

Becket Keys Church of England School

22nd November 2024

IN THIS ISSUE

Mr Scott-Evans writes.....

With only 20 school days left until Christmas, our Christmas tree arrives on Monday! I love this time of year in school. Having worked in schools all my career, I have a 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, in every classroom, 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. Would you be willing to donate some books as presents for the bottom of our trees? Perhaps 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

.....contd. on page 2



Student Christmas Lunch
Tickets are now available to purchase
the Christmas Dinner this year.

Page 3

Chinese VisitorsAll students have a chance to be a buddy for our Chinese visitors in

Page 4

Reading Recommendations Some excellent biography suggestions from the English department.

January.

Page 7-9

Spanish Department
Excellent work from our Year 7
Spanish students.

Page 11-13

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them from the age of 10 upwards, they will be suitable for us.

You can also donate books for adults; we have book swap shelves in the Sixth Form and around the school for staff too!

If you really want to treat us, we would love to receive copies of the top ten YA fiction books from 2024. There are lists on the internet like this. You could also look back through the newsletters of the last 12 months and choose from the many books we have featured and recommended.

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 2025.

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 great 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: Every Friday at 1.00pm in the John Wraw Chapel.

Special whole school Eucharist: Tuesday 3rd December at 11.00am at St Thomas of Canterbury Church.

Advent Prayer Meetings: Wednesdays 8.45am.

Christmas Carol Concert: 7.00pm Thursday 12th December

Best regards

Mr Scott-Evans Head Teacher



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 be plain black and other accessories should be black or grey.



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

https://www.becketkeys.org/uniform



This year's Christmas Carol Concert will be a wonderful opportunity to listen to music performed by the many musical groups we have at Becket Keys.

Tickets for guests and parents are available to book here:

Becket Keys Carol Concert 2024

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 12TH DECEMBER 2024 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.



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 4th December 2024 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) and will cost £4.55. (No cost to those eligible for Free School Meals). Last day to purchase tickets is Wednesday 27th November 2024.

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.

Free School Meal Vouchers

Winter Payment

Funding has been made available from the Department for Work and Pensions 'Household Support Fund' which will enable schools to provide a one-off winter payment to eligible FSM pupils for the period to end of March 2025. The payment will be a £50 supermarket voucher per pupil.

Parents and guardians of eligible children will have received an email from Wonde to allow you to claim a voucher for £50 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. 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 - Evouchers





If you receive one of the listed qualifying benefits, your child may be eligible for free school meals.

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (not Working Tax Credit), with an annual income below £16,190
- Pension Guarantee Credit
- Employment and Support Allowance, income related
- Support under part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act, 1999

- Working Tax Credit runon, paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit, with a household income of £7,400 or less (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

If you wish to apply for this funding then please visit the Essex County Council website here: Free school meals: Apply for free school meals | Essex County Council

Visiting Students from China

We have an opportunity for students across the school to be an in-school host 'buddy' to a Chinese student in January 2025.

We have twenty students and two accompanying teachers coming from China for a period of five school days between January 20th and January 24th. Each day the students will be with us for the majority of the school day and host students will buddy up with a Chinese student of a similar age for the majority of the week.

This will involve taking the Chinese student along to all lessons, break times, lunch times and clubs to give them an immersion experience into an English School week. The idea is to give them a huge amount of English speaking and listening practice but also to give them an insight into what schooling is like in the UK.

The school will also put on a welcoming assembly at the beginning of the week and a special afternoon on the final day with some games and a ceremony of presenting certificates to the Chinese students. There may be one or two other events that will involve Becket Keys students missing a few lessons.



There will be some photos taken by the Chinese students and staff as evidence of their visit and for good memories. Our students will also be able to take photos at these set times and perhaps even record a little video if all involved are willing. Sometimes students keep in touch with their host buddies depending on willingness from both sides to do this. There is no expectation or insistence.

This opportunity particularly suits those students who are studying Chinese Mandarin, but it is not limited to these students. All are welcome to host a student.

If there are more volunteers than students available, Mr Scott-Evans will make the final decision of whom to choose.

