



Becket Keys Church of England School

29th November 2024

IN THIS ISSUE

Mrs Sharp writes.....

Advent: A Season of Hope and Preparation

As we enter the season of Advent, we are reminded of the hope and anticipation that this time of year brings. Advent is a period of waiting and preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. It is a time to reflect on the profound love and joy that His arrival signifies.

Accompanying this newsletter is a calendar of prayers. We invite you to join us in dimming the lights, lighting a candle, and saying a special Advent prayer each day. Each day, a student or teacher will also read a candle lighting prayer:

As we light our candle this Advent, we remember that Jesus is the light of the world. May we

reflect the light of God's love and grace to others at this special season and always. Amen.

Reflecting the light of God's love and grace to others can take many forms in our school community. It might be seen in the way we offer a kind word to someone or how we lend a helping hand. It could be in the way we show patience and understanding to those around us, or how we share our time and resources with those in need. This season encourages us to look beyond ourselves and to extend a helping hand to those in need. Whether through small acts of kindness or larger gestures of support, we can all contribute to making our world a brighter place.

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BECKET KEYS
Church of England School

Student Christmas Lunch

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

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English Department

Year 7 and 8 students were recently given the opportunity to visit the local library.

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Year 10 students took part in the 'Speak Out Challenge' last week.

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Chinese Visitors

All students have a chance to be a buddy for our Chinese visitors in January.

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As we light our Advent candles each day, let them be a symbol of the light that Jesus brings into our lives. May this light guide us through the darkness and fill our hearts with peace and joy. The light of the Advent candles reminds us that there is always hope and a promise of new beginnings.

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.'

Isaiah 9:2

This verse from Isaiah beautifully captures the essence of Advent. It speaks of the hope and light that Jesus brings into our lives. As we journey through this season, let us carry this light within us and share it with those around us. Do remember that you are welcome to join our worship by attending lunchtime community Eucharists every Friday at 1pm, one of our whole school Advent Eucharists on 3rd December, or our Christmas Carol Concert on 12th December.

Wishing you all a blessed Advent season filled with hope, love, and the promise of new beginnings.

Mrs Sharp
Deputy Headteacher



BECKET KEYS
Church of England School



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 run-on, 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](#)

Christmas Carol Concert



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.

**FANTASTIC
FESTIVE
FOOD**

**Christmas Menu
4th December 2024**

Hand Carved Roast Turkey
or
Vegan Soya Bean & Vegetable Cranberry Wellington

Served with
Crispy Roast Potatoes, Honey Roasted Seasonal Vegetables,
Chefs Home-made Red Onion Stuffing & a Rich Gravy

Followed by

Home made Traditional Christmas Pudding
with Vanilla Sauce
or
Becket Keys Famous Chocolate Brownie
Christmas Trees
£4.55

**IT'S BEGINNING TO
TASTE A LOT LIKE
CHRISTMAS**

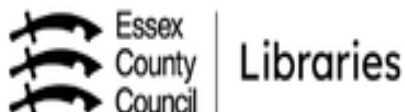
Christmas Lunch for Students

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.

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.

English Department – Library Visit

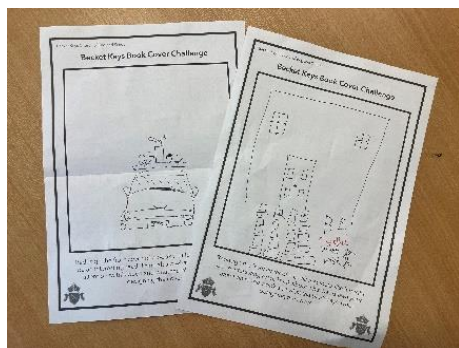
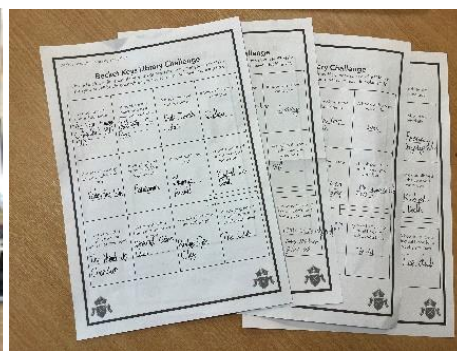
All of our Year 7 and 8 classes have been to Brentwood Library this term. Each English class has enjoyed a chance to explore our local library, become familiar with the resources available and borrow books.



