

# Becket Keys Church of England School

4th October 2024

#### BLACK HISTORY MONTH – OCTOBER 2024

**IN THIS ISSUE** 

Mr Scott-Evans writes.....

Reflections on Nelson Mandela, and the Body of Christ



This week in Collective Worship, I have been speaking to the students about Nelson Mandela. During Black History Month, we often take time to remind our school community of the rich tapestry of contributions made by Black individuals throughout history. We do not just reflect on the past, but also to celebrate the ongoing journey towards equality

and justice today. One figure who stands out in this journey is Nelson Mandela, a beacon of hope and resilience.

Nelson Mandela's life is a testament to the power of perseverance and the impact one individual can have on the world. Born in 1918 in South East South Africa, he grew up in a time of racial discrimination. He worked hard to become a lawyer and achieved this aim in 1942. His commitment to justice and equality led him to become a pivotal figure in the fight against apartheid in South Africa leading to his arrest and incarceration on Robben Island. He became the most famous prisoner in world spending 27 years in prison. His lengthy prison term and worldwide calls for his freedom eventually led not only to his

.....contd. on page 2



#### **World Challenge**

Details of the exciting World Challenge trip to Eswatini in 2026.

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#### **Harvest Appeal**

We are collecting donations for the local foodbank, please give generously if you can.

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#### **Mathematics Department**

A level students attend a 'Mathematics Enrichment Day' at Essex University.

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A full report about the recent charity event celebrating the different cultures at Becket Keys.

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unconditional release in 1990 but also significant changes coming to pass in South Africa. Three years later he won the Nobel Peace Price and another year on he became the country's first ever black prime minister.

Whilst reflecting on Mandela's legacy, I helped the students to draw parallels to the teachings of St. Paul in Corinthians, St. Paul describes the Church as a body made up of many parts, each with its unique role and purpose. "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ" (1 Corinthians 12:12). This metaphor beautifully illustrates the importance of diversity and unity within a community. Just as Mandela's diverse experiences and struggles contributed to his powerful leadership, each member of our community brings unique strengths and perspectives that enrich our collective whole.

I encouraged students and staff to remember that our strength lies in our unity. Like the body of Christ, we are made up of many parts, each essential and valuable. Nelson Mandela's life reminds us that even in the face of adversity, we can strive for a world where everyone is treated with dignity and respect. Let us continue to celebrate and uplift each other, recognising that our differences are what make us strong.





For those of you that missed the Eswatini meeting last month, this is your last chance to book a place on the experience of a lifetime.

Applications are open, so please <u>sign up for Eswatini 2026 here.</u> The deadline for applications is Tuesday, 8th October 2024.

If you missed the talk here is the recording -

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CFSIPkoLigc

You can still sign up and find out about the expedition on <u>our trip</u> <u>webpage</u>. For any questions, please email Holly at World Challenge: <u>hfarquhar@world-challenge.co.uk</u>

Mr Hughes is also available in school if you wish to ask him any questions.





trussell

### Harvest Appeal 2024



If able please support our Harvest Brentwood Foodbank Appeal to help local residents in crisis. It is an example of how we can reach out and share our harvest, as God intended.

Over the next few weeks, staff, students, visitors and friends of Becket Keys can bring their donations directly to the school to add to our Harvest Display in the Main Reception.

The final day for donations will be Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October. The current shortage items are shown here. This offering will demonstrate our practical and prayerful response to the needs of others, as we acknowledge and thank God for the earth's riches.



9,675

three-day emergency food supplies given to people in crisis last year



Brentwood Foodbank Doddinghurst Road Community Church www.brentwood.foodbank.org.uk

### HARVEST APPEAL

#### HELP LOCAL PEOPLE FACING HARDSHIP

Tinned Veg & Potatoes Tinned Fish
Tinned Meat Tinned Fruit

Jam / Marmalade Biscuits

Tinned Spaghetti Bags of Rice

Jars of Pasta Sauce Savoury Rice

Tinned Tomatoes Tinned Soup

Tinned Rice Pudding Tinned Custard

Tea Bags / Jars of Coffee / Sugar Longlife Milk / Squash

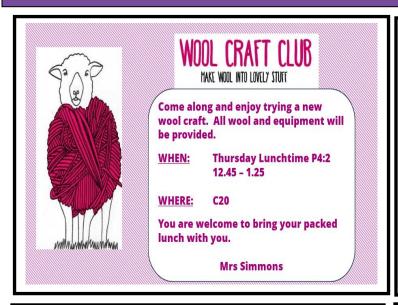
Donations of any of these items would be greatly appreciated