If your son/daughter is interested in hosting a buddy for the week, please complete the survey <u>here</u> or copy and paste this into a browser:

https://forms.office.com/e/vxVC REkQX2 .

The visit does not require families to host the students for anytime outside the school day.

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Morning	Welcome assembly. Introduction to their 1-1 buddies. Normal curriculum classes	Follow their English buddies to Normal curriculum classes	Follow their English buddies to Normal curriculum classes	Follow their English buddies to Normal curriculum classes	Follow their English buddies to Normal curriculum classes.
Hot Lunch	School	School	School	School	School
Afternoon	Normal curriculum classes	Normal curriculum classes.	Normal curriculum classes.	INOIIIIai	A farewell party and certificate issuing.

An example of what the week may look like.

Extra-Curricular Activity - Chess Club

Chess Club has become increasingly popular this year at Becket Keys and for the first time we have been able to enter the two annual English Schools Chess Tournaments held at Brentwood School.

On Thursday 21st November, it was time for the Year 7 and Year 8 competition and we were able to field two strong teams. After a short walk up to Brentwood School, the teams were ready to start in matches against KEGS, Brentwood School, Chingford, UCS Hampstead and Brentwood County High School. For the majority of the Becket Keys players this was their first taste of competitive chess and every single player embraced the excitement and spirit of the tournament. Thanks to exquisite chess strategies and quick thinking, we started to see some excellent victories!

After a challenging final match against the ultimate winners, the Becket Keys team saw their best result yet in a competitive chess tournament with one team finishing 5th out of 10 teams. Well done to the following students who played so well and were such fantastic representives of Becket Keys: Rory Newman, Charan Chatti, Sam Anderson, Tim Perry, Sam Sanderson, Dylan Rees, Evan Garn, Toby Turner and Harry Palmer. A special mention to Charan who won all four of his matches which was particularly





impressive at this high level of chess.

The winning team, USC
Hampstead, will go through to
the national finals in Birmingham
but after such an exciting
tournament we are already
looking forward to returning next

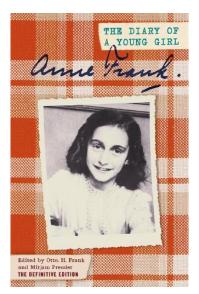
year with new strategies and experience.

Chess Club runs every Tuesday lunchtime; everyone is welcome from absolute beginners through to expert players.

Mrs Lobo Chess Club Leader

English Department – Book Recommendations

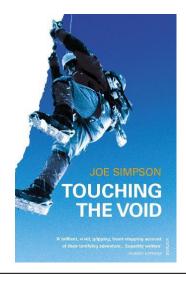
This month the Year 7s have been reading 'Boy' in form time. This is an autobiography of Roald Dahl. If you enjoy this genre, here are some of my recommended reads!

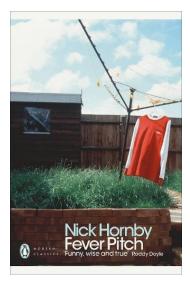


In July 1942, thirteen-year-old Anne Frank and her family, fleeing the occupation, went into hiding in an Amsterdam warehouse. Over the next two years Anne vividly describes in her diary the frustrations of living in such close quarters, and her thoughts, feelings and longings as she grows up. Her diary ends abruptly when, in August 1944, they were all betrayed.

Touching the Void is the heart-stopping account of Joe Simpson's terrifying adventure in the Peruvian Andes. He and his climbing partner, Simon, reached the summit of the remote Siula Grande in June 1995. A few days later, Simon staggered into Base Camp, exhausted and frost-bitten, with news that that Joe was dead.

What happened to Joe, and how the pair dealt with the psychological traumas that resulted when Simon was forced into the appalling decision to cut the rope, makes not only an epic of survival but a compelling testament of friendship.



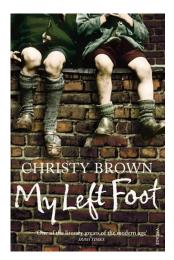


Arguably the book which reinvigorated the football writing genre, Nick Hornby's Fever Pitch is the wonderful story of a child's love affair with the game and, in Hornby's particular case, the sole object of his affection, Arsenal Football Club.

