

## Becket Keys Church of England School

20th December 2024

**IN THIS ISSUE** 

#### Mr Scott-Evans writes.....

Dear Parents,

As we approach the end of another remarkable year, I am filled with gratitude and pride for all that we have achieved together. This year, we have been blessed with numerous successes and milestones that reflect the dedication and hard work of our students, staff, and families.

## Celebrating Our Achievements

We are thrilled to announce that Becket Keys has been ranked as the 4th best school in East Anglia. This recognition is a testament to the unwavering commitment of our entire school community to excellence in education and character development.

Our recent alumni celebration highlighted the outstanding achievements of our most successful Year 13 cohort ever. Over 40% of our 2024 cohort achieved an A or A\* in at least one A Level, with sixteen students earning straight As or better. The proportion of A\* and A grades has increased to around 26%, and the proportion of A\* to C grades has risen to around 83%. The average grade is a B-, with over 200 of the 352 grades awarded being A\*, A, or B. Nearly 100 grades were C.

We are also proud to share that over 90% of our students received their first-choice university offers.

.....contd. on page 2



A Level Presentation Evening
A wonderful evening with our recent
alumni celebrating their exam

Page 3-4

#### **Recommended Reading**

The English department have been concentrating on the classics this month. Have you read them all?

Page 5-6

#### **Church Services**

results.

Details of the many services available at the local churches in and around Brentwood.

Page 14-16

#### **Art & Textiles**

Some excellent work from our talented students.

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.....contd. from Page 1

## Reflecting on Our Journey

As a Church school, we find inspiration in the Christmas story and the profound question, "What then will this Child be?" (Luke 1:66). This question, asked about John the Baptist, resonates deeply with us as educators. We often ponder the potential and future of each child entrusted to our care. Similarly, the prophecy about Jesus in Isaiah 9:6 reminds us of the divine purpose and promise in every child's life: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."



This week, we were blessed to have Mr. Witchalls, a parent and local church leader, take our times of Collective Worship. He shared the 'Good News of Christmas,' reflecting on the shepherds hearing from Angel Gabriel. This message of hope and joy is a beautiful reminder of the true meaning of Christmas and the importance of sharing good news with others.



Yesterday, at our awards evening for A Level students and alumni, we heard inspiring stories from two of our founding students.

One is now working for Chelsea Football Club, and the other is training to become a teacher here at Becket Keys. Their journeys exemplify the question we ask ourselves: "What then will this child be?" Their achievements remind us of the incredible potential within each student and the impact they can have on the world.



## A Message of Hope and Gratitude

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus this Christmas, let us remember the hope and joy that His arrival brings. Just as the shepherds and wise men recognised the significance of His birth, we too recognise the importance of nurturing and guiding our students to fulfil their God-given potential.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in making Becket Keys a place of excellence and faith. May you have a blessed Christmas and a joyful New Year.

With warmest regards for a blessed Christmas.

Mr. Scott-Evans Head Teacher Becket Keys Church of England School

## A-Level Awards Evening





















### A Message from the Head of Year 7



Miss Bolt Head of Year 7

As the Head of Year 7, I could not be prouder of the incredible start our newest members of Becket Keys have made this term. Transitioning to secondary school is a big step, but our Year 7 students have embraced the challenge with enthusiasm, resilience, and a determination to make the most of every opportunity.

Although we have only been in secondary school since September, the energy and eagerness to get involved have shone brightly in all aspects of school life. The inter-house music competition was a particular highlight, where Year 7s not only participated and performed spectacularly but also supported their peers with passion and encouragement, showcasing their musical talents and house spirit. It was truly inspiring to see their confidence and camaraderie on display. Thank you again to Mr. Romhany and Mr. Menexes for organising!