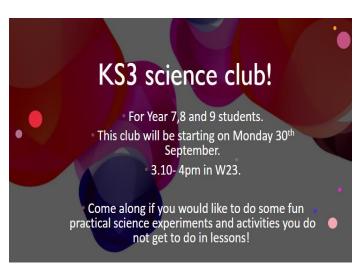
We also welcome donations of cleaning products and toiletries

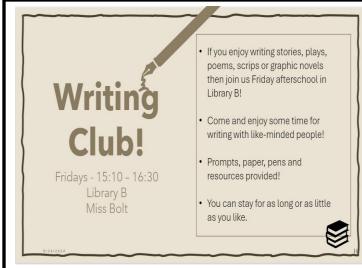
Brentwood Foodbank facilitated by Doddinghurst Road Community Church Registered Charity Number 1171227

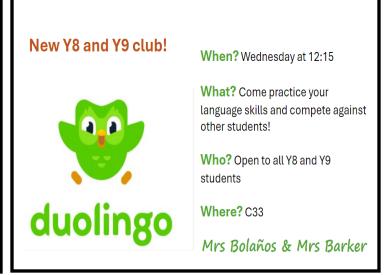


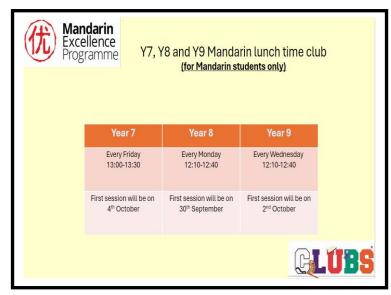
#### **Extra-Curricular Clubs**













### **Mathematics Department**

We recently had an exciting opportunity for our A Level Mathematics students to attend a Mathematics Enrichment Day at the University of Essex in Colchester. The event was designed for students considering university courses in scientific or mathematical subjects, or any course with a mathematical component. Throughout the day, students deepened their mathematical understanding and explored concepts beyond A Level, while also gaining insight into the range of mathematics related courses available at different universities.

We investigated how mathematics was accurately used to estimate how many tanks the Germans had at their disposal in WW1 and how the population of foxes and rabbits could be modelled using Calculus.

"I really enjoyed seeing the practical implications of using graph theory from further Mathematics being used to model the science of the human brain. It brought my decision Mathematics into real life. Dr Chris Antonopolous was so interesting" said Poppy Phillips.

Sessions were led by the University of Essex research academics, who introduced advanced topics in Mathematics and related fields like physics, astronomy, data analysis, biology, computer science, and psychology. Dr Lisa Voight explained how Artificial Intelligence and Mathematics was helping to map out the universe.







Lorenzo Samuel said that he really enjoyed her talk and was able to answer one of her questions in the lecture with confidence.

> Mrs Musharbash Mathematics Teacher



### International Day – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Picking a charity for this event was not an easy task as we were all advocates to raising awareness about several conditions that are not represented in the media and those that impact the quality of life of individuals. We also wanted the charity we chose to resonate with us and we were able to find out more information about this this condition and the affect it has on individuals. After much discussion choosing the 'Sickle Cell Society' charity was an apt choice as many of us within the International Day Team are familiar with individuals that experience the effects of sickle cell daily, witnessing friends and family deal with the lifethreatening symptoms of sickle cell on a daily basis and noting that many people were still unaware of the condition. As the event was in September it coincided with Sickle Cell Awareness Month.



When planning the event, we wanted students to be able to fully participate and be educated simultaneously and this lead us to preparation for hosting the first International Day at Becket Keys. The theme would allow both students and staff to celebrate the cultural diversity at Becket



Keys and promote conversations that weren't normally had. The event took place on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September; students were encouraged to wear cultural attire and cultural colours during the day and during both lunch breaks a multicultural show took place in the Main Hall for the students to enjoy.



The show included a range of acts such as singing, dancing, poetry, spoken word and two fashion shows with countries ranging from Albania to Ireland to Nigeria. During the show, multicultural snacks and drinks were sold by helpers so

additional money was raised for our chosen charity.