Whilst there, students used their book bingo cards to fully investigate all the books on offer, finding lots of new great reads and resources along the way. Many students were keen to learn how their library card is not just for borrowing books but allows them to access a range of great resources online from their own homes. These resources will be invaluable for students when completing homework.

Lots of our students excitedly brought borrowed books back to school and have been devouring them in tutor times, English lessons and at home. Students have been begging to return and many students have navigated their way back to Brentwood library after school to swap their books for something else.

We hope students continue to use this fantastic free resource which is practically on our doorstep. If you are unsure of what Essex Libraries offer, here is a snapshot of what your son/daughter



discovered on their visit. With a library ticket you can borrow books, films and music, have free use of the Internet, get information for homework or leisure activities and use the online services (which include e-books, e-audio, e-comics, e-newspapers, e-magazines, the reference library online and online courses) from home at: <https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/>

If your son/daughter did not have their library card in time for these trips, it is not too late to sign them up. You can sign them up via the Essex Libraries website: <https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/digital-content/join-the-library>

Miss White
Teacher of English and Key
Stage 3 English Co-ordinator

Jack Petchey's "SPEAK OUT" Challenge!

On Friday, 22nd November, sixty of our Year 10 students had the incredible opportunity to participate in the Jack Petchey Speak Out Workshop. This event, designed to empower young people and enhance their public speaking skills, was a resounding success and will undoubtedly leave a lasting impact on all who attended.

The workshop, part of the prestigious Jack Petchey Foundation's initiatives, focused on building confidence, improving communication skills, and encouraging self-expression. Throughout the day, students engaged in a variety of activities and exercises aimed at honing their ability to speak confidently in front of an audience.

One of the highlights of the day was the chance for students to deliver their own speeches. Guided by experienced trainers, they learned valuable techniques for structuring their talks, using body language effectively, and engaging their listeners. The supportive environment allowed everyone to step out of their comfort zones and discover their potential as public speakers.



Feedback from the participants was overwhelmingly positive. Many students expressed how the workshop helped them overcome their fear of public speaking and gave them tools they can use in their academic and personal lives. One student remarked, "I never thought I

could speak in front of so many people, but the workshop gave me the confidence to do it. It was an amazing experience!"

Of the sixty students who took part, the workshop leaders chose 6 students who will perform their speech in a collective worship. There will be a panel of teacher judges who will choose an overall Becket Key's winner to represent the school in the regional finals of the Jack Petchey Speak Out challenge! These 6 students are: Kaylin Nachwa Muwenda (10HS), Noah Lynch (10EW), Mia Walters (10HS), Oscar Gibb (10FS), Eloise Knowles (10PP) and Maria Shipperlee (10HS)- A massive congratulations to all of you and good luck on the next stage of the challenge!



We are incredibly proud of our Year 10 students for their enthusiasm and willingness to embrace this opportunity. We look forward to seeing our students continue to grow and apply these skills in the future.

Miss Romano
ziC English



Christmas JUMPER DAY



WEDNESDAY 4th DECEMBER 2024

CHRISTMAS JUMPER & NON-UNIFORM DAY.
CHARITY DONATION OF £1 TO BE HANDED TO
YOUR TUTOR PLEASE.

FANTASTIC FESTIVE FOOD



DAILY
THROUGHOUT
December!

COMING
SOON!

IT'S BEGINNING
TO TASTE A LOT
LIKE CHRISTMAS

JOIN US FOR DAILY SEASONAL SPECIALS

SCHOOL UNIFORM

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, 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>

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 [here](#) or copy and paste this into a browser:

<https://forms.office.com/e/vxVCREkOX2> .

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.	Normal curriculum classes.	A farewell party and certificate issuing.

An example of what the week may look like.