Additionally, in the English department, our library trips have been another success, with all students given the opportunity to dive headfirst into new books and discover a love for reading. All our Year 7 classes conducted themselves fantastically on these trips, and we hope they continue to visit the library for years to come! Furthermore, Miss White has been organising the interhouse English competitions, and we have loved reviewing all the fantastic and creative entries from Year 7.

In sports, Year 7s have already made their mark, demonstrating skill and sportsmanship in school competitions, most recently in rugby. Their dedication and teamwork have earned them some early victories, and we can't wait to see how they continue to grow on the field. Mr. Ison and the whole P.E. team could not be prouder of their commitment.

It has been a pleasure to see them adapt so well to secondary school life while upholding the values of our school. Keep up the fantastic work, Year 7s! I am excited to see what the rest of the year holds for you all.

Have a wonderful Christmas and I wish you all a Happy New Year.









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## Sixth Form Students Enjoying the Recent House Events



















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### **Business & Economics Department**

Monday, December 16th, former student Ethan Russell, who is now studying at Essex University, returned to Becket Keys to deliver an insightful talk to both Year 12 and Year 13 Economics students. Ethan, who graduated in 2024 with an A grade in Economics, shared his personal journey and experiences within the department. The students were highly engaged with Ethan's reflections and asked thought-provoking questions, which he was eager to answer.



Ethan also shared valuable advice on what it took to achieve high grades in the sixth form, offering inspiration and practical tips to the students. His success story resonated deeply with them, as they saw firsthand what can be achieved by someone who was once in their position.

We would like to extend our thanks to Ethan for taking time out of his university studies to inspire and motivate the next generation of economists here at Becket Keys.

Mr Ioannou Head of Department Business & Economics







## **Spanish Department**

## Year 7

This month in Spanish lessons, each Year 7 class have been learning a different Spanish Christmas carol.

The head of the Spanish department Mrs Martin watched and judged the carols this week. Each class have made a fantastic effort to learn the lyrics and some pupils even had Christmas accessories and dance moves with their carol. Classes were judged on four categories: participation, pronunciation, performance and singing. The class scores are below:

7P Cuba 40/40 7P Uruguay 23/40 7T Peru 35/40 7T Argentina 25/ 40

The winners of this inter-class competition are: 7P Cuba with the carol Cascabel.

Here are a couple of pictures of some of the classes in their Christmas outfits.

Miss Benson & Miss Davies
Spanish Teachers

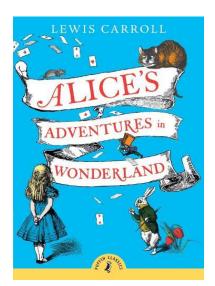






## Reading Recommendations – The Classics

This month the Year 7s have been reading 'The Jungle Book' in form time. This is a classic novel that tells the story of a boy who grows up in the jungle! If you enjoy this genre, here are some of my recommended reads!



# Alice's Adventures in Wonderland Lewis Carroll

On an ordinary summer afternoon, Alice tumbles down a hole and an extraordinary adventure begins. In a strange world with even stranger characters, she meets a grinning cat and a rabbit with a pocket watch, joins a Mad Hatter's Tea Party, and plays croquet with the Queen! Lost in this fantasy land, Alice finds herself growing more and more curious by the minute...

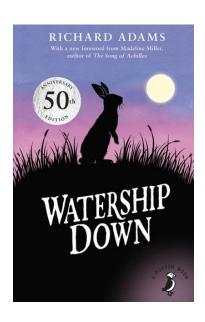
If you enjoy this book then why not try the sequel 'Through the Looking Glass'. This book sees Alice once again entering a fantastical world, where just like a reflection, everything is reversed.

## The Secret Garden Francis Hodgson Burnett

Everybody at Misselthwaite Manor agrees that Mary Lennox is the most disagreeable child they have ever met. Pale, selfish and spoilt, the ten-year-old orphan has been sent from India to her uncle's estate and she is determined to hate everything about it. But the isolated house on the Yorkshire moors holds secrets that Mary cannot resist exploring: pitiful crying that echoes down the corridors at night and a hidden walled garden. When a robin leads Mary to the buried key, not only is the garden unlocked, but also her heart. And as the garden blooms, for the first time in her life, Mary discovers friendship. This is where the magic begins . . .