Hornby's love affair began the first time his father took him to Highbury to watch the 'Gunners' and took him through all the emotions associated with football fandom. Pain, hope, adoration, blind loyalty and of course deep, deep disappointment are here but scattered amongst these are a few moments of sheer pleasure, which any football fan will tell you makes it all worthwhile.

Hornby's relationship with Arsenal and football is a defining one throughout his life and colours all his other relationships.

This month the Year 8s have been reading 'The Reasons I Jump' in form time. This is an autobiography that explores what life with autism is like! If you enjoy this genre, here are some of my recommended reads!



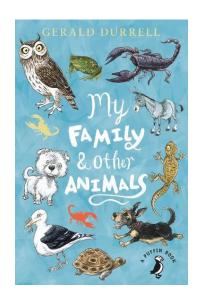
Christy Brown was born with cerebral palsy. But the hapless, lolling baby concealed the brilliantly imaginative and sensitive mind of a writer who would take his place among the giants of Irish literature.

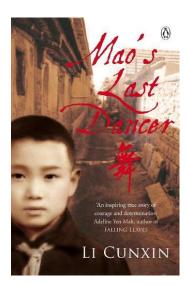
This is Christy Brown's own story. He recounts his childhood struggle to learn to read, write, paint and finally type, with the toe of his left foot. In this manner he wrote his bestseller Down all the Days.

Ten-year-old Gerald doesn't know why his older brothers and sisters complain so much.

With snakes in the bath and scorpions on the lunch table, the family home on the Greek island of Corfu is a bit like a zoo so they should feel right at home...

Gerald joyfully pursues his interest in natural history in the midst of an unconventional and chaotic family life - all brilliantly retold in this very funny book.





Raised in a desperately poor village during the height of China's Cultural Revolution, Li Cunxin's childhood revolved around the commune, his family and Chairman Mao's Little Red Book.

Until, that is, Madame Mao's cultural delegates came in search of young peasants to study ballet at the academy in Beijing and he was thrust into a completely unfamiliar world.

When a trip to Texas as part of a rare cultural exchange opened his eyes to life and love beyond China's borders, he defected to the United States in an extraordinary and dramatic tale of Cold War intrigue.

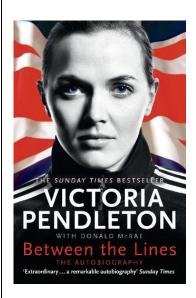
This month the Year 9s have been reading 'Into the Wild' in form time. This is a biography exploring the man who abandoned all of his possessions to hitchhike America! If you enjoy this genre, here are some of my recommended reads!

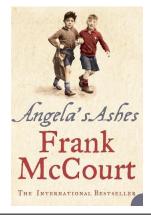
Victoria Pendleton MBE is not your typical female athlete. Admired as much by the weekly glossies as she is the newspaper back pages, she transcends her sport.

In 2005 she became first British female to win Gold at the cycling World Championships in 40 years. She followed it up with gold medals at the Commonwealth Games in 2006 and another World Championship in 2007.

Arriving in Beijing for the 2008 Olympic Games, Pendleton was on top of the world, taking Gold and joining the ranks of British Olympic heroes.

And then it started to go wrong. Feted by the press and the public alike, behind the scenes the cracks and strains started to show. Despite retaining her World Champion status in 2009, it was a close-run thing and her shield of invincibility started to drop. Victoria was falling out of love with her sport. The sport that had made her was starting to tear her apart.

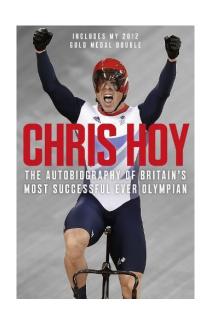




It is a story of extreme hardship and suffering, in Brooklyn tenements and Limerick slums - too many children, too little money, his mother Angela barely coping as his father Malachy's drinking bouts constantly brings the family to the brink of disaster. It is a story of courage and survival against apparently overwhelming odds.