Sports News

PE Extra Curricular - Term 2

Day	4.1 Lunchtime (11:50-12:30) 4.2 Lunchtime (12:40-1:20)	After-School (3:10-4:30)
Monday	Year 10 and 11 Basketball Club	Year 8 Netball Year 8 Rugby Year 7 Rugby
Tuesday	TUP Futsal	Year 9 Rugby Year 7 Basketball
Wednesday	Year 7 Netball – Invite Only	Year 9, 10 & 11 Netball Girls' Football All Years
Thursday	(4.1) Year 8 Basketball (4.2) TUP Basketball	Year 7 Netball Year 10 & 11 Rugby Boys' Football All Years
Friday	(4.1) Year 9 Basketball (4.2) TUP Badminton	



Keys:

- Astro
- Sports hall
- Main Hall
- Drama Hall
- Field
- Playground

Girls' Netball Year 7

The Year 7 girls' netball team have played a number of matches over the past couple of weeks with mixed results!

The away league match against Beaulieu Park School proved to be a tough away game against a very strong opposing side.

Although the final score was 24 – 8 against Becket Keys. The girls played well and fought hard with some bumps and bruises along the way!

Special mention to Sophia Crook, Violet Eldred and Melody Shanley who all played particularly well.

The next match was an Essex plate match and the team stormed ahead scoring goal after goal and winning that match 21-2!

This just goes to show how things can change for the team match by match. The girls have a favourite quote from Vince Lombardi an American Football coach who led his team to five championships.

"Quitters never win and winners never quit!"

Great words to live by girls!

Year 7 Players

Edee Eldred

Melody Shanley

Bella Long

Mia Ballam

Pippy Heazel

Charlotte Snow

Emily Miller

Ava Taylor

Sophia Crook

Lucy Gimmel

Creative Writing Competition

Hello from the other side.

I feel like I may have been here before.

I would say I'm sorry, if I thought that it would
change your mind.

On a warm summer's evening on a train bound for
nowhere...

I want to set the world to rights, but you know, I
don't know where to start.

You've stolen lives and broken dreams;
no man can be a deity.

Look, if you had one shot or one opportunity, to
seize everything you ever wanted in one
moment, would you capture it or just let it
slip?

Like a bat out of hell,
I'll be gone when the morning
comes.

Acknowledgements: Lyrics sourced from Adele, The Cure, Hurtsfall, Eminem,
Incubus, Kenny Rodgers, Killswitch Engage and Meatloaf.



RUSSELL EDUCATION TRUST

Songlines

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

This 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.



BECKET KEYS
Church of England School



**Tinned Ham
Sweet Biscuits.
Evap Milk
Minced Pies.
Xmas Cake.
Custard.**



**Tinned Corned Beef.
Boxes of Chocs.
Biscuits for cheeses
Christmas Puddings**

**Angel Delight
Stuffing
Tinned Fuit
Pickles
Jellies
Xmas Sweets**

**Savoury Crisps etc
Selection Boxes
Jam
Christmas Crackers**

**Tea / Coffee (small jars)
Cleaning Products
Nappies sizes 5 - 6**

Brentwood Foodbank are collecting Christmas food items for families who have been referred to Brentwood Foodbank in crisis



Brentwood Foodbank / Doddinghurst Road Community Church
Registered Charity Number 1171227



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



Help out when you check out

Collect FREE donations for **FRIENDS OF BECKET KEYS** every time you shop online.



Join, shop and raise here:
easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/becketkeysschoolbrentwood

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.

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.

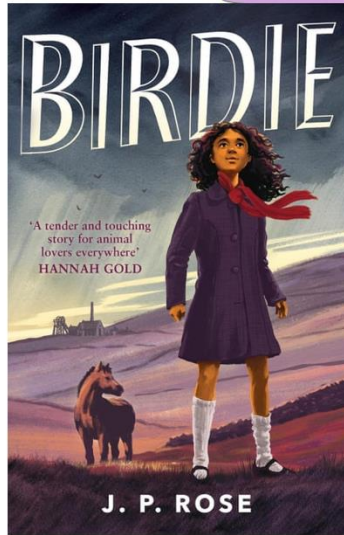
As I enter my classrooms and exam rooms, I pray you would give me your peace. Ease any anxieties, calm my restless mind, and give me focus on the task at hand. I pray that I would know my worth is in you alone, not in any grade I do or do not achieve. I pray that I would feel your presence during my 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.



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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

WHOLE SCHOOL EUCHARIST
ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CHURCH
 11.00AM TUESDAY 3RD DECEMBER 2024

*

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

*

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

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