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## Watership Down Richard Adams

In this epic story, a young rabbit called Fiver senses that something terrible is about to happen to the warren - he is sure of it. Fiver's sixth sense is never wrong according to his brother, Hazel. They had to leave immediately, and they had to persuade the other rabbits to join them. And so begins a long and perilous journey of a small band of rabbits in search of a safe home. Fiver's vision finally leads them to Watership Down, but here they face their most difficult challenge of all . . .

This month the Year 8s have been reading 'Dr Dolittle' in form time. This is a classic novel that tells the story of a man who can talk to animals! If you enjoy this genre, here are some of my recommended reads!



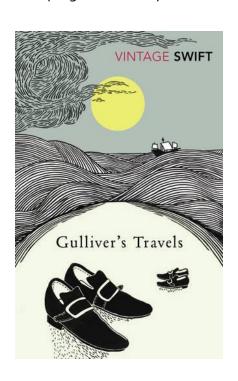
## Treasure Island Robert Louis Stevenson

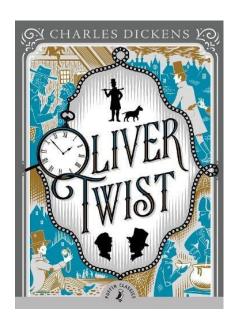
Following the death of bloodthirsty buccaneer Captain Flint, young Jim Hawkins finds himself with the key to a fortune he has discovered a map that will lead him to the fabled Treasure Island. But a gang of villains, wild beasts and deadly swashbucklers stand between him and the stash of gold. Not to mention the most infamous pirate ever to sail the high seas .



## Gulliver's Travels Jonathan Swift

In the course of his famous travels, Gulliver: is captured by miniature people who wage war on each other because of religious disagreement over how to crack eggs, is sexually assaulted by giants, visits a floating island, and decides that the society of horses is better than that of his fellow man. Swift's tough, filthy and incisive satire has much to say about the state of the world today and is presented here in its unexpurgated entirety.





## Oliver Twist Charles Dickens

After Oliver Twist asks nasty Mr Bumble for more food, he has to flee the workhouse for the streets of London. Here he meets the Artful Dodger, who leads him to Fagin and his gang of pickpockets. When a thieving mission goes wrong, Oliver narrowly avoids prison and finds himself in the care of kind Mr Brownlow. But Fagin and the brutal Bill Sikes go in search of the young orphan, determined to drag him back.

There are of course many classic novels written by Charles Dickens including:

A Christmas Carol

Little Dorrit

David Copperfield

Bleak House

This month the Year 9s have been reading 'Black Beauty' in form time. This is a classic novel that tells the story from a horse's perspective! If you enjoy this genre, here are some of my recommended reads!



Jane Austen Pride and Prejudice

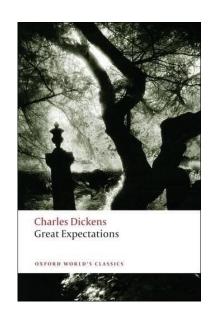


## Pride & Prejudice Jane Austen

For Mrs Bennet, a mother to five daughters, little else is of consequence than the prospect of a successful and advantageous marriage for each of them. Her daughter Elizabeth, independent and spirited, has other ideas. When the wealthy and eligible bachelor Mr Bingley moves into the neighbourhood he seems everything one could want in a husband; engaging friendly and obliging he forms a quick attachment with Elizabeth's beloved sister Jane. His friend and companion Fitzwilliam Darcy makes a less favourable first impression on Elizabeth, she thinks him arrogant and conceited whilst he seems indifferent to her quick wit and lively mind.