This 33-year-old cycling fanatic from Murrayfield in the suburbs of Edinburgh defied the doubters who thought he would struggle when his specialist discipline, the 1km time trial, was dropped from the Olympics, and went on to reinvent himself as a track cycling sprinter and triple Olympic gold medalist in Beijing. His return to these shores sparked unprecedented celebrations and real admiration that here was a role model who was the epitome of all things that are good in sport.

What makes a champion in sport? In his autobiography, Hoy returns to his roots as a child fully engaged with the BMX craze of the Eighties; when, even as a seven-year-old his will to succeed allied to an unyielding mental strength set him apart from other youngsters of his age. A promising rower and rugby player in school, it was when he joined his first local cycling club and spent most weekends of the year competing in national events from Blackpool to Bristol that the seeds of his future career were sown.



In Design and Technology, we are very proud of our work studying **Charles Rennie Macintosh**. An architect who turned furniture designer. He is among the most important figures of British Art Nouveau style.



Students deigned Macintosh influenced pendants on software called 2D design. The designs are sent to our laser cutter to cut out individual MDF moulds.

Molten pewter is poured into the moulds to cast each student's pendant. Below is an example of MDF Mould. The pewter has been poured but this time with a see-through acrylic front so that the students can see the process.



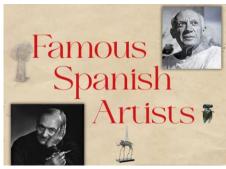
Students file down the pendant and take up any marks from the MDF mould. The pendant is then hung from a chain to form a necklace. Card display packaging is designed and then presented in a plastic sleeve. Our first class-set is ready to take home. What a wonderful 'Art-nouveau inspired Christmas Gift!





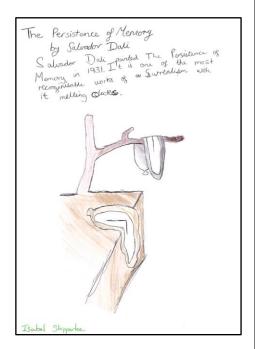


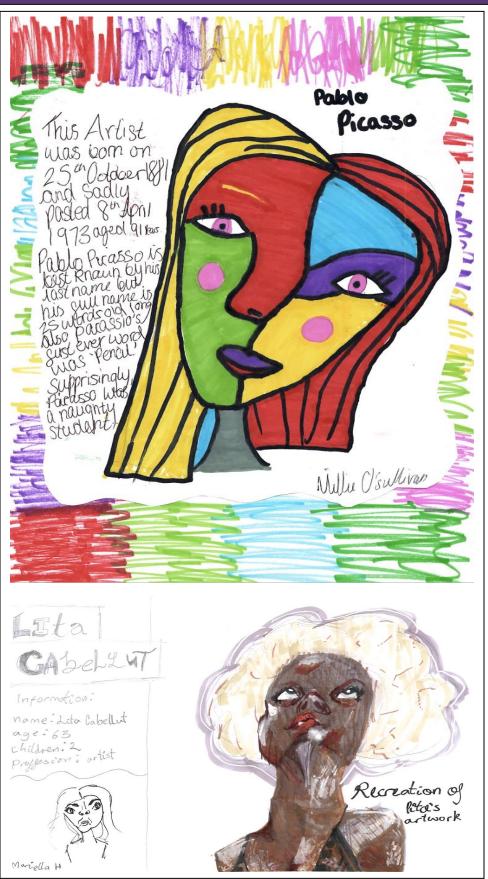
Spanish Department



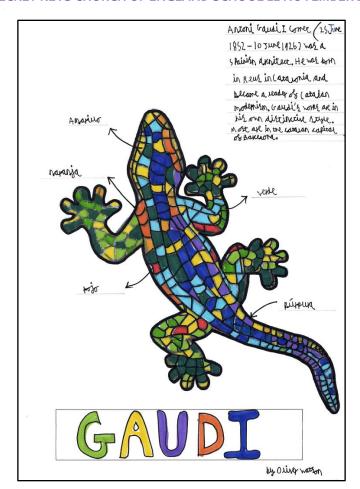
At the end of last term students in Year 7 Spanish lessons were learning about colours and adjectival agreements. Students were then set a homework task to research a Spanish speaking artist and create a piece of art inspired by this artist. We were very impressed by all of the students' efforts and have selected some notable pieces below.