The effort to organise this day was immense from backstage to display and acts, we had a great team with students from Year 7 all the way to Year 13 getting involved and performing in the show. Students worked on their performances individually for weeks during rehearsals held after school and the whole International Day Team, appreciate the sacrifice of their time. Huge thanks to them all.

Overall, the day was extremely successful, and we are all

extremely grateful to each and every student and teacher who had faith and gave us the necessary encouragement to prepare for this day. From the time we started in the Sixth Form, Becket Keys has aspired to nurture students to be advocates. We have been encouraged to volunteer, take responsibility and look to see how we can make a change in the wider community. This has been engrained into us and to know that students were able to come together to produce such a day was a blessing.

We would like to extend our gratitude to everyone who was able to donate towards the 'Sickle Cell Society' we are delighted that we raised £1340 for the charity! This means that Becket Keys is part of assisting this society with research into the disease to hopefully find a cure at some point for this disorder.

We are also excited to make this event a tradition at Becket Keys and build on its success in the future.

Precious & Lehakwe - Year 13



### Extra-Curricular Club - Healthy Snack Club

### Monday Lunchtimes Year 7

### Healthy Quick Snack Club – W<sub>3</sub>1



If you would like to learn how to make your own fast healthy snacks at home, then come along to W31 on Monday lunchtimes and join Mrs Stevenson to learn more!

This club is running to help students understand which foods to reach for when they get home from school and how to make tasty snacks that don't contain added ingredients that our bodies just don't need.

We have already covered Cubed Toffee Apple, BBQ Popcorn & Honey Mustard Popcorn delicious!

This class is fast – so arrive as soon as you can. Our next snack is a fruity treat, you won't want to miss. Hope to see you there...









### Celebrating Success: Year 9 Students' Intensive Study in Xi'an

Last summer, our Year 9 students from the Mandarin Excellence Programme embarked on an enriching journey to Xi'an, China, where they engaged in an intensive study experience. We are thrilled to share that last week, the Chinese Embassy hosted a reception event to celebrate the 2024 MEP intensive study, and we were honored to represent our school among those who participated in the Xi'an trip.

The event brought together esteemed representatives from the Chinese Embassy, the Department for Education, the British Council, and UCL IOE, alongside MEP teachers and students. During the gathering, several speakers took the stage to commend the success of the Year 9 trip to China.

Our students, Jake Adams,
Matthew Delea, Poopy Moorey,
Samuel Nelson, and Ava Tomlin,
proudly represented their
classmates by sharing their
personal experiences from the
trip. They spoke on five key
aspects: accommodation, food,
study, travel, and the vibrant city
of Xi'an. Their insights
highlighted the profound impact
this journey had on their
enthusiasm for learning
Mandarin.









The event concluded with a delightful Chinese food buffet, allowing attendees to further immerse themselves in the culture.

We are excited about the prospects of visiting China again next summer and continuing to

foster our students' passion for the Mandarin language and culture. Thank you for your continued support of the Mandarin Excellence Programme!

Stay tuned for more updates!

Mrs. Zhang Head of Mandarin

### National Poetry Day Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October

National Poetry Day 2024 is celebrated on Thursday 3 October and is a day to highlight the impact poetry has on people's lives. Each year has a different theme, previous themes have included refuge, home, the environment, truth and change; this year the theme is 'counting'.

Poetry is used all around the world as an important way to express how people are feeling, and it is a great way of storytelling. Poems can come in all different shapes and sizes, from raps to sonnets, and can be a powerful way to communicate.

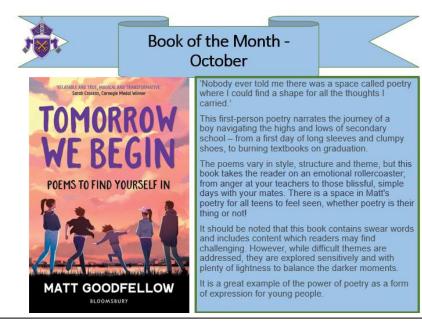
National Poetry Day was first celebrated in 1994 by the charity Forward Arts Foundation, with the aim of encouraging people to make, celebrate and share poetry. Now it's the UK's biggest celebration of poetry and last year more than 1.5 million people joined in. It's also a way to learn about celebrated poets throughout history and their impact on the world.