When she later discovers that Darcy has involved himself in the

troubled relationship between Bingley and Jane, their relationship seems destined to be one of animosity but both are about to learn the folly of judging from first impressions.



## Great Expectations Charles Dickens

An orphaned child with little or no prospects, Pip expects very little from life.

His sister makes it clear that her little brother is nothing but a burden on her. But suddenly things begin to change. Pip's narrow existence is blown apart when he finds an escaped criminal, is summoned to visit a mysterious old woman and meets the icy beauty Estella.

Most astoundingly of all, an anonymous person gives him money to begin a new life in London. Are these events as

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random as they seem? Or does Pip's fate hang on a series of coincidences he could never have expected?

## The Woman in White Wilke Collins

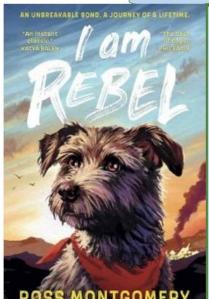
Marian and her sister Laura live a quiet life under their uncle's quardianship until Laura's marriage to Sir Percival Glyde. Sir Percival is a man of many secrets - is one of them connected to the strange appearances of a young woman dressed all in white? And what does his charismatic friend, Count Fosco, with his pet white mice running in and out of his brightly coloured waistcoat, have to do with it all? Marian and the girls' drawing master, Walter, have to turn detective in order to work out what is going on, and to protect Laura from a fatal plot.







## Book of the Month -December



A heart-warming adventure about the unbreakable bond between a dog and his human.

'I'm Tom's dog, and he's my human. We belong to each other.'

Rebel is a good dog, and he loves his simple, perfect life on the farm with his owner Tom – until one day the war comes too close... Now Tom is determined to join the rebellion to defeat the king's men. But Rebel knows war is dangerous, and he will stop at nothing to save the human he loves. Rebel must bring Tom home before it's too late.

"It is a book to remind adults of the joy and wonder to be found in children's books, and to help young readers discover a love of reading. Firmly rooted in the traditions of the classics like all the best comfort reads, yet wholeheartedly, originally itself, 'I am Rebel' is above all a brilliantly fun gripping adventure which showcases the very best of children's storytelling. Rebel is the ultimate good boy." Bea Carvalho, Waterstones Head of Books

## A Message from Mrs Palmer Head of Year 9



Dear Year 9 students and your families,

I wish you a very merry Christmas as your Head of Year this year. After a busy couple of terms, I hope you have a lovely festive holiday and really encourage you to switch off and make the most of the time together.

I wish you a very peaceful and healthy 2025. Wishing you all love and I will see you in January.



Many thanks to all those who have generously donated books for the library!

## **Music Department**

Christmas is always a time to celebrate, and what a better way to do this than with music? Last week saw the Music Department take part in three concerts: the Carol Concert at School on Thursday evening, on Friday evening the choir and members of the School Chamber Orchestra performed at the Brentwood Centre, and on the same evening some of our rock bands performed at Brentwood Theatre.



We celebrated on Thursday with choirs, stage band, jazz band, and the school orchestra, along with an audience in fine voice for the carols. The event at the Brentwood Centre on Friday evening had us playing alongside the Essex Youth Chamber Orchestra and other choirs performing Duke Ellington's Nutcracker Suite and excerpts from Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker before a wonderful Christmas medley. Our rock bands worked with the Hermit Club to produce a wonderful evening of rock music at Brentwood Theatre, showcasing the talent at Becket Keys and in our community. Well done to all our performers, and we look forward to more events next year.











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## **Local Church Christmas Services**



Ingrave Christmas Services

**All Saints East Horndon** 

Carol Service, 15th Dec, 6pm.