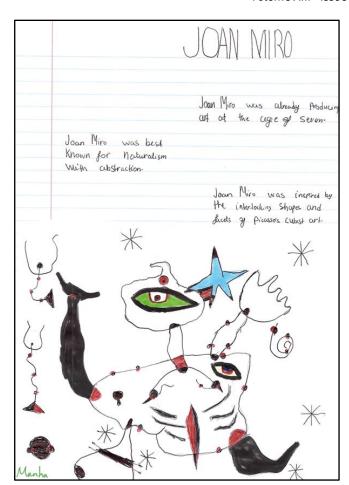
Miss Davies Spanish Teacher

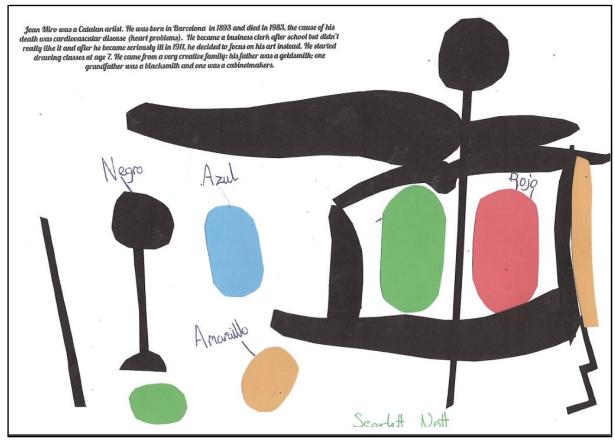


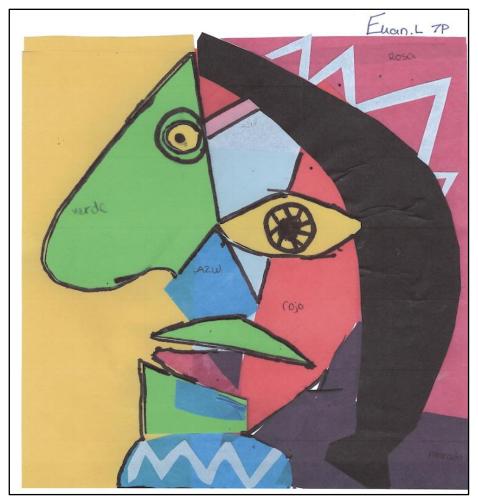


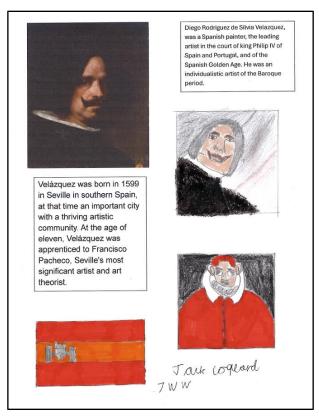
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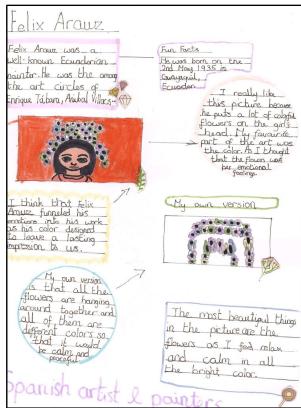












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Creative Writing Competition



RUSSELL EDUCATION TRUST Songlines

Celebrate writing along with the other five schools in the Russell Education Trust.

This is challenge gives you some 'stolen' lyrics from songs. Choose one to inspire your own piece of writing and include the lyrics somewhere in your piece.

Two school winners will be selected from each category: Key

Stage 3, Key Stage 4 and Sixth Form.

