

Becket Keys Church of England School

7th February 2025

IN THIS ISSUE

Mr Scott-Evans writes..... What is the option?

I hope Year 9 students and their parents found last week's on-line parents' evening useful. Next week, on Thursday 13th February at 5.30pm we are offering a curriculum meeting with Mrs Trebess and Mr Fenn to help students to decide which subjects to choose.

When I was 13, like most students that age, I had no idea what I wanted to do in the future. I naively/optimistically thought that I would be a footballer, a drummer or a chef! Little did I know that I would decide to be a Primary School Teacher! Nor did I know that to be a Primary School Teacher I would need a Modern Foreign Language and a Humanity as an entry requirement to the degree courses that I wanted.

Fortunately, my teachers ensured that GCSE French and Geography were on my curriculum. These two subjects kept the door open to me.

There are certain facilitating subjects that keep doors open for students. Some are obvious to teenagers: English, Mathematics and Science. Others maybe less so: Religion and Philosophy, Modern Foreign Languages and Humanities.

If it were not for my teachers, I would have made a mistake and dropped French. I did not feel confident in it. Even though, actually, it was quite a straightforward one to pass.

The mistake I did make with my options was to select a subject

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National Apprenticeship Week Information about this informative week and the event that are being held at school and nationally.

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Book of the Month

The recommendation for February is here and available in the school library.

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Art & Textiles

Samples of the excellent work from our talented students.

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Sports News

Details of the recent fixtures played by the school teams.

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that was new to me. Despite my passion for Food, Music and PE (as mentioned above), I thought that none of these were 'academic enough' and instead I chose Economics which was new and therefore (I thought) exciting. Having studied the other subjects for 9 years and loved them, it was bizarre that I turned my back on them! My family are also traditionally good with our hands and so it was weird that I also turned my back on DT which had always been a strength. Looking back at my school reports DT was the subject I continually got the best marks in. My DT teacher even came to see me in hospital when I was very unwell in Year 9! How strange that I did not think his subject was the one for me! I cannot understand the lack of logic on my part and the lack of advice and guidance provided to me by the school at the time!



Economics? I never watched the news! I had no interest in how financial markets and systems worked. Why did I pick it? Well, my dad was a Bank Manager and

A Message for Year 9 Parents

We would like to invite you to the Guided Curriculum Choices (options) evening which will take place:

Thursday 13th February 2024 5.30pm Main Hall

More information will follow shortly, but for now, please put this date into your diaries. Students and parents should attend together.

so I suspect it seemed like a subject he would be pleased with. It ended up being my lowest GCSE grade. I wish I had picked DT, Music, Food or PE!

My advice to all Year 9s is to spend time really thinking about what you are good at and what you enjoy. No Year 9s can really be sure what they are going to be in the future. That is why we ensure that all doors are kept open for as long as possible with our highly facilitating set of compulsory GCSE subjects. Now it is up to them to think which of the other one will interest them most.

Which one will they look forward to when they wake up in the morning? Which one will add balance to their academic curriculum? Remember: until now, every week at school has always included some creative element. How will they want to keep that in their timetable? Which subjects brings the most joy to them? There is no need at this point to try to add additional facilitatory subjects.

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Just because students think they want to do a particular A Level or have a particular career is immaterial. Our core offer ensures that every single course and career will remain open. Opinions and tastes change as students grow and develop. The simple pleasure of learning in their favourite subject is the priority at this point. Hopefully, by the end of next week, every Year 9 student will know exactly what to pick. If not, we are here to help. Our website offers a page of advice about options. It also has detailed descriptions of everything that is studied within every single course, term by term, over the two years here.

If Parents' Evening was not long enough, you can contact teachers via the school website. Tutors are the first port of call for general advice, subject teachers can be contacted for more curriculum specific advice. Mrs Sharp (Acting Head of Year), Mr Fenn (Assistant Head Reporting, Recording and Timetabling), Mrs Trebess (Deputy Head Curriculum) can also be called upon for additional help. They are the experts on the curriculum and can advise students by looking at their strengths and steering them in the way that I should have been!

My final word of advice to Year 9 is that 'the way you do anything is the way you do everything'. In other words, keep working hard at all your subjects. Never tell yourself that 'this one doesn't matter'. They all matter. They all provide you with something different and wonderful. Don't be the person who doesn't try at anything. It is a bad habit to develop.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr Scott-Evans Headteacher





Pre-Loved Uniform Sale Saturday 22nd February Held in the Bistro 11.00am – 12.30pm

Cash would be appreciated.

6th Form Suit Jacket	£15.00
6th Form Skirt / Trousers	£7.00
Blazer	£7.00
Kilt	£7.00
Trousers	£4.00
Blouse / Shirt	£2.00
Jumper / Tank Top	£5.00
Tie	£2.00
PE Hoodie	£5.00
PE Rugby Top	£5.00
РЕ Тор	£3.00
PE Shorts / Skort	£3.00
PE Track Pants / Leggings	£4.00
GCSE PE Top	£4.00
Aprons	£3.00
Drama T-Shirt	£3.00
Chef Jacket	£5.00
Coat	£7.00
Rucksack	£5.00

National Apprenticeship Week

National Apprenticeship Week 2025: February 10th – 16th

National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) is an annual event that celebrates the positive impact of apprenticeships on individuals, businesses, and the wider economy.

In 2025, NAW will take place from Monday, February 10th to Sunday, February 16th.
Theme: "Skills for Life"
The theme for NAW 2025 is "Skills for Life," emphasising the importance of equipping individuals with valuable skills through apprenticeships, benefiting both their personal development and the broader community.

Opportunities for Students and Parents

Apprenticeships offer a unique pathway for students to gain practical experience while earning qualifications across a wide range of industries. They combine onthe-job training with classroom learning. Apprenticeships can range from 12 months to six years, equating to qualifications from GCSE to master's degree level.

How We're Celebrating NAW at School

To help students explore apprenticeship opportunities, we

will be discussing apprenticeship routes in PSHE lessons, tutorials, and collective worship throughout the week.

On Friday, February 14th, we will be hosting a Working Lunch, where students can ask questions and find out more about different apprenticeship pathways. This is a great opportunity to engage with career options and gain insights from experts.

Local Apprenticeship Opportunities & Labour Market Information

Students and parents can explore local apprenticeship events and opportunities through **Essex Opportunities** by visiting:

Essex Opportunities – Events & Apprenticeships Understanding Labour Market Information (LMI) is essential when exploring career pathways. LMI provides insights into the most in-demand industries, skills gaps, salary expectations, and job growth trends both locally and nationally. By using this information, students can make informed decisions about their future careers and identify apprenticeship routes that align with their interests and the needs of the job market.

Resources and Events

Throughout NAW 2025, numerous events and resources will be available to help students and parents explore apprenticeship opportunities:

Amazing Apprenticeship offers a variety of free resources, including

of free resources, including subject-led guides, activity packs, and display materials.



Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships combine practical training in a job with study. As an apprentice you will be an employee earning a wage and getting holiday pay, work alongside experienced staff, gain job-specific skills and get time for training and study related to your role. Apprenticeships take 1 to 5 years to complete depending on their level.

Find an apprenticeship - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

The National
Apprenticeship Week
Official Website provides
toolkits, event listings, and social
media assets to help individuals
and organizations participate in
the celebrations.

Get Involved

We encourage parents to engage with their children during NAW 2025 by exploring apprenticeship options together. Attending local events, utilising available resources, and discussing potential career paths can provide valuable insights into how apprenticeships can serve as a viable and rewarding route to future success.

Can you help?

Have you taken the apprenticeship route, or does your company offer apprenticeships? Would you be willing to share your experience with our students? We would love for you to volunteer at our Working Lunch on Friday, February 14th to help inspire the next generation.

If you're interested in getting involved, please email careers@becketkeys to register your interest and find out more information.

Let's celebrate the "Skills for Life" that apprenticeships offer and support our students in discovering the opportunities available to them!

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

10 - 16 FEBRUARY 2025

APPRENTICESHIP KEY FACTS

- Over 700 apprenticeship standards across all levels.
- Over 80% employers and apprentices satisfied with their apprenticeships.
- 78% of employers reported improved productivity.
- Over 85% of learners are in good or outstanding (Ofsted) apprenticeship providers.
- 93% apprentices that achieve go into work or further training -92% employment.

Call 08000 150 400
Email nationalhelpdesk@apprenticeships.gov.uk



NATIONAL
APPRENTICESHIP
WEEK 2025



National Apprenticeship Week 10-16th Feb

	Year 12	Year 13	Extra activities
Monday 10 th Feb	Degree Apprenticeships Finance Talk	Degree Apprenticeships Finance Talk	Independent career sector research
Tuesday 11 th Feb	Apprenticeships in the forces	Apprenticeships in the forces	Step Into The Future With AWE Nuclear Security Technologies (Virtual Event) 6-9pm Pathways ctm
Wednesday 12 th Feb	Degree Apprenticeships - Accountancy	Degree Apprenticeships - Accountancy	Apprenticeship Fair 4 -6.30pm Pathways into Accountancy with ACCA 6 -7pm Pathways ctm Searching apprenticeships 6.30-7.15
Thursday 13 th Feb	Tutor session Applying to Apprenticeships	Study Leave	Independent UCAS Career Spotlight Insight into Insurance virtual event UK Power networks – apprenticeships 6.30-7pm
Friday 14 th Feb	Changing Careers	Study Leave	Independent UCAS virtual Work experience



THE YOUNG SONGWRITER 2025 COMPETITION 1st February to 31st March

Prizes going for a song!

Calling all young songwriters, singers & musicians! Have you written your own original songs? Do you fancy writing your first song?...Then get ready to enter The Song Academy Young Songwriter 2025 competition! Open to young people aged 8-22, worldwide, this is your chance to shine.

There are **star-studded judges** (including Toby Gad, Tom Grennan, Calum Scott, Miranda Cooper, MNEK, Naughty Boy, Eg White, Freddy Wexler, Plested, Emily Phillips, Hannah V, Dan Gillespie Sells, GAYLE, Connie Talbot & Nina Nesbitt & **fantastic prizes** (including a home studio set-up, recording studio session with a top producer & performing at The Young Songwriter 2025 showcase).

Head to www.songacademy.co.uk/says25/ for details, songwriting tips and guidance. We're looking forward to listening to your songs!

SUMMER RESIDENTIAL SONGWRITING CAMPS 2025

An immersive & motivational experience for aspiring young songwriters aged 11-18

Our residential songwriting camps are designed for aspiring young songwriters to develop their songwriting skills, connect & collaborate on exciting songwriting briefs over 4 days & immerse themselves in all parts of the songwriting process, from finding inspiration, lyric writing, melody improvisation and composition to producing and performing. Our expert team of top songwriters and producers all share a passion for inspiring the next generation.

6-9th August in Surrey and 13-16th in West Yorkshire, UK.

There are only 50 places in small groups of 11-13 year olds, 14-15 and 16-18 year olds. Check out www.songacademy.co.uk/residential-summer-songwriting-camp-2025/ for all information and how to register your interest.



Book of the Month - February



EVERY FIRE STARTS WITH A SINGLE SPARK

It is London,1923. Dragons soar through the skies and protests erupt on the streets, but Vivien Featherswallow isn't worried. She's going to follow the rules, get an internship studying dragon languages, and make sure her little sister never has to risk growing up Third Class.

By midnight, Viv has started a civil war.

With her parents arrested and her sister missing, all the safety Viv has worked for is collapsing around her. So when a lifeline is offered in the form of a mysterious 'job', she grabs it. Arriving at Bletchley Park, Viv discovers that she has been recruited as a codebreaker helping the war effort – if she succeeds, she and her family can all go home again. If she doesn't, they'll all die.

At first Viv believes that her challenge, of discovering the secrets of a hidden dragon language, is doable. But the more she learns, the more she realises that the bubble she's grown up in isn't as safe as she thought, and eventually Viv must decide: What war is she really fighting?

This is an epic, sweeping fantasy with a Dark Academia setting, a clandestine, slow-burn enemies-to-lovers romance, and an unputdownable story, filled with twists and turns, betrayals and secret identities.

Late Gate

Early is on time
On time is late
And late is unacceptable!

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

Brentwood can be tough to manoeuvre during rush hour, especially with the planned road and engineering works so please make sure that you are leaving enough time to get to school.

Parents can call the main school line o1277 286600 or use the "Studybugs" app to report genuine lateness. We thank you for your support.



School Vaccination Catch up Clinics

Has your child missed their school vaccinations?

We are running local catch up clinics for their routine teenage vaccinations. **

Your nearest clinic is:

Thameside House, Thurrock Hospital, Long Lane RM16 2PX

10am to 2pm

Saturday 1 February

10am to 4pm

• Wednesday 19 February (half term)

The Hermit Youth Centre, Shenfield Road, Bre CM15 8AG

10am to 2pm

Saturday 8 March

It's easy to catch up, book your nearest clinic NOW on 0300 790 0597.

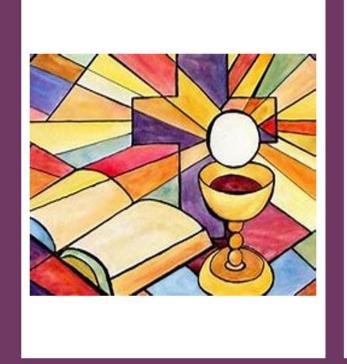
For information on school aged vaccinations please visit our website: eput.nhs.uk/childrensvaccines

**HPV (from Year 8) DTP & Meningitis (from Year 9)









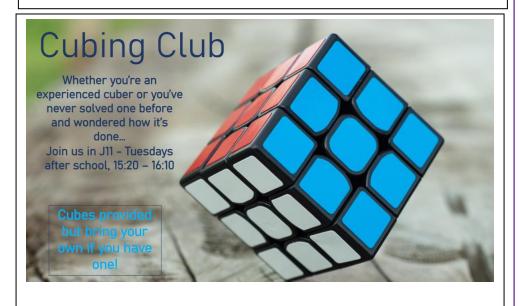
School Eucharist

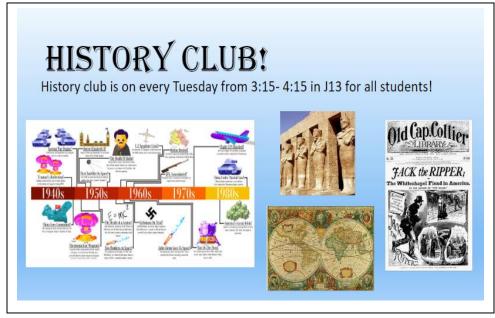
There is a Eucharist service held at school every Friday during term-time in the John Wraw Chapel. The service begins at 1.00pm and is open to everyone.

All students are welcome to attend these short services to pray and reflect.

If you would like to attend then please see Mr Scott-Evans for a 'queue jump' ticket, you can leave you lesson slightly earlier on Friday and head to the Bistro to get your lunch before the rush.









School 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 long 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.



Please make sure that you top-up your son or daughter's account each week so that he/she is able to access all the delicious meals in the Bistro.

There is a small overdraft facility on the ParentPay accounts of £2 for emergency situations which covers the cost of a roll. Due to the cashless system in place, there is no other back up.

We do not want any student to miss lunch or the great choice of food available every day in our restaurants. (You can check out the menu for the next week on the next page.)

If you have any queries, please contact the school – office@becketkeys.org

Drawing Club

When? Monday 12pm

Where? C24

What? A relaxed approach to mindful drawing. We will practise some drawing techniques and share our creations

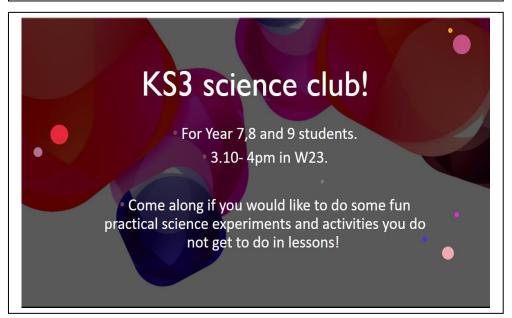


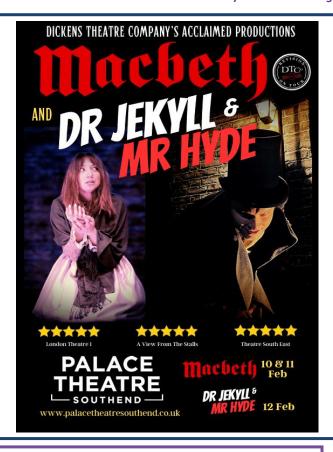


Y7, Y8 and Y9 Mandarin lunch time club (for Mandarin students only)

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Every Friday 13:00-13:30	Every Monday 12:10-12:40	Every Wednesday 12:10-12:40
First session will be on 4 th October	First session will be on 30 th September	First session will be on 2 nd October











The School Community Prayer Group hosted by our Headteacher Mr Scott-Evans is every Wednesday during term time 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 would like to join us for the Eucharist, then please come to reception on Fridays just before 1.00pm.

If you have any prayer intentions, please send them into the school via the office email: office@becketkeys.org



BRENTWOOD FOODBANK HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS

The Brentwood foodbank is part of <u>The Trussell</u> <u>Trust's</u> network of 428 foodbanks, working to tackle food poverty and hunger in the local community, as well as across the UK.

The Foodbank Network was founded in 2004 in Salisbury, since then <u>The Trussell Trust</u> has helped communities work together to launch foodbanks nationwide in a wide range of towns and cities.

In 2023/24, food banks in the Trussell Trust's network provided 3,121,404 three-day emergency food supplies and support to UK people in crisis. Of these, 1,144,096 were distributed for children.

You can make a donation at Sainsburys, Tesco Express in Brentwood High Street, St Thomas of Canterbury Church or St Stephen's Church.



February Shortages

Shampoo Tinned Tomatoes

Corned Beef Chilli-Con-Carne

Ravioli Macaroni Cheese

Tinned Potatoes Tinned Mixed Veg

Your support makes our work possible



Brentwood Foodbank facilitated by Doddinghurst Road Church Registered Charity Number 1171227





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.

Full details of all extra-curricular clubs are available on the school website here:

https://www.becketkeys.org/extra-curricular.



Free Organ Concert!

1st recital in the New Organ Series! 40 min long

With optional retiring collection to support the Church

Tea, coffee, and cake afterwards

Saturday 15th of February 1pm
St. Thomas of Canterbury Church,
Brentwood.
CM14 4DB St. Thomas road.

Alexander Evans

Will be performing:

My Lady Neville's Ground - William Byrd

The Wild Reeds - Judith Weir

Prelude and fugue in B minor BWV 544 - J. S. Bach

Carillon de Westminster - Louis Vierne

Alexander is a First-class Organ graduate from the Royal College of Music, where he studied with world renowned organists such as David Graham, Martin Schmeding, and Charles Andrews. He has spent weeks studying on the best historical organs in Leipzig, Hamburg, and Haarlem Amsterdam. He is currently serving as the Interim Organist and Assistant Director of St Thomas of Canterbury Church in Brentwood.

He was previously the Director of Music at Hinde Street Methodist Church from 2019 - 2024.







Please make sure that your son/daughter has a reuseable water bottle to make sure that they have adequate drinking water for the day.

Even when the weather is not hot it is important to keep hydrated during the day, especially on days when students are taking part in PE.

Remember that drinks are available for purchase from the Bistro at break and lunch.

Water fountains are available in the Bistro and Orangery for students to use at the beginning of the day and during break and lunchtime.





Here are all the fantastic pieces from the art department with Mrs

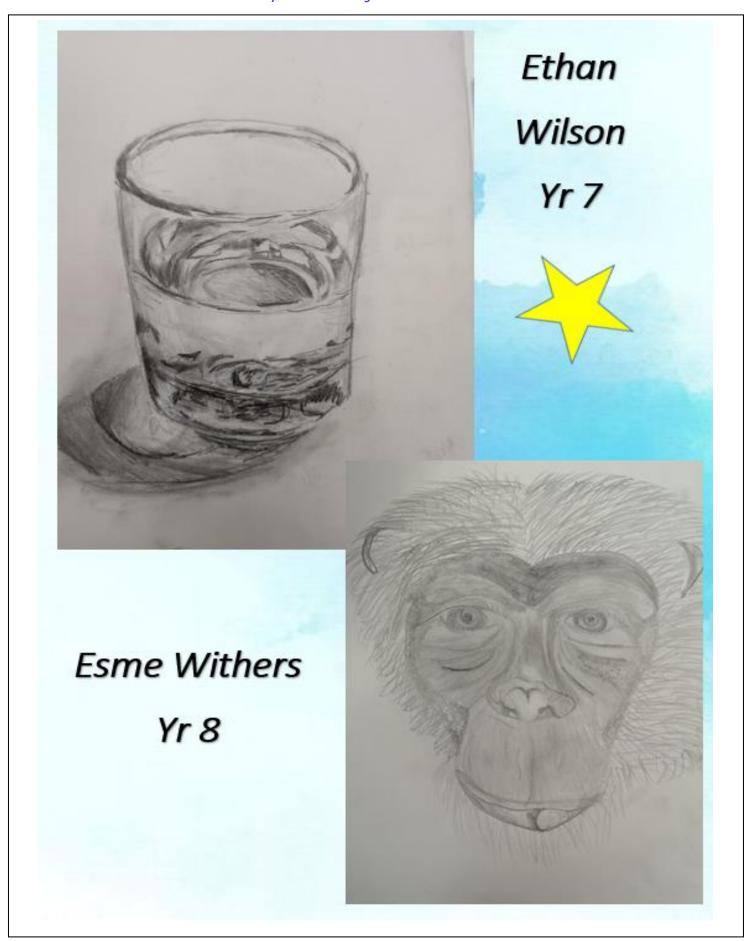
Star Artist for Art Sophie Sharp Year 10



@becketkeysarttextiles











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Sports News

Becket Keys Triumph in MESSSA Basketball Showdown



The game got off to a lively start as the boys hit the court after a thorough warm-up, with Farley, James S, Oskar, George H, and Ollie E in the starting lineup. Great Baddow High School made an early statement by taking a 4o lead with two quick baskets, but a stunning three-pointer from James S helped shift the momentum in our favour. A rapid flurry of lay-ups and precision shooting from all players allowed Becket Keys to establish a 5-point advantage heading into the second quarter.

During the second quarter, the subs—Vinnie, Jacob, and Micheal—entered the fray, contributing key baskets that extended our lead to 22-12 at halftime, highlighted by



impressive scoring from George and Oskar.

In the third quarter, Great
Baddow found their rhythm,
narrowing the gap to 32-24.
However, resolute defence from
James S, Ollie E, Vinnie, and
Micheal, who collected crucial
rebounds and initiated counterattacks, prevented the deficit
from growing further.

The final quarter saw the starting five return, bringing renewed energy and focus. Smart play from Oskar, coupled with a crucial three-pointer from Ollie E, sealed the deal as Becket Keys closed out the game with a convincing 47-33 victory.

A great win against a strong basketball school, well done boys!

Mr Ison Head of PE

Sixth Form Netball

Both the A and B teams put in fantastic performances against Brentwood School, showcasing their dedication to training and commitment to the game. Their teamwork, resilience, and strategic play were evident throughout the match, it was a pleasure to watch.

A special mention goes to Azaria, who was named Ms. North's Player of the Match for her ability to listen attentively to coaching points and implement them effectively on the court.

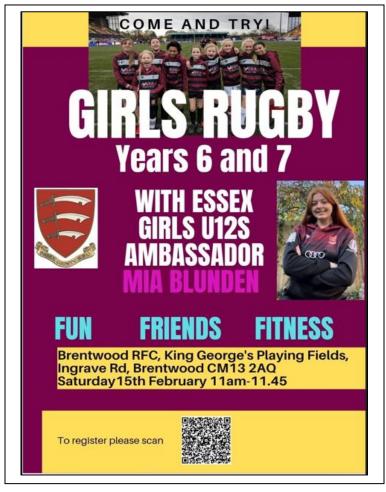
Well done to all players—your hard work is paying off! Keep up the momentum!

Ms North Pe Teacher

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



The U14 netball team beat Brentwood Ursuline 16-9 in their Essex Cup match on Wednesday. The girls defended exceptionally well, making lots of interceptions managing to turn the ball over before the opposition could score. Great movement in our shooting end enabled Becket Keys to score comfortably. The team players were Oprah Amode, Ffion Cole, Melody Shanley, Abigail Fisher, Zaray Amachree, Rubi Chiroma and Sophia Crook. Well done to Melody who was awarded player of the match.



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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

YEAR 9 OPTIONS EVENING
THURSDAY 13TH FEBRUARY 2025

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YEAR 10 SEVILLE TRIP
THURSDAY 13TH- 17TH FEBRUARY 2025

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<u>LENT HOLIDAY</u> MONDAY 17TH FEBRUARY – FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2025

*

YEAR 11 INTERVENTIONS FRIDAY 21ST FEBRUARY 2025

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YEAR 7 SUBJECT CONSULTATION EVENING
THURSDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2025

*

YEAR 11 & YEAR 13 MOCK EXAMS
THURSDAY 13TH FEBRUARY – FRIDAY 7TH
MARCH 2025

*

WORLD BOOK DAY
THURSDAY 6TH MARCH 2025
YEAR 7 OFF TIMETABLE

*

YEAR 8 THEATRE TRIP
WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION
THURSDAY 13TH MARCH 2025

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EASTER HOLIDAY
MONDAY 7TH APRIL – FRIDAY 18TH APRIL

Becket Keys Church of England School

Sawyers Hall Lane Brentwood, Essex CM15 9DA 01277 286600

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

X:

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- @BecketKeysSci
- @BecketKeysDT
- @BecketKeysExams
- @BecketKeysTrips

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