St Nicholas, Ingrave

Carol Service, 22nd Dec, 4pm Crib Service, Christmas Eve, 4pm Midnight Mass, Christmas Eve, 11:30pm Holy Communion, Christmas Day, 9:30am

St Stephen's Ingrave

Carol Service, 22nd Dec, 6pm Holy Communion, Christmas Day, 11am Holy Communion, Boxing/St Stephen's Day, 11am ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, BRENTWOOD

## **SERVICES & EVENTS**

#### **ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2024**

#### Sat 23rd Nov

Christmas Fair 11am - 3pm

#### Advent Sunday: 1st Dec

10am - Mass 6pm - Advent Procession & Carols

#### Sat 7th Dec

Christmas Youth Concert 7pm - 8:45pm

#### Sunday 8th Dec

10am - Mass 12pm - Family Mass 6pm - Evensong

#### Friday 13th Dec

Carols & Chilli 5:00pm

#### Sunday 15th Dec

10am - Mass 6pm - 'Blue Christmas' service

#### Sunday 22nd Dec

10am - Mass 6pm - Nine Lessons & Carols

#### Christmas Eve: Tues 24th Dec

4pm - Christingle for young children 6pm - Christingle for older children 11:30pm - Midnight Mass

#### Christmas Day: Wed 25th Dec

10am - Mass

#### Sunday 29th Dec

10am - Mass (no choir)





## All Saints' Doddinghurst All Saints' Christmas Services Mon 16 Dec 7.00pm Traditional Carol Service (Festival of 9 Lessons & Carols) 10.00am Parish Eucharist on the Fourth Sunday of Advent Sun 22 Dec (with Saints Alive making Christmas Slime) Tue 24 Dec 4.00pm Christmas Eve Family Crib Service 10.00pm Midnight Mass Wed 25 Dec 10.00am Christmas Day Festival Eucharist with Carols Thu 26 Dec 10.00am Holy Communion: Feast of St. Stephen Fri 27 Dec 10.00am Holy Communion: Feast of St John Sat 28 Dec 10.00am Holy Communion: Feast of the Holy Innocents Sun 29 Dec 10.00am Parish Eucharist on the Feast of the Holy Family we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Peaceful & Safe New Yea

## St Paul's, Bentley Common

### Sunday 15th December 2024

9.30am Pop-Up Nativity

A fun filled morning for the whole family. An interactive service for children (and adults!) to participate in the Nativity. A great way to connect with the Christmas story.



### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2024

9.30am Service with Carols A festive service with plenty of carols to enjoy and connect with God through the traditional Christmas music and message.

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9.30am Service with Carols

A festive service with plenty of carols to enjoy and connect with God through the traditional Christmas music and message.



### Tuesday 24th December 2024

5.30pm - Christmas Eve, Carols by Candlelight A beautiful service to reflect on the Christmas message.

### Wednesday 25th December 2024

10.30am – Christmas Day Service A vibrant start to your Christmas morning and celebrating the true meaning of Christmas.



## **Christmas Services**

#### **Advent Sunday**

1 December 10.00am Celebrate the beginning of Advent introducing our Christ Church Choir

#### Family Service led by our young people

8 December 10.00am
Service followed by refreshments and stalls

#### **Candlelit Carol Service**

22 December 6.00pm A service of Lessons and Carols

#### Family Nativity Service

2.4 December 4.00pm
Children are invited to come dressed as a character from the Nativity story. Costumes will also be available.

#### Midnight Holy Communion

at St Mary the Virgin, Great Warley, CM13 3JP

#### Christmas Day Holy Communion 10.30 am





### Shenfield St Mary's

**Sunday 15th December – The Third Sunday of Advent** 8.00am Holy Communion & 9.30am Parish Eucharist

**Sunday 22nd December – The Fourth Sunday of Advent** 8.00am Holy Communion & 9.30am Parish Eucharist 6.30pm Traditional Carol Service