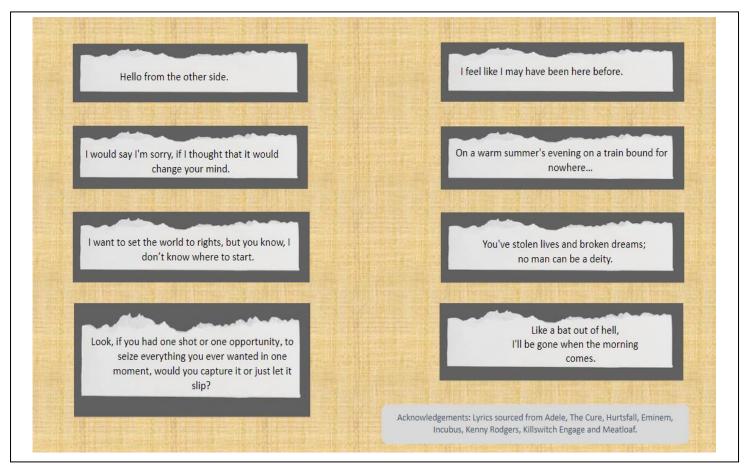
All winning entries will be published in a book and the overall winner will gain a writer's visit for their school. Entrance to this competition will also win points for your House, each entry will gain one point and the winning entry for each year group will win 15 points, 2nd place 10 points and third place 5 points.

Your piece of writing cannot be longer than 1000 words it must be submitted electronically as a typed document submission place on Satchel One for all students. Please make sure that

you proofread your work carefully.

The deadline for entries is **Friday the 10th of January 2025.** If you have any questions as please speak to Miss White in library A.





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 allow students enough time to be at 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.



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.

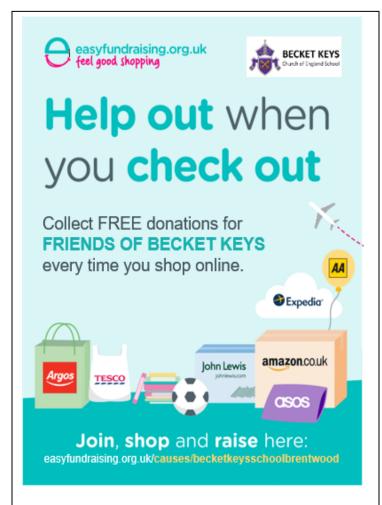
Thank you for the gift of this education, Jesus. I pray that these exams would be a celebration of all I have been learning, and that I would be grateful for all that I have experienced and for all the ways I have grown.

Amen.



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



If you are organised and already doing your Christmas shopping online. Why not see if you can help raise some funds for FoBK through your online purchases in a few easy steps?

Click here, then:

- Click 'Sign up and support this cause'.
- If new to Easyfundraising then set up an account.
- Browse the hundreds of online shops who participate in the scheme and go shopping! As long as you go into the online sites through the Easyfundraising site, you will register a donation to FoBK. You can even get an App for your phone! It will not cost you a penny!

If already a member, then why not refer a friend? FoBK will get a bonus when each person you refer makes a purchase.



All donations are welcome but the following items are the most needed in November:

Tinned Tuna Tea bags Shower Gel Washing up Liquid Size 5 Nappies Washing Gel

Christmas Items

Mince Pies, Christmas Cake, Custard, Chocolates, Stuffing, Tinned fruit, Crisps and Savoury Snacks, Jam, Crackers



Book of the Month -November



Birdie Bagshaw has never known her parents. Having grown up in a children's home in 1950s Leeds, now she has come to live with her great-aunt in the Yorkshire Dales and she's excited about becoming part of the family who have tracked her down.

But when she arrives in the pit village of Barrington Dale, she's obviously not what her Great Aunt Mabel was expecting, although she's not sure why. And it's not just her aunt who has trouble accepting her. The local children ask Birdie if her colour washes off. Her next-door neighbour won't let his daughter play with her. And even her teacher gives her a jigsaw instead of a maths book, assuming she's stupid.

When their bullying drives Birdie to hide in the nearby coal mine, she finds an unexpected rescuer in the form of Mr Duke, the last remaining pit pony in the village. As the weeks pass, Birdie forms a special bond with the spirited little pony. But his future is in danger, and Birdie comes up with a daring plan to save his life that will have consequences for the whole community. . . .



