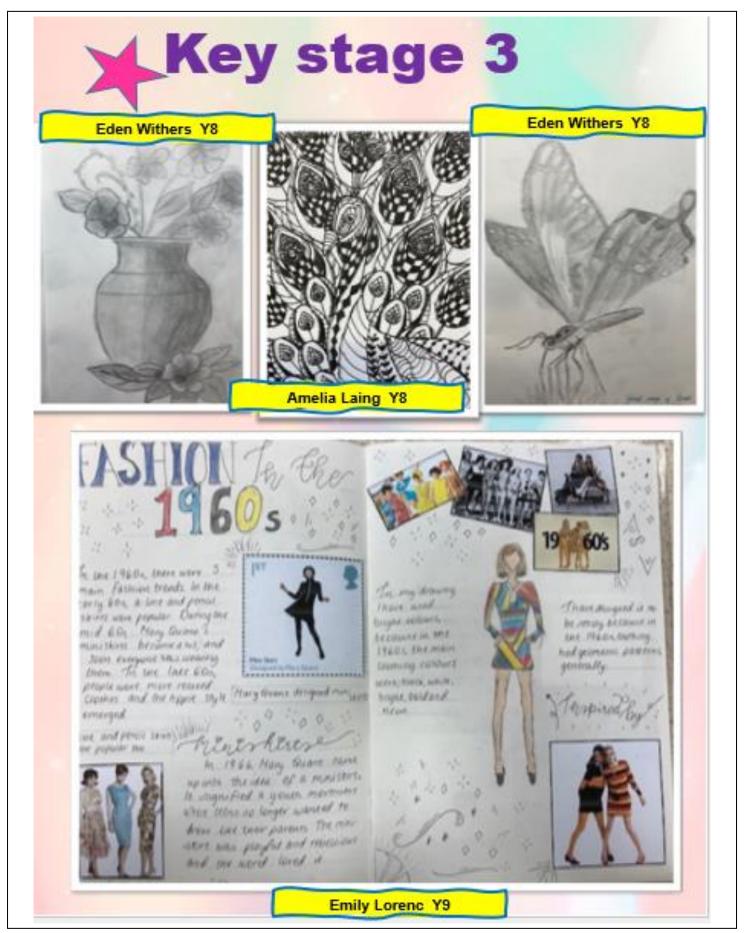
Speakers for Schools were founded in 2010 by ITV's Political Editor, Robert Peston, their aim is to end educational inequality by giving all young people access to talks from today's influential figures via the <u>Live Broadcasts</u>, these are a great way for students to hear from leading figures from a range of industries and are all free of charge.

HOW TO JOIN THE LIVE BROADCASTS

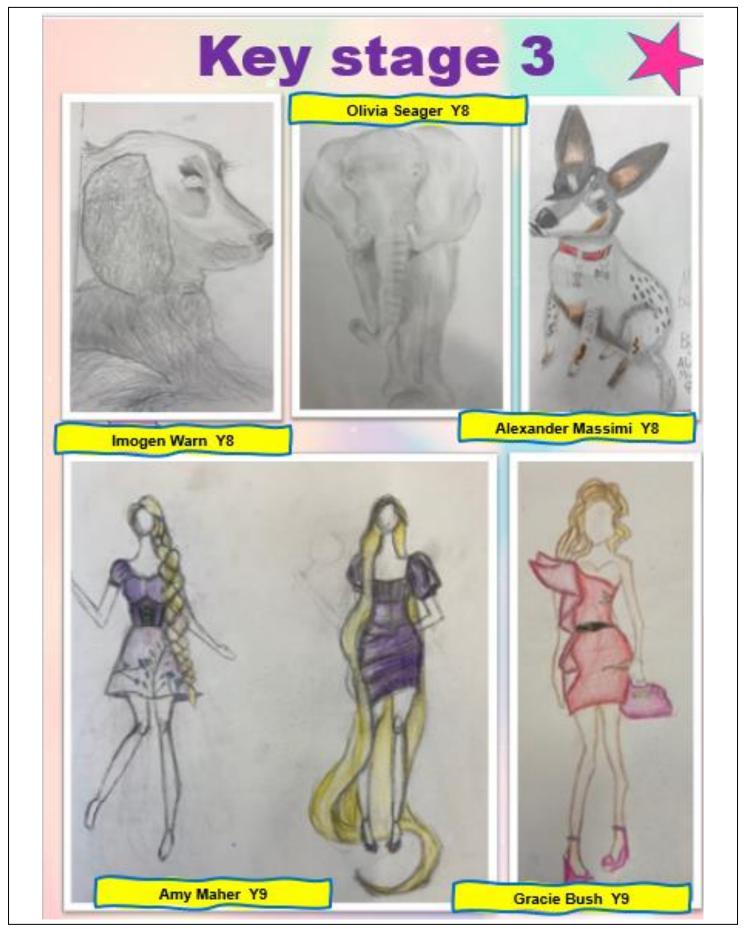
- Join 10 minutes before the broadcast to be ready.
- You can join without needing an account Watch how here

DATE	SPEAKER	INFO
Monday 27 th November 2-2:45pm	Blind not Broken: Lucy Edwards-Cave, Blind Broadcaster, Journalist, Content Creator, & Disability Activist KS3-5/S1-6	Step into a world of charm, charisma, and creativity in this broadcast, when we are joined by Lucy Edwards-Cave, Blind Broadcaster, Journalist, Content Creator, and Disability Activist. After losing her full eyesight at 17, Lucy had no one to take inspiration from who was going through the same thing and made it her mission to share her experiences with the world. Tune in and hear how one woman built a community that champions disability advocacy and is changing how the world views blindness #BlindNotBroken. Click here to register
Tuesday 28 th November 2-2:45pm	Business: Designing Business Products with Wellbeing in mind with Lara Morgan Founder, Company Shortcuts Ltd KS3-5/S1-6	Lara Morgan is a British entrepreneur with a track record of delivering exceptional accelerated growth. Her investment strategy in wellbeing products primarily is pinned to improving life's journey. In this broadcast, Lara will talk to us about why she was empowered to design a product to help improve wellbeing and how she started a business with this product. Click here to register
Thursday 30 th November 2-2:45pm	What It's Like To Complete An Apprenticeship sponsored by VMO2 Lauren West, Future Careers Senior Programme Manager, James Harwood, Senior Security Product Manager And Matt Short, Head Of Field Operations (South), Virgin Media o2 KS3-5/S1-6	Meet a panel of Virgin Media O2 leaders who are currently completing or have completed an apprenticeship where they will share more about their own journeys, the benefits of an apprenticeship and explore the concept of squiggly careers. Join us in this broadcast to hear from our leaders and ask questions to help you make the best decision for your future. Click here to register

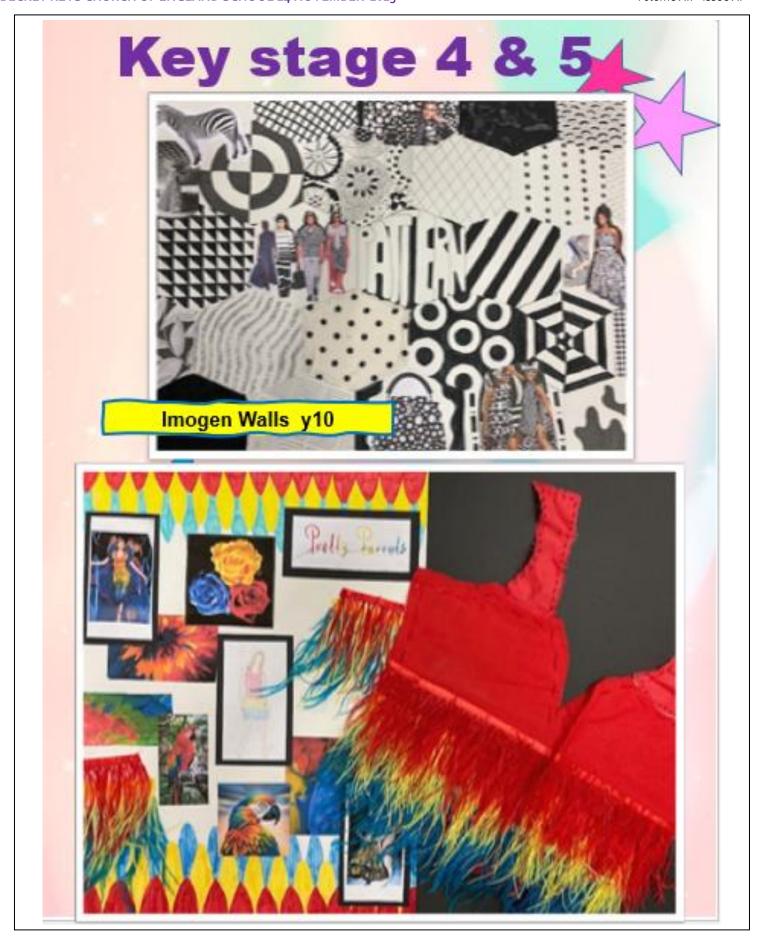


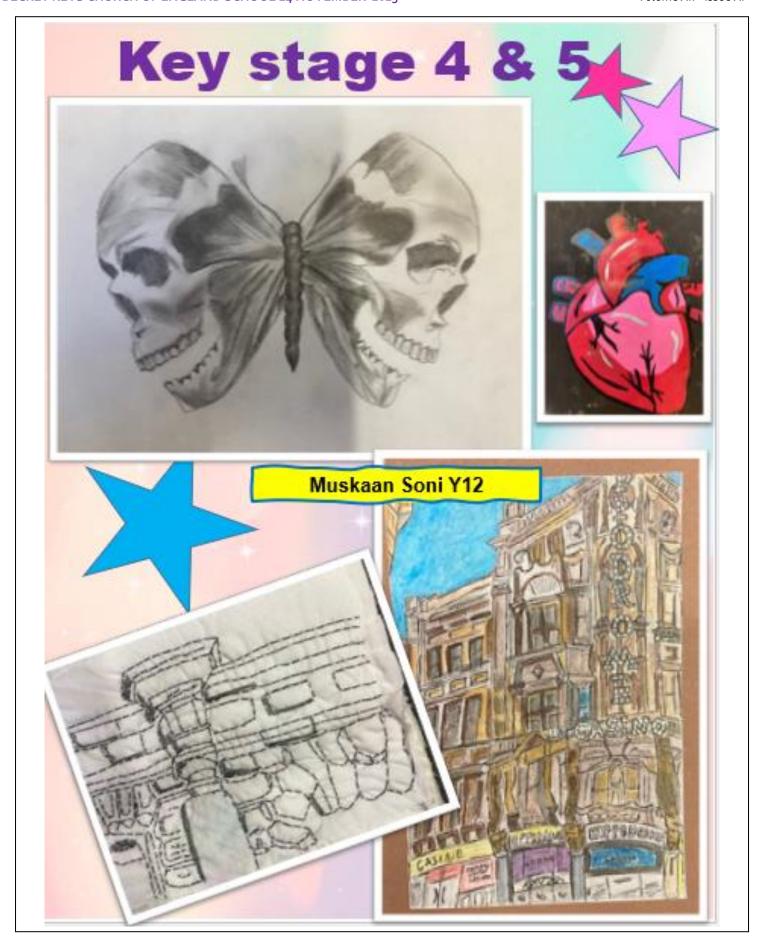


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Sports News

MESSSA Cross Country Championships 2023

Despite weather conditions being against us, Becket Keys had a very successful result following the Cross-Country event at Hylands park.



Our Year 7 girls Amalia
Constantinou, Kessiah Kinghorn,
Allegra Sawkins and Sienna
Kinnear set the standards high in
the 2000m race, placing 3rd out of
20 schools. An absolutely
amazing performance from all 4
runners but a special shoutout
goes to Allegra Sawkins, for
qualifying for the next round of
the Messsa Cross Country.





Our Year 7 boys, Alex Pearson, Sonny Perera, Adam Huntingford and Mason Demitriou set off with huge determination for their 2500m race and as a result finished 10th, a very well-deserved outcome for the boys.



Our Junior girls Harriet Garlick, Alana Lewis, Isabella Hutton, being one runner down sadly did not place. However, all three girls individually ran a superb race, all placing within the top 100 runners. Very proud of their dedication and efforts.

As the rain got worse, our junior boys Matty Delea, Jake Adams, Pat Quy and Josh McCann set out for their 3000m race with a strong sprint start. A very impressive finish saw all 4 boys placing within the top 40 runners and securing 4th place overall.

Our Intermediate girls' team were next to go. Evie Warn, Elizabeth Thompson, Alisa Borman and Ruby Appleton had a very victorious run, finishing 5th overall, with Evie Warn coming in 2nd and qualifying for the next round. Go Girls!



The final race was the intermediate boys. Max Sanderson, Josh Eida, George Ashton and Taylor Jamieson all placed within the top 20 runners, taking 2nd place overall. Max finishing the race in 2nd and Josh in 5th meant we gained two more qualifiers for the next round. What a great way to finish the day.



Year 9 Girls' Netball

The Year 9 Netball Rally was the epitome of competition this year and our girls really stepped up! With the most teams ever entered, we had back-to-back games all evening in the very cold, slightly damp conditions. With some new additions to the team, we started well and continued this momentum right through to our last game. I am incredibly proud of the efforts from the girls! The girls earned themselves 3rd place in the district which is a huge success and one we should all be very proud of.

Team Sheet:

Imogen Hutton
Isabella Hutton
Isabel Collins
Kaylin Nachwa Muwenda
Olivia Mokrzycka
Madison Moon
Belle Weaver
Scarlett Sawkins
Moyin Olukoya

Ms Schafer Head of PE

Year 8 Girls' Football

The Year 8 girls had a tough game as we travelled to Loughton to play Debden in the next round of the Essex Cup. At the end of the first half we were 2-0 down, the second half we went in fighting and got 2 back to make it equal, Charlotte got the



first goal from a far out shot that took them by surprise and Abi saved the next goal, the girls fought with everything they had and we went up 3-2 with Abi scoring a penalty. Just before the final whistle on their last attack Debden got one back on us to make it 3-3 and having to go to extra time. In extra time Debden got the first goal making it 4-3 but Grace made a great run towards goal and slotted it in making it 4-4. The extra time whistle blew. Evie in goal made the first save to give us the upper hand. After many penalties the girls took the win 11-10. Every single student played amazingly well and gave this game their all. Onto the next round!

Players of the match: Evie Abbott and Betsy Winney

Team:

Betsy Winney
Oprah Amode
Florence Holdgate
Charlotte Hodgson
Anna Bennett
Tilly Holder
Abi Fisher
Abbey Snow

Vienna Hayes Zaray Amachree Evie Abbott Grace Weeden Isabella Crawford

> Miss Plunkett PE Teacher



Year 7 Boys' Football

The Year 7 boys had to wait until mid-November to play their first fixture and then played two in two days! Brentwood County High School (BCHS) are always tough opposition, so we had to start smartly. We were knocking at the door, but the BCHS keeper made some very good saves. A solo run and quick feet saw Sonny

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score the first goal of his (and our) season. BCHS replied instantly as a cross evaded everyone and found the side netting. At 1-1 the game was open, and the next goal was important. BCHS forced a Jensen save and it fell to the feet of their striker whose shot on goal was cleared off the line by Michael! Sonny and Luke combined out wide for Sonny to deliver a low cross to Seb who finished well. Captain Mason Demetriou had been battling in midfield and his perfectly weighted pass into James allowed him to strike firm across goal and get his first of what will hopefully be many. A few minutes later when Ethan dinked the ball over the defence we saw James powerfully shift the BCHS defenders aside to half volley across goal. HT 4-1.

The second half began with more Becket Keys pressure and Mason played another well weighted pass to Kelvin who opened his body and calmly slotted home

with his left foot. More good work from Kelvin on the right saw his shirt pulled in the box and Mason's low penalty was saved but Sonny reacted first and smashed home the rebound. Mason and Kelvin enjoyed their previous link up so much they repeated the exact same again and the open body and left foot of Kelvin made it 7. With a few minutes left on the clock another well timed Kelvin run latched onto Sonny's through ball, and he completed his hat trick! BCHS showed resilience and scored before the end. FT 8-2

Players' player: Kelvin Nash

Manager's player Sonny

Shout out to Alex Kerry in Year 9 who refereed the fixture extremely well and got all of the big decisions correct.

Someone the Premier League might need?!

Year 7 Boys' Football

The highs of football straight into the lows. Against my usual outlook of areas to improve and faults to eradicate... sometimes you simply have to hold your hands up and say the better side won today. On the back of yesterday's win, we were shaken by a very strong St Martin's side and the physicality of the game showed as our technically excellent side was out muscled and outplayed. I will solely focus on the positives here and firstly applaud Jensen who continued to make a flurry of saves deep into the second half. Our two goals came from the central midfield pairing of Mason and Sonny combing to find Luke who rounded the keeper and walked into an empty net. The second came from a well weighted ball into Mason who was taken down as he entered the box and he shook himself off, from yesterday's saved penalty and today's poor challenge, to convert well to his right. A convincing display from the away side saw my manager's player split between goal scorer Luke and Oscar. An excellent attitude showed after when the boys stuck together and took the defeat well.





Girls' Swimming Gala

Monday 20th November at Brentwood School

Year 7 Team – Lois Watson, Vienna Hodgens, Isabelle Rands, Nakita Sell

Year 8 Team - Bhavana Chatti

Year 9 Team – Madison Moon, Lola Wright, Scarlett Sawkins

Senior Team – Beth Wright, Olivia Cross, Niamh Stevenson

A big well done to this year's swimming team who competed at the district competition on Monday. Not only did we have some standout performers but also some fantastic team performances.

The results are as followed:

Year 7 Girls = 3rd Place Overall

Senior Girls = 3^{rd} Place Overall

Lois Watson = 2nd Place Butterfly

Niamh Stevenson = 2nd Place Butterfly

Victoria Hodgens = 1st Place Front crawl

Beth Wright = 3rd Place Frontcrawl

Lois Watson = 2nd Place Individual Medley

Niamh Stevenson = 2nd Place Individual Medley

All Relay Teams who competed = 3rd Place

Under 14 Essex Plate Girls' Netball

Opposition – Hylands School, Chelmsford

After losing out to a strong New Hall team in the Essex Cup, we had another chance of success in the Essex Plate.

The girls were excited for this new test and proudly wearing their netball dresses, set off for Chelmsford. With some new additions to the U14 side, I was impressed to see the girls working together, and they did not disappoint. Our game was fluid and relentlessly attacking



leading us to a convincing win for our first round!

Team Sheet

Imogen Hutton
Isabella Hutton
Isabel Collins
Kaylin Nachwa Muwenda
Olivia Mokrzycka
Madison Moon
Scarlett Sawkins
Vienna Hayes
Ffion Hayes

Player of the Match – Kaylin Nachwa Muwenda

Manager's Players – Isabel Collins



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

STUDENT CHRISTMAS LUNCH
NON-UNIFORM DAY
WEDNESDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2023

*

CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT
THURSDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2023

*

WHOLE SCHOOL ADVENT EUCHARIST
TUESDAY 12TH DECEMBER 2023
11.00AM

*

YEAR 7 THEATRE TRIP
PETER PAN
SOUTHEND CLIFFS PAVILLION
THURSDAY 14TH DECEMBER 2023

*

A-LEVEL PRESENTATION EVENING TUESDAY 19TH DECEMBER 2023

*

LAST DAY OF TERM
STUDENT HALF DAY
WEDNESDAY 20TH DECEMBER 2023

*

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
THURSDAY 21ST DECEMBER 2023 –
WEDNESDAY 3RD JANUARY 2024

*

INSET DAY
(NO STUDENTS IN SCHOOL)
THURSDAY 4TH JANUARY 2023

Becket Keys Church of England School

Sawyers Hall Lane Brentwood, Essex CM15 9DA 01277 286600

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

X:

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

Facebook: Becket Keys Church School