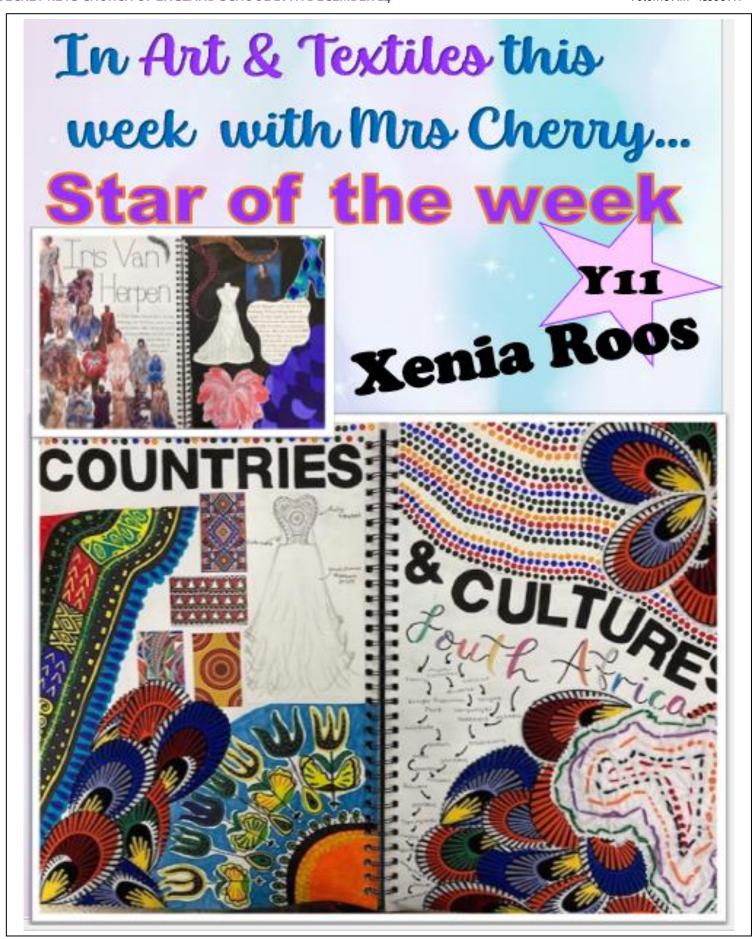
### Tuesday 24th December – Christmas Eve

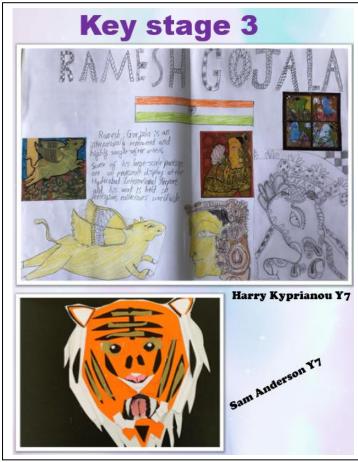
3.00pm Family Nativity Carol Service 4.15pm & 5.30pm Family Nativity Carol Service 11.30pm Midnight Christmas Eucharist



Wednesday 25th December – Christmas Day 9.30am Christmas Family Communion (no creche)

Thursday 26th December – St Stephen's Day No 11am service













## **Essex Short Breaks**





Essex Short breaks give parent carers and siblings of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities a break from their additional caring responsibilities, whilst enabling children and young people to meet friends, take part in activities, develop independence and have fun. It is part of Essex County Council's early help approach.

Who can access Essex Short Breaks?

Children and young people can access Essex Short Break's provision if they are:

- aged between 0-18, or 19-25 and have a personal budget.
- have a diagnosis of special educational needs and/or a disability\*.
- living within the administrative borders of Essex County Council.

How do I sign up?

To access this provision, a responsible adult such as a parent carer or family member can create a Short Breaks Digital Account for the child or young person. Access to the offer is then managed through that account. Families new to Essex SEND Short Breaks will need to register for an account.



SENDIASS are holding workshops for parents with a child waiting for ASD assessment.