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/extracurricular.

Becket Keys Sixth Form Key Dates:

November 2024

Year 11 Consultation Meetings (Internal Students)

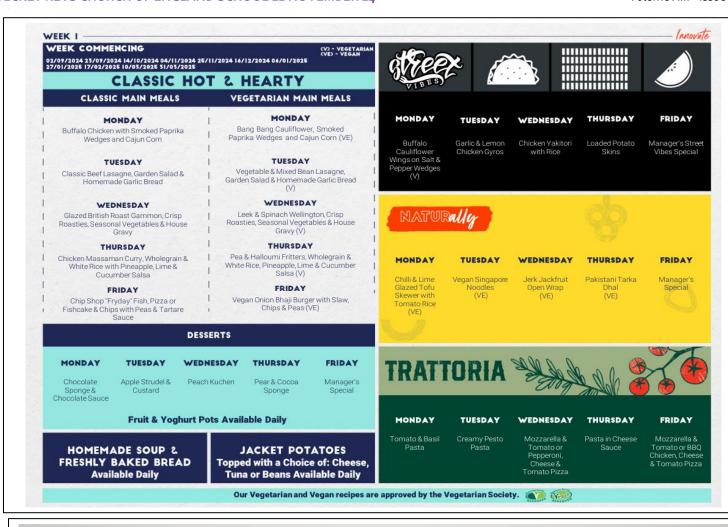
Monday 25th November 2024 External Student Consultation Meetings

Thursday 16th January 2025 Sixth Former for a Day

Monday 20th January 2025 Closing date for applications

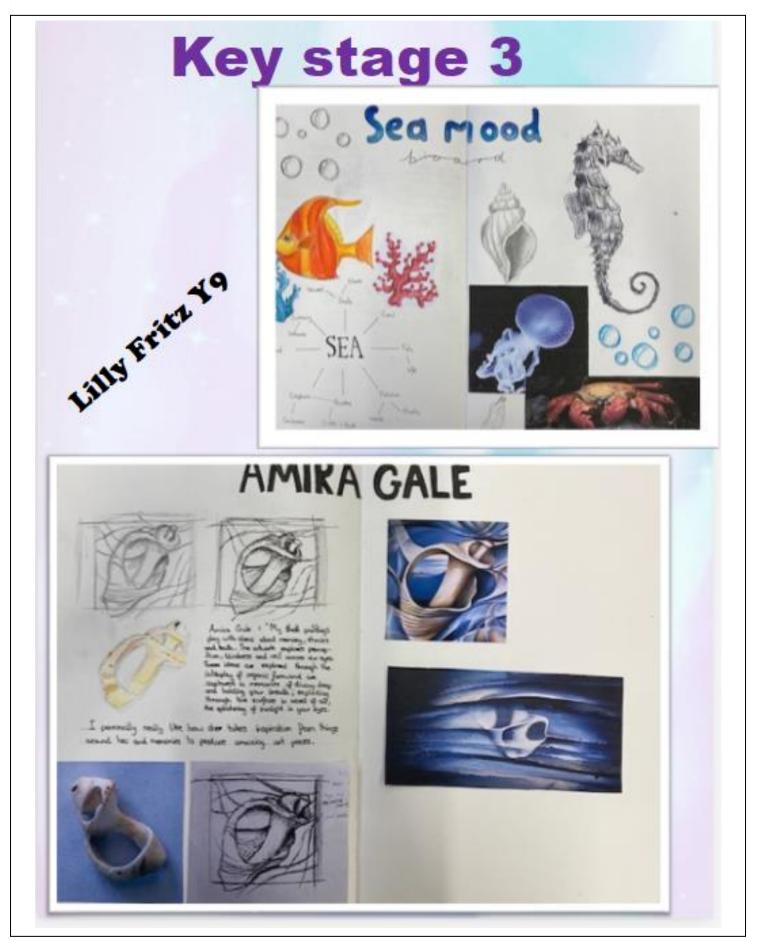
Monday 24th & Tuesday 25th June 2025 Bridging Event