The different theme each year is chosen to help give people an idea for their poems. This theme can be used in lots of creative ways, as everyone has a different meaning or understanding of it.

For example, for counting, you could write a poem about 'counting down the days' or



To celebrate National Poetry Day Mrs Tagg has chosen a poetry 'book of the month'.



making something 'count' - there's no right or wrong!

There are lots of different ways to celebrate and join in with National Poetry Day. Here are just a few...

**Read** - There are millions of great poems out there, and you can celebrate by reading or listening to a few of them. Whether they're classics by Shakespeare, or modern ones by Joseph Coelho, there are heaps of ways to get

inspired and discover new poets and poems that you like.

Write - Feeling inspired? Why not have a go at writing your own poem! Whether it's rap, acrostic, haiku, sonnet, ballad or limerick, there's loads of different styles to try out.

Share - Why not share the love? If there's a poem or song you think someone might like, then why not share it with them? You could also go to special poetry events or even read your work out loud to friends and family.

### **Curriculum Meeting**

Year 11
Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024
Main Hall
More details to follow.



Pre-Loved Uniform Sale Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October 24 School Playground 11.00am – 12.30pm

If you have any uniform you would like to donate, please send it to the Main Reception with your son/daughter. We are particularly looking for aprons, ties, PE shorts, skorts and t-shirts.

Thank you!



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: <a href="https://www.becketkeys.org/extra-curricular.">https://www.becketkeys.org/extra-curricular.</a>

#### SKI TRIP MEETING

5.30pm

### WEDNESDAY 9TH OCTOBER 2024

Parents and students can find out more about the ski trip to Sugarloaf Mountain which will be taking place in 2026.

This meeting will give you a chance to ask any questions you have. In the meantime, check out this video from the 2024 trip.

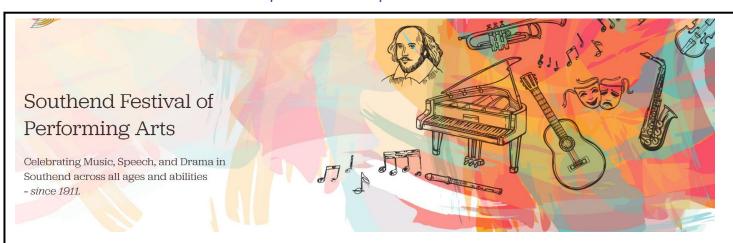
**SUGARLOAF MOUNTAIN 2024** 





MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
KS3 'Time to Shine' 15.15-16.25 RUNCIE HALL (Mrs Palmer) Yr7-Yr9	Yr9 &Yr10 'Creative Space' 11.50-12.30 RH1 (Mrs Barr)  KS4 & KS5 'Practical Showcase Rehearsals' 15.15-16.15 RH2 (Mrs Barr)	Yr11 'Page to Stage' 15.15-16.15 RH2 (Mrs Barr)	Invitation only and bookable space.	GCSE  'Theory Workshop' 15.15-16.15 RH1 (Mrs Barr) Invitation Only  Bookable space for Yr7-Yr13





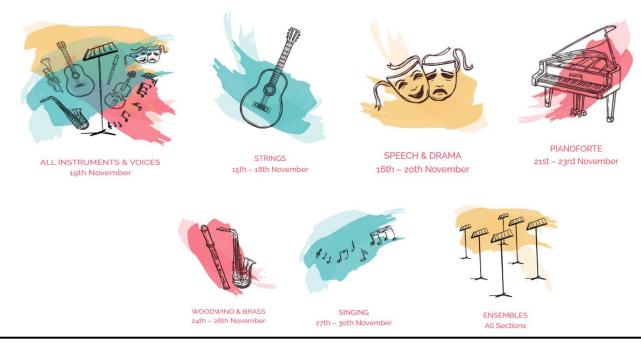
The Southend Festival of Performing Arts is an annual competitive festival of music and drama. The festival runs every day for a fortnight in November and has classes for all ages and abilities.

The objective of the festival is to encourage the study, performance and appreciation of a variety of instruments and talents – musical and vocal, in addition to the spoken and written word. The festival aim to give the competitors the opportunity to test their skills and receive constructive and encouraging feedback from a professional adjudicator, whilst entertaining audiences. The range of classes is extensive and includes own choice as well as set-piece selections, individual, as well as group opportunities and, with the introduction of some non-competitive classes, caters for everyone wanting to participate.