These free workshops are designed to support parents with a child waiting for ASD assessment in Essex with content delivered by Essex Autism Central

Sessions available (more sessions will be available soon)

24<sup>th</sup> January with Proactive Training at Colchester Football Stadium 10am until 2pm (lunch provided) **Understanding** and Managing Your Child's Responses

28<sup>th</sup> January 25 with Autism Central at Manor Of Groves High Wycham 10am until 12 **Developing Communication and** supporting Sensory needs

31<sup>st</sup> January with Proactive Training at Holiday Inn Brentwood 10am until 2pm (lunch provided) **Understanding and Managing Your Child's Responses** 

27<sup>th</sup> February with Proactive Training at The Pier Harwich 10am until 2pm (lunch provided) - **Understanding and Managing Your Child's Responses** 

For more information and book a place contact sally.grainger@essex.gov.uk

## **Sports News**

#### Sixth Form PE

During Sixth Form PE on Wednesday some of our students took part in a self-defence session run by Sifu Andy from Meridian Kung Fu. The students had the opportunity to learn new skills and increase their self confidence and expertise in this field. A huge well done to all of the sixth form students who participated in the session. They displayed exemplary respect and a keenness to learn throughout. If you would like more information on how to get involved in selfdefence or kung fu in Brentwood, please use the link Meridian Kung Fu - Meridian Kung Fu -Brentwood.













## PE Extra Curricular - Term 3

Day	4.1 Lunchtime (11:50 -12:30) 4.2 Lunchtime (12:40 -1:20)	After-School (3:10-4:30)
Monday	GCSE Intervention	Year 9, 10 + 11 Girl's Football Year 9, 10 + 11 Boys' Football
Tuesday	TUP Futsal	Year 7 Basketball Year 8 Boys' Football Year 8 Girls' Football
Wednesday	Year 7 Netball For All/Invite Only	Year 7 Girls' Football Year 10 + 11 Basketball Club
Thursday	(4.1) Year 8Basketball (4.2)TUP Basketball	Year 7 Boys' Football
Friday	(4.1) Year 9 Basketball (4.2) TUP Badminton	



#### Keys:

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

The lunchtime clubs will start from Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January when the students return. All after-school clubs will begin the following week from 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025.



## Year 11 Netball

The year 11 annual boys' verses girls' netball fixture was back up and running, and what an exciting match we had to witness!

Our year 11 girls are historically successful in their netball endeavours, regularly winning games and even being successful in the early stages of the Essex Plate. The boys brought a new

energy to the game with many transferring their basketball skills successfully into the game. As expected, the boys were let down by their lack of knowledge on netball rules. This slowed down their progress and limited their scoring ability in the first two quarters.

The girls were confidently in the lead going into the fourth quarter, however the boys had other plans! The comeback was on, and pressure was rising. The boys, through some fluid play, took the win!

Honourable mentions:

- Holly Marder scored two outstanding shots from the top of the D.
- Olivia Miller demonstrated her county level netball skills
- William Long showed us his talents lie on a netball court with some outstanding shooting

Thank you all for playing with such high spirit. The GCSE students were able to demonstrate themselves at their best through all your efforts.

Ms Schafer PE Teacher

#### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

\*

YEAR 11 PARENTS' EVENING THURSDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2025

\*

SIXTH FORMER FOR A DAY
YEAR 11 COLLEGE TRIP
THURSDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2025

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YEAR 12 EXAMS
THURSDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> - FRIDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY -2025

\*

DEADLINE FOR SIXTH FORM APPLICATIONS
MONDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2025

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YEAR 9 PARENTS' EVENING
THURSDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2025

\*

LENT HOLIDAY

MONDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> FEBRURY – FRIDAY 21

FEBRUARY 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
- @BecketKeys6th
- @BecketKeysMusic
- @BecketKeysPE
- @BecketKeysArt
- @BecketKeysSci
- @BecketKeysDT
- @BecketKeysExams
- @Becket Keys Trips

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