Any questions please email: sixthform@becketkeys.org



PE Extra Curricular - Term 2 4.1 Lunchtime (11:50-12:30) After-School (3:10-4:30) Day 4.2 Lunchtime (12:40-1:20) Year 8 Netball Year 10 and 11 Basketball Club Monday Year 8 Rugby Year 7 Rugby Tuesday **TUP Futsal** Year 9 Rugby Year 7 Basketball Year 9, 10 & 11 Netball Wednesday Year 7 Netball - Invite Only Keys: Girls' Football All Years Astro Sports hall (4.1) Year 8 Basketball Year 7 Netball Thursday Main Hall Year 10 & 11 Rugby (4.2) TUP Basketball Drama Hall Boys' Football All Years Field Friday (4.1) Year 9 Basketball Playground (4.2) TUP Badminton

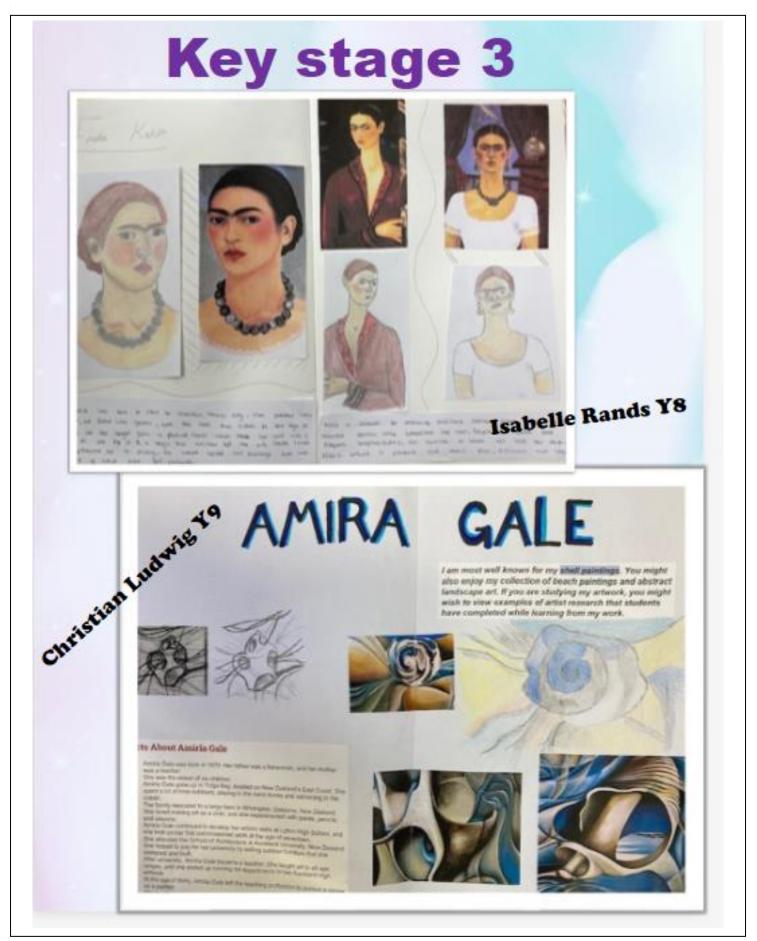




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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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YEAR 9 MADRID MEETING THURSDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 5.00PM MAIN HALL

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STUDENT CHRISTMAS DINNER

NON-UNIFORM DAY
WEDNESDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2024

*

YEAR 10 & 12 THEATRE TRIP

STRANGER THINGS

WEDNESDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2024

*

BECKET KEYS CAROL CONCERT
THURSDAY 12TH DECEMBER 2024

*

LAST DAY OF TERM
STUDENT HALF DAY
FRIDAY 20TH DECEMBER 2024

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CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
MONDAY 23RD DECEMBER 2024 –
FRIDAY 3RD JANUARY 2025

*

INSET DAY

NO STUDENTS IN SCHOOL MONDAY 6TH JANUARY 2025

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:

- @BecketKeys
- @MrScottEvans
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