Anyone is welcome to come along and watch the competitions; there are usually three 3-hour sessions a day. Admission for a nominal fee will give you access to some wonderful entertainment and provide an audience for our performers. The Arts are an important part of any community, and the festival has been the showcase of artistic talent in the area since 1911.

All information on the festival, our syllabus, how to take part, and registration, can be found on the Festival website: Southend Musical Festival (southendfestivalofperformingarts.com)

#### Deadline for entries: 5th October 2024











#### **Uniform**

It is important to all of us that every one of the students who attend Becket Keys looks smart in their uniform at all times. All students are required to wear shoes and not trainers.

Girls in Year 7-9, should have their hair completely tied up. Year 10-11 – hair can be half up/ half down. Black, purple or neutral coloured hair ties please. If boys have hair they too need to have it tied up.

Now that the weather is getting colder, 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. Please see the website, if you need more details about the school dress code.

### Sports News – Girls Netball

#### Year 7

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October was a wet and windy afternoon when the Year 7 girls' netball team played a district match against Sandon at home.

The girls worked well together as a team with Eddie and Pippy playing particularly well. The girls proved that the weather would not stop them!

Later in the week, the team came together again to play an other match, this time against Saint Nicholas School in Harlow. The team had a great match and managed to beat the opposition 1-5. Ava Taylor, Emily Miller and Melody Shanley all scored and the player of the match was Melody.

The visiting umpire was full of praise for the girls and said 'The girls were lovely to umpire, I hope they move on to the next stage of the competition.'.



Emily Miller, Violet Eldred, Bella Long, Melody Shanley, Ava Taylor, Mia Ballam, Edee Eldred, Sophia Crook, Pippy Heazel, Charlotte Snow



#### Year 8

The Year 8s came up against St Martin's this week. The A team game was head to head every quarter and the teams went into the final quarter 11-11. The girls put up a fantastic fight but unfortunately lost by 3 in the last minute.

The B team won by a great margin with Elsa putting in 10 shots throughout the game and getting player of the match.

#### Year 11

The Year 11 girls also grabbed a win this week with outstanding team work and resilience. The Sixth Form girls helped coach and umpire the game with great feedback and support to the team.

Well done everyone!

## Year 7 Boys' Rugby – First Match of the Season!









On Thursday after school, 30 Year 7 boys from Becket Keys played their first-ever rugby match against a well-drilled Redden Court School team. This was a fantastic learning experience for all the students as they stepped onto the rugby field representing their school for the first time.

Despite facing a strong opponent, there were some outstanding performances. Theo S-T made several exciting darting runs down the wing, while Henry B stood out with some excellent tackling, helping the team defend against Redden Court's attacks. Many of the boys were completely new to the sport, and their enthusiasm and effort were clear throughout the match.

Those with more experience, like Finley M and Brodie D, played key roles in organising the team and leading by example. Their support and guidance were crucial in helping the less experienced players settle into the game and develop their confidence on the field.

Overall, it was a very positive experience for the boys, with all of them learning and growing as rugby players. A special highlight came after the game, when three of the students were inspired to attend their first training session at their local rugby club that same evening.

We look forward to building on this success when the Year 7 boys compete in the local **MESSA** waterfall tournament on Monday. Rugby club for year 7 and 8 will run as normal on Monday for those not involved in the tournament.

#### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SKI TRIP MEETING
5.30pm WEDNESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2024
JUSTIN WELBY CHAPEL

\*

OPEN EVENT FOR PROSPECTIVE
YEAR 7 STUDENTS
THURSDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2024

\*

PARENT ONLY OPEN MORNINGS
TUESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup>, WEDNESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> &
THURSDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER
9.30am – 11.00am

\*

INSET DAY (NO STUDENTS IN SCHOOL) FRIDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2024

\*

ALL SAINTS' HOLIDAY
YEAR 11 INTERVENTIONS
MONDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER –
FRIDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2024

ENRICHMENT DAY
MONDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2024

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENT
TUESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2024

LAST DAY OF TERM

STUDENT HALF DAY

FRIDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2024

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
MONDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER 2024 –
FRIDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY 2025

\*

INSET DAY
(NO STUDENTS IN SCHOOL)
MONDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2025

## Becket Keys Church